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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Raton 2010 Expansion Project
Docket No. PF 08-25-000

Public Scoping Meeting
Trinidad, Colorado
September 10, 2008

The Public Scoping Meeting was held at the
Trinidad State Community College, 600 Prospect
Street, Trinidad, Colorado, commencing at 7:12
p.m., and was reported by Craig Knowles, CM, CSR.

1 PROCEEDINGS:

2 MS. MANCO: Can everyone hear me okay?

3 VOICE: Yup.

4 MS. MANCO: Good evening. On behalf of
5 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,
6 referred to as FERC, or the Commission, I would
7 like to welcome you all here tonight. This is the
8 scoping meeting of Colorado Interstate Gas, or
9 CIG's, proposed Raton 2010 Expansion Project.

10 Let the record show that the Public
11 Scoping Meeting in Trinidad, Colorado, began at
12 7:12 on September 10th, 2008.

13 My name is Maggie Manco, and I'm the FERC
14 project manager for this project. With me
15 tonight at the sign-in table is Joanne
16 Wachholder, also with FERC, helping me evaluate
17 this project.

18 The FERC is an independent agency that
19 regulates the interstate transmission of
20 electricity, natural gas and oil. FERC reviews
21 proposals and authorizes construction of
22 interstate natural gas pipeline, storage
23 facilities and liquefied natural gas, or LNG
24 terminals, as well as the licensing and
25 inspection of hydroelectric projects.

1 The purpose of the Commission is to
2 protect the public and energy customers, ensuring
3 that regulated energy companies are acting within
4 the law.

5 We are located within Washington, D.C.
6 just north of the United States Capitol. FERC
7 has up to five commissioners who are appointed by
8 the president with the advice and consent of the
9 Senate.

10 Each of these commissioners has an equal
11 vote on regulatory matters. FERC also has
12 approximately 1200 staff employees, including
13 myself.

14 FERC is the lead federal agency
15 responsible for the National Environmental Policy
16 Act of 1969, or NEPA, for the review of the Raton
17 2010 Expansion Project, and we are the lead
18 agency for the preparation of the EA, or
19 environment assessment.

20 NEPA requires FERC to analyze the
21 environmental impacts, to consider alternatives
22 and provide appropriate mitigation measures on
23 proposed projects.

24 On August 27, 2008 FERC issued a Notice of
25 Intent, or NOI, to prepare an environmental

1 assessment for this project. It looks something
2 like this, and you should have received it in the
3 mail.

4 With this NOI we are requesting comments
5 on the proposed project. We are also asking and
6 inviting agencies to be cooperating agencies in
7 preparation of our document.

8 Regarding our process we are in the middle
9 of what is called the prefiling environmental
10 review of this project. The purpose of the
11 prefiling process is to encourage the involvement
12 by the public, government entities and other
13 interested stakeholders in a manner that allows
14 for early identification and resolution of
15 environmental issues.

16 A formal application has not been filed
17 with FERC at this time. However, we have begun
18 review of the project. Since it still is in
19 preliminary stages, we don't have a ton of
20 information at this time, but as it comes in, we
21 begin to review the pieces.

22 During our review of the project we will
23 assemble information from a variety of sources,
24 including CIG, you, the public, and other state,
25 local and federal agencies in our own independent

1 analysis and field work.

2 We will analyze this information and
3 prepare an environmental assessment that will be
4 distributed the public for comment. If you want
5 a copy of the EA either in paper format or CD,
6 there are three ways to let us know.

7 You can send us written comments, which
8 there is information on how to do so at the
9 sign-in table. You can return the mailing list
10 retention form that was included in the Notice of
11 Intent we mailed out. It was the very last page.
12 Or sign in at the sign-in table. Sorry. It's
13 been a long day.

14 If you could also sign in at the sign-in
15 table, that will keep you on our mailing list.
16 As long as you do one of these three forms, we
17 will keep you on our mailing list. If you do not
18 let us know that you want to stay on our mailing
19 list, we will take you off.

20 The meeting, this meeting is a Public
21 Scoping Meeting. The purpose of tonight's
22 meeting is to provide each of you with an
23 opportunity to give us your comments. We are
24 here tonight to learn from you. It is most
25 important that you keep your comments as specific

1 as possible regarding potential environmental
2 impacts and reasonable alternatives for the
3 project.

4 These issues generally focus on the
5 potential for environmental effects but may also
6 address construction issues, mitigation, and the
7 environmental review process as a whole. Your
8 comments will be used to determine what issues we
9 need to discuss in our EA.

