

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

March 16, 2007

In Reply Refer To:

Sonora Pipeline, LLC
Docket No. CP07-75-000
Presidential Permit

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order Nos. 10485 and 12038 of September 1, 1953, and February 3, 1978, respectively, and the Secretary of Energy's Delegation Order No. 00-004.00A, effective May 16, 2006, enclosed herewith for your information and consideration is a copy of an application filed by Sonora Pipeline, LLC (Sonora) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on January 31, 2007, in Docket No. CP07-75-000. Also enclosed for your consideration is a draft copy of the proposed Presidential Permit to be issued to Sonora, which incorporates terms and conditions you and the Secretary of State have heretofore required in similar cases.

In the January 31, 2007 filing, Sonora seeks issuance of a Presidential Permit and authorization to site, construct, operate, and maintain certain natural gas pipeline and related facilities for the exportation and importation of natural gas at the International Boundary between the United States of America and Mexico in Hidalgo County, Texas. The purpose of these new border crossing facilities is to provide consumers within both the United States and Mexico with additional supplies of natural gas and access to new gas storage facilities to be constructed within Mexico. Contemporaneously, Sonora also filed, in Docket No. CP07-74-000, an application under Natural Gas Act (NGA) Section 7(c) for authority to construct and operate certain interstate pipeline facilities in connection with the instant NGA Section 3 application.

Sonora's proposed natural gas pipeline facilities constitute the U.S. portion of a bi-directional North American pipeline project that is designed to enhance access by the North American pipeline grid to new sources of natural gas. The overall, integrated project is shaped roughly like a "V". Sonora's portion of the western leg is known as the Mission Line. The Mission Line will commence at the Gilmore Plant in Hidalgo County,

Texas, and will extend southward for approximately 20.2 miles to the International Boundary in the Rio Grande River near the City of Mission, also in Hidalgo County, Texas. The bidirectional border crossing facilities for which a Presidential Permit is requested will consist of approximately 85 feet of 30-inch natural gas pipeline and appurtenant facilities. Pipeline facilities to be constructed in Mexico by an affiliated company Terranova Energia, S. De R. L. de C. V. (Terranova) will interconnect with Sonora's border crossing facilities.

Sonora's portion of the other, or eastern, leg of the "V" is known as the Progreso Line. The Progreso Line will commence at the Alamo Station in Hidalgo County, Texas, and will extend southward for approximately 8.7 miles to the International Boundary in the Rio Grande River near the City of Progreso, also in Hidalgo County, Texas. Here the bidirectional border crossing facilities for which a Presidential Permit is requested will consist of 135 feet of 30-inch natural gas pipeline and appurtenant facilities. Pipeline facilities to be constructed in Mexico by Terranova will interconnect with Sonora's border crossing facilities.

Within Mexico, Terranova's continuation of the western and eastern legs will intersect, thereby completing the "V" near a new storage field known as the Campo Brazil Storage Facility that is being developed in the Burgos Hub Area of Mexico. On May 23, 2006, Terranova received approval from Mexican authorities for its portion of the western and eastern legs within Mexico.

A similar letter, together with a draft of the Presidential Permit and copy of the application, is being sent to the Secretary of State. If the Secretary of State should make an unfavorable recommendation or propose any material change in the draft of the Permit, the Commission will immediately advise you.

Under section 15 of the NGA, 15 U.S.C. § 717n (2000), as amended by section 313 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct 2005), Pub. L. No. 109-58, 119 Stat. 594 (2005), the Commission is required to establish a schedule to ensure expeditious completion of all Federal authorizations, including any permit, necessary for a proposed natural gas project for which authorization under section 3 of the NGA is required. In addition to a Presidential Permit, Sonora has requested NGA section 3 siting and construction authorization for its proposed import/export facilities. Pursuant to regulations adopted by the Commission to implement NGA section 15 as amended by EPAAct 2005, your recommendation regarding this proposed Presidential Permit should be provided to the Commission no later than 90 days after the Commission issues its final environmental document. *See* 18 CFR § 157.22 (2007). Notice of the initial schedule for the development of the environmental document, any subsequent changes to that schedule, issued draft environmental documents (if any), and the final environmental

document will be available on the Commission's website and may be monitored by your staff via the Commission's eSubscription service.

The Commission would appreciate receiving your views regarding issuance of the proposed Presidential Permit at an early date. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 502-8400, or Edward G. Gingold at (202) 502-8114, if you need any further information.

By direction of the Commission.

Philis J. Posey