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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - -x
IN THE MATTER OF: : Docket Number
ROCKIES EXPRESS PIPELINE PROJECT : PF06-3-000
- - - - -x

Best Western Inn
701 8th Street
Greeley, Colorado

Monday, January 23, 2006

The above-entitled matter came on for scoping
meeting, pursuant to notice at 7:10 p.m.

MODERATOR: ALISA LYKENS

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P R O C E E D I N G

(7:10 p.m.)

MS. LYKENS: Good evening again. My name is Alisa Lykens and I'm an Environmental Project Manager with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

I'm assisting the Environmental Project Manager tonight that is assigned to this project, Mr. David Swearingen, in presiding over this meeting tonight.

I'd also like to introduce Dave Hanovich, who is also with the Commission and at the assignment table is J.H. Rumpp. J.H. is with TRC, an environmental consulting corporation. TRC is assisting the Commission with preparing the Environmental Impact Statement for this proposal.

The purpose of this meeting is to give you an opportunity to provide environmental comments on the Rockies Express proposed pipeline project.

Rockies Express entered into the Commission's pre-filing process on November 18, 2005. We are beginning a review of the facilities that we refer to as the Western Phase.

The Rockies Express Pipeline Project Western Phase is a stand-alone project that, if approved and is constructed, would be able to deliver gas to the Rocky Mountain region to the interstate pipeline system in the Midwest.

1 Rockies Express has informed us that it
2 contemplates eventually building a larger system that will
3 extend their western states eastward, linking the Rocky
4 Mountain region to the upper Midwest to eastern United
5 States.

6 This overall plan may or may not ever come to the
7 proposal stage due to business or market considerations.

8 Should proposals for extending the Rockies
9 Express line come forward, they will be considered.

10

11 It consists of about 710 miles of 42 inch
12 diameter pipeline. Five main compressor stations are
13 planned to help move the gas. The pipeline will extend from
14 the Cheyenne Hub in North County, Colorado, to interconnect
15 with a Panhandle Eastern Pipeline System in Audrain County,
16 Missouri.

17 Most of the pipeline will be co-located or placed
18 next to other pipeline and utility rights of way. There are
19 additional ancillary facilities that Rockies Express is
20 considering.

21 In a few minutes, I'll ask a representative from
22 Rockies Express to take the floor to present to you a more
23 detailed project description.

24 Scoping is the general term -- I'm sorry -- we'll
25 have the representative from Rockies Express to take the

1 floor to present to you more detailed project description.
2 They are here to answer some of the questions regarding the
3 project and they will be available for questions after the
4 formal meeting is concluded.

5 Now I'd like to discuss the scoping process. The
6 National Environmental Policy Act requires that the
7 Commission takes into consideration the environmental impact
8 associated with the natural gas pipeline facilities.

9 Scoping is the general term for soliciting input
10 from the public before the final analysis is conducted. The
11 idea is to get information from the public as well as
12 agencies and other groups so that we can incorporate issues
13 and concerns into review.

14 Our scoping for the Rockies Express project
15 started last month when we issued our Notice of Intent, or
16 NOI, to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement. We have
17 extra copies of the NOI at the sign in desk if you need one
18 and you can put your name on the mailing list, if you are
19 not already on it.

20 Additional brochures about our website is called
21 the Guide To Electronic Information at FERC and an
22 interstate natural gas pipeline are available as well.

23 I need to make a note of explanation about the
24 last paragraph of the Notice of Intent that was recently
25 mailed, which reference the FERC intervention process, .

1 Intervention is a separate part of the regulatory
2 process that's not available until a formal application has
3 been filed with the Commission.

4 It has no bearing on our purposes here and during
5 the scoping period regarding your environmental comments.
6 Therefore, intervention requests will not be considered at
7 this time.

8 This project is still in design stage, specific
9 details have not yet been finalized. A formal application
10 has not been filed with the FERC. The goal of this pre-
11 filing process is to help facilitate the interaction between
12 federal, state, local agencies and affected property owners,
13 and other interested stakeholders by preparing a more
14 complete application for the filing of the Rockies Express
15 application.

16 We would like to know now what the environmental
17 issues are so we can address them now rather than after the
18 application is filed.