10 Issuance of this NOI opens a formal
11 comment period. The mailing list for this
12 project is large and undergoing constant
13 revision. If you did not receive a copy of the
14 NOI, I do apologize, but there are extra copies
15 at the sign-in table at the back.

16 The comment period will end on September
17 26, 2008. We encourage you to submit your
18 comments as soon as possible in order to give us
19 time to analyze and research your issues.

20 I would like to add that FERC strongly
21 encourages electronic filing of all comments.
22 Instructions to do this are located on our Web
23 site at www.ferc.gov under the E filing link.
24 There is also a brochure at the back table, looks
25 something like this, that has information on how

1 to submit and receive information electronically
2 from FERC about this project.

3 If you prefer to submit written comment,
4 please follow the directions in the NOI. If you
5 did not receive a copy of the NOI, pick one up at
6 the back.

7 There is also a hand-out in the NOI that
8 includes our environmental review process which
9 also shows all of the public input opportunities
10 that you will have.

11 It is very important that any comments you
12 send include our internal docket number for the
13 project. The docket number is included in the
14 Notice of Intent and is at the hand-out at the
15 sign-in table. If you decide to send us a
16 comment letter, please put that number on it.
17 That way it will ensure that myself and other
18 staff members evaluating this project will get
19 your comments.

20 The docket number for this project is
21 PF-08-25. The EA will be mailed out to the
22 public for those who have requested to stay on
23 our mailing list. After the EA is issued you
24 will have at least 30 days to review and comment
25 on it.

1 At the end of the comment period any new
2 comments or additional information that we have
3 gathered will be used by the commissioners to
4 assist in their determination on whether to
5 approve or deny a certificate for the project.

6 I would like to point out in the audience
7 that there are other CIG representatives here as
8 well, and they have brought maps of the pipeline
9 route. They are set up at the back tables. You
10 can talk to them and look at the maps in the back
11 of the room after the formal part of this meeting
12 concludes.

13 I've asked CIG to keep the maps out for
14 the entire meeting and afterwards to give you an
15 opportunity to participate in the meeting and go
16 out and ask questions at the end. They have
17 assured me they will do this.

18 Before we start taking comments from you,
19 I've asked CIG to provide a brief overview of the
20 project. Mr. Chauncey Boese has agreed to do
21 this tonight, so now I will turn this over to
22 him.

23 MR. BOESE: My name is Chauncey Boese, I'm
24 a project manager with CIG. I'm the project
25 manager for this proposed Raton 2010 Expansion

1 Project.

2 I'm just going to give you some of the
3 details of the project and a general overview of
4 what we are proposing.

5 Currently CIG's system takes away about
6 400 million standard cubic feet a day out of the
7 Raton Basin. The capacity that is coming out of
8 the basin right now is pretty much full, there
9 isn't any space to expand, so producers have
10 approached us to give them another outlet for the
11 gas that they are producing.

12 The new facilities that are being proposed
13 would increase the production out of the basin by
14 about 130 million cubic feet a day.

15 The main bulk of the project is a new
16 16-inch steel pipeline. The route is about 118
17 miles long. It originates north of Weston,
18 Colorado, about a mile and a half north of there
19 at our existing Wet Canyon Meter Station, and
20 follows a path that takes it northeasterly to
21 where it crosses I-25 south of the town of
22 Aguilar, Colorado.

23 From that point it continues north-
24 easterly cross country to a point where it
25 crosses the Highway 50 and Arkansas River west of

1 Avondale, Colorado.

2 From that point it continues for another
3 30 miles parallel to CIG's existing facilities
4 that are already in place.

5 Along with the pipeline portion of the
6 project we are also proposing one new receipt
7 meter station. It is located approximately 20
8 miles west of Aguilar, Colorado. And there will
9 also be one new check meter station about a mile
10 and a half or two miles east of Aguilar,
11 Colorado.

12 Along with that there are also some minor
13 modifications at our existing facilities that we
14 will make.

15 Where we are at with the project, as
16 Maggie said, we are at the prefiling process with
17 the FERC. We are gathering field study data on
18 environmental and cultural issues. We are a
19 little behind. We hoped to begin our
20 right-of-way acquisition by this time, but we are
21 still compiling our land plats and maps to begin
22 that process. Hopefully, that will start in the
23 next month or so. And we are hoping to file
24 officially with the FERC in December or January.

25 Construction, we are targeting to begin

1 November of 2009 with an anticipated in service
2 date of May, 2010 and final cleanup finished by
3 late July of 2010.

4 And that is the project overview.

5 MS. MANCO: Now we will begin the
6 important part of the meeting where we can
7 receive your comments. As of right now I have no
8 one signed up to speak. But what I will do is
9 just have you, you guys can come up one at a time
10 if you would like to state your comments into the
11 record. We have a court reporter here with us
12 tonight to make sure that we get an accurate
13 record of any comments received so we can use
14 that later to ensure that we adequately address
15 all of your concerns.

16 Does anybody have any questions? You just
17 have to come up one at a time and state your name
18 into microphone at the podium for any comments or
19 questions that you do have.

20 Sure, come on up.

21 MR. VALDEZ: I am Robert L. Valdez. I
22 work for Las Animas planning office here, local
23 government.

24 On the initial route they are proposing on
25 the gas line itself, if in fact that runs as

1 far -- excuse me, I got a cold.

2 If for some unforeseen reason that there
3 is a stoppage to that pipeline, I guess I would
4 like to know where their alternative route would
5 be from the main line that they are proposing to
6 do. I haven't seen that, and maybe somebody can
7 answer that for me.

8 MS. MANCO: What do you mean by stoppage?

9 MR. VALDEZ: If in fact your environmental
10 studies, or your archeological studies or
11 something finds where it prohibits them from
12 going across a certain portion of their proposed
13 route, how would they avoid that specific area as
14 an alternate route?

15 MS. MANCO: As part of the project they
16 are required to look at alternatives. So as they
17 go through, if they found something like that, if
18 something like that were to occur, they would at
19 that point look at an alternative and see what
20 can be done at that point.

21 If it's a significant alternative we would
22 hold additional meetings or extend the scoping
23 period for public involvement.

24 Does that answer?

25 MR. VALDEZ: Can you define for me what is

1 significant?

2 MS. MANCO: Significant alternative? It
3 would depend on how far away it had to go, how
4 many additional new landowners it would cross.
5 There isn't a set criterion for it.

6 MR. VALDEZ: So basically it's going to be
7 up to the decision --

8 MS. MANCO: FERC staff would decide if we
9 felt it was significant enough to come out and
10 have a meeting, just make an announcement in the
11 mail, you would get another one of these, based
12 on how far it is, how many new landowners are
13 impacted.

14 If it's all on the same landowners, just
15 crossing in a different portion, we may not have
16 more meetings like this. We may just send out
17 another mailer explaining the change in the
18 route. It just depends on what is involved and
19 where it's located.

20 MR. VALDEZ: Okay. I guess that was my
21 question then. Local government would be
22 notified with alternate sites, or alternate
23 route, I should say?

24 MS. MANCO: Yeah, I would recommend
25 requesting to stay on our mailing list, just to

1 ensure that you do receive anything that we do
2 send out.

3 MR. VALDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

4 MS. MANCO: Any other questions?

5 Sure, come on up.

6 MR. BELL: Ed Bell.

7 Maybe someone could explain the process
8 what the landowner is facing pertaining to what
9 is expected of us, what we are getting out of it,
10 what is our future with this pipeline. Is it a
11 hundred years, is it forever, monetary --

12 MS. MANCO: The monetary portion is going
13 to be worked out in your easement negotiations,
14 which is not part of the FERC process.

15 Right now in this stage you should have
16 land agents talking with you about where they
17 want to locate the pipeline across your property,
18 how much it would take, and then once we start
19 receiving information, we will know how many
20 acres.

21 Right now I think they are proposing an
22 85-foot wide construction corridor up on the
23 northern portion. And then on the southern
24 portion it's a hundred-foot wide construction
25 corridor and 50 foot wide permanent. So the

1 construction would be allowed to revert to it's
2 previous use, along with there may be additional
3 temporary work spaces for road or stream
4 crossings, et cetera, that would also be allowed
5 to return back to their previous use.

6 With the prefiling process CIG will be
7 submitting draft resource reports in the next
8 month or two that we will start to evaluate the
9 project, because right now we have very little
10 information. We are just starting to gather what
11 we need to be looking at.

12 And then once they submit that information
13 to us, we will start evaluating it, identifying
14 issues that we find with it, any comments that
15 you guys send us.

16 And then CIG will take the next couple of
17 months during prefiling to work out some kinks
18 that they kind in this process. Then they will
19 file a formal application with FERC which has a
20 final defined route with alternatives that they
21 have considered that FERC will evaluate, and we
22 can choose the proposed route or if we prefer an
23 alternative, along with all the potential
24 environmental impacts associated with the route
25 and what they've chosen to across, based on

1 specific concerns or generic concerns that we
2 know, going through federal, state and local
3 agency concerns, et cetera.

4 We will evaluate all of those and we'll
5 prepare an environmental document. That
6 environmental document, or the EA, will get
7 mailed out to all the landowners and agencies, et
8 cetera, who have requested to stay on our mailing
9 list.

10 And you will have a comment period where
11 you can then see how we've addressed those issues
12 and concerns that you may have. And then you can
13 say, you know, this isn't acceptable, this is
14 acceptable, what about this issue. And then we
15 will then do any additional analysis before
16 making final recommendations to the commission.

17 Does that sort of explain the process a
18 bit better for you?

19 MR. BELL: Yes, ma'am.

20 Just a small question. Probably a lot of
21 this will be addressed when we talk to the land
22 people, further information. But this one
23 hundred-foot right-of-way width, can you explain
24 why and what they are going to do with it and the
25 whole process of that?

1 I mean, when you talk to like, you know,
2 Pioneer puts in a pipeline and it reverts back to
3 a small road or track, or it's invisible or
4 whatever. What is this hundred-foot
5 right-of-way? Is that taken pretty much out of
6 your piece of property?

7 MS. MANCO: The hundred feet is the
8 construction corridor. So that is how much space
9 they need to construct, to dig down as far as
10 they have to go. They have to put all the spoil
11 on one side, and they have to have a travel lane
12 to get the construction equipment in there and
13 put the pipe in.

14 At the end it would be a 50-foot wide
15 permanent right-of-way. The other remaining 50
16 feet reverts to your use for whatever you had
17 beforehand and it's still yours.

18 MR. BELL: Permanent means -- what does
19 this mean to us? What is permanent?

20 MS. MANCO: It's a permanent easement
21 under CIG.

22 MR. BELL: An easement?

23 MS. MANCO: Right. That would be under
24 negotiation with you and CIG. You would
25 negotiate it before they would start

1 constructing.

2 MR. BELL: And they will explain what that
3 easement will mean 20, 30 years from now, what it
4 might be?

5 MS. MANCO: I think your best bet is going
6 to be to talk to CIG about that.

7 MR. BOESE: I can explain that.

8 MS. MANCO: Go ahead.

9 MR. BOESE: It's a permanent easement that
10 rides with the land. We don't own the land in
11 fee, so we have -- the pipe is in the ground. We
12 don't fence off the right-of-way. So if you
13 raise cattle, it will be reclaimed, you can graze
14 cattle on it, you can do hay crop, you can have
15 it as a meadow.

16 We don't prohibit you from crossing it,
17 you know. It's in the ground, and the surface is
18 yours to do with, other than building buildings
19 right on the line.

20 MR. BELL: Where it crosses fence lines --

21 MR. BOESE: We will install temporary
22 construction gates, and they will remain closed
23 if you want them closed. If you have got two
24 pastures you want cattle to move through, we can
25 leave them open, however you want to set up.

1 When our land guys come to see you, that
2 is the point where you give all your concerns to
3 them, such as gates.

4 MR. BELL: I'm unfamiliar with what this
5 means. This is a very early stage, I agree.

6 MR. BOESE: If you've never had anything,
7 a process like this, the easement just rides with
8 the land. We will purchase an easement from you,
9 but it stays tied to the land. It's not through
10 you, it's through the land. If you sell the
11 land, the easement rides with the land, to the
12 new owners.

13 MR. BELL: Now, later on down the road,
14 let's say it changes hands or stays in the
15 family, and you folks come back in 25 years and
16 want to lay a parallel line along -- I mean, this
17 is your right to come back in and do whatever you
18 want with that hundred-foot --

19 MR. BOESE: No. The process starts again.
20 You-- we don't get second line rights with the
21 first easement. So if we come to loop again,
22 start the process again, we will negotiate a new
23 easement with you. We will get temporary
24 construction. Once it's done, we reclaim it.
25 And, again, the surface is yours to raise cattle

1 or hay crop or whatever.

2 MR. BELL: Okay.

3 MR. BOESE: Something else you might see,
4 there will be marker posts on it. But other than
5 that, there is really nothing on the surface you
6 can see.

7 MR. BELL: Thank you.

8 MS. MANCO: Do we have any other
9 questions? Okay.

10 With that, I'm going to close the formal
11 part of this meeting. On behalf of the Federal
12 Energy Regulatory Commission I would like to
13 thank you all for coming tonight.

14 CIG and FERC staff will be available to
15 answer any additional questions you may have.

16 Let the record show that the CIG Raton
17 2010 Expansion Project Public Scoping Meeting
18 concluded at 7:34 p.m.

19 (Whereupon, the meeting ended at 7:34.
20 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the Matter of:

RATON 2010 EXPANSION PROJECT:

Docket No: PF 08-25-000

Place: Trinidad, Colorado

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2008,

were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription of the proceedings.

Official Reporter