19 I also want to state that FERC is an advocate for
20 the pre-filing process and not an advocate for the project.

21 The official scoping period ends on February 10.
22 However, the end of the scoping period is not the end of the
23 public involvement. There will be additional points along
24 the process for public input. Scoping is just the very
25 first step in our process.

1 The first step in the process of preparing the
2 EIS is determined which environmental resource issues are
3 most important to you. Your comments and concerns along
4 with all the other people agencies who have been asked to
5 participate in this process will be used to focus on
6 environmental analysis.

7 Your comments tonight, with any written comments
8 that are filed, or intended to be filed, will be added to
9 the record as comments in this part of the environmental
10 proceeding.

11 Now I want to differentiate between the roles of
12 the Commission, who is appointed by the President and
13 confirmed by the Congress, and that of the Commission's
14 environmental staff.

15 The Commission itself is responsible for making
16 the decision by a Commission vote on whether to issue a
17 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Rockies
18 Express. The EIS, prepared by the environmental staff,
19 which whom I work for, does not make that decision. In
20 general, the EIS describes the project's facilities and
21 associated environmental impact, alternatives to the
22 project, mitigation to avoid or impacts and our conclusions
23 and recommendations.

24 Therefore, the EIS is used to advise the
25 Commission and to disclose to the public the environmental

1 impact of constructing and operating the proposed project.

2 The Commission will consider the environmental
3 information in the EIS, public comments, as well as a host
4 of non-environmental issues, which include engineering,
5 design, markets, rates, finances, tariffs and designer costs
6 in making an informed decision on whether or not to approve
7 the project.

8 Only into taking the environmental and non-
9 environmental issues into consideration, will the Commission
10 make its final decision on whether or not to approve the
11 project.

12 So tonight we will take your comments, together
13 with what is filed in the form of written comments into
14 consideration while working on our independent analysis of
15 the project's potential impacts.

16 We will publish those findings in the draft EIS,
17 which will mailed out to our mailing list and will be
18 publicly noticed for comments. The draft EIS will include
19 any mitigation or recommendations needed to reduce impact.

20 Once the draft EIS is issued for public comment,
21 the public will have three to five days to provide written
22 comments. We will also come back here and have another
23 public meeting to hear comments on the draft EIS in a
24 meeting similar to this one.

25 Now regarding the environmental mailing list.

1 Because of the size of the mailing list and to save the
2 government some money in mailing, our preferred version of
3 the draft EIS is CD ROM format with an EIS file in Adobe
4 Acrobat. That means that unless you tell us otherwise, the
5 draft EIS that you will find in our mailbox will be on the
6 CD ROM formats.

7 If you prefer to have a hard copy draft, which is
8 the big book, you must indicate that on your choice in the
9 return mailer attached to the NOI or you can fill it out and
10 hand it to J.H. at the sign in table after the meeting.

11 At this time, I would like to introduce Ryan
12 Childs with Rockies Express.

13 MR. CHILDS: Thanks Alisa. I don't know if I'm
14 going to need this microphone, but I'll try it out here for
15 future meetings.

16 I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Ryan
17 Childs. I'm a part of the project management team with
18 Rockies Express Pipeline and Company. I've got Dirk
19 Peterson here with me this evening. He is part of our
20 project management team as well and Sterling Fletcher is our
21 right of way agent for this area, hopefully some of you have
22 spoken with or receive letters, correspondence with.

23 I'm just going to give kind of an oral brief,
24 who, what, where, when, and how of this project. As Alisa
25 mentioned, it's a very large interstate natural gas pipeline

1 project, stretching from up here on Greeley highway near
2 Cheyenne. Ultimately, as she indicated, if everything goes
3 according to plan and future expansions all the way to
4 Eastern Ohio, but as she indicated, we really just talking
5 about the first 710 miles in this application and here the
6 same thing as well.

7 It's a 42-inch gas pipeline as far as he size,
8 designed to move about a billion and a half cubic feet of
9 gas a day, gives some scope of the overall project. As
10 Alisa mentioned, we're co-located for virtually the entire
11 route, meaning we are going to be all set from two pipelines
12 that are existing out there.

13 One that was from the start is the Trailblazer
14 Pipeline System and it runs across over to -- continued on
15 across into Nebraska. We follow it and we will be following
16 it about center line to center line of pipe about 40 feet
17 north for the majority of the route out there on the
18 Trailblazer route until we get over there to North Platte,
19 where we actually turn and follow another existing pipeline
20 called the Platte Pipeline, which is owned by Terasen
21 Company and then we will follow that and continue on down to
22 the end of the project near Columbia, Missouri.

23 As far as our process here. Again, as Alisa
24 mentioned, this is the design phase of the project. We have
25 crews out in the fields right now doing center line staking

1 and we have cultural resource survey teams, teams of
2 archeologists looking for any kind of cultural resources
3 that might be out there and we will be following up with
4 teams of biologists to investigate the wetlands or any kind
5 of threatened species as well.

6 I would mention that we're also in consultation
7 with the different regulatory agencies other than the
8 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Information that were
9 receiving from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the
10 different state wildlife protection agencies, U.S. Army
11 Corps of Engineers and the equivalent state counterparts and
12 also with the different state area program. We are in
13 consultation with all those agencies to receive input that
14 we need to factor into our overall design.

15 That process is ongoing. We will be compiling
16 all that information into an application that will be filed
17 with the FERC. Our target date for that is May 24th of this
18 year. Subject to receiving approval from the Federal Energy
19 Regulatory Commission and receiving all our other necessary
20 federal, state, and local environmental permits, we will
21 actually be constructing in 2007 of early summer and it will
22 be the start basically of our construction.

23 We would construct the first 710 miles in several
24 different segments, wrapping up and placing in service in
25 January 1, 2008.

1 Just briefly mention here before I conclude, and
2 as Alisa mentioned, we are, in addition to the FERC
3 soliciting input, we are also trying to get people's input
4 directly from the public hearing.

5 If you didn't pick up one of these pamphlets or
6 if you haven't received one, I would encourage you to do so.
7 It's got a 1-800 number which you can call and reach our
8 Rockies Express representatives. At that 1-800 number, if
9 they can't answer your questions, they'll get your comments
10 to those of us who can answer those questions.

11 We also have a website that's referenced in here
12 that you can go and find more information about the project.
13 With that, I'll give it back to Alisa. Thanks very much for
14 coming out.

15 Oh, yeah, thank you Alisa. I'll just say that
16 we've got over on this side some of you who were here for
17 our informal company meetings. We've got a variety of
18 information over here. This kind of shows the overall
19 route. Then we've got mapping of the project there
20 including some of the aerial photography showing the
21 location of our proposed route at this point in time subject
22 to receiving other input for design purposes and will be
23 happy to go over that with any or all who would like to come
24 up afterwards. Tanks.

25 MS. LYKENS: Thank you. You may have noticed

1 that this meeting is being recorded by a transcription
2 service so that all the comments will be transcribed and put
3 into the public record.

4 I ask that each speaker first identify themselves
5 and as appropriate, the agency or group you are
6 representing. Also please spell your name for the record
7 and speak clearly into the microphone. Remember the more
8 specific your comments about the environment, the more
9 useful it will be for us.

10 We're specifically looking for comments on the
11 record. The team will be glad to answer your individual
12 questions after the formal meetings have concluded --
13 proceedings have concluded. And if you rather not speak
14 tonight, you may hand in written comments tonight or send
15 them to the Secretary of the Commission by following the
16 procedures outlined in the NOI. Either comment will be
17 considered.

18 Now I don't have anybody signed up on the
19 speakers list. Do we have anyone who would like to speak
20 tonight? I will be glad to give you the microphone.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. LYKENS: Anybody like to say a funny line?

23 (No response.)

24 MS. LYKENS: Well I guess I'll close the formal
25 proceeding and maybe we can take a look at the maps and

1 answer your questions that way. Anyone wishing to purchase
2 a copy of the transcript, you can talk to the court reporter
3 after the meeting. After 10 days or so it will be put on
4 the public record on our website and if you need help with
5 our website again, I encourage you to pick up this brochure.
6 I've been told it's very useful and I've also been told our
7 website is not very user-friendly. So I hope this helps
8 navigating our website.

9 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
10 Commission, I want to thank you all for coming here tonight
11 and let the record show that this meeting concluded at about
12 7:22 p.m. Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.)
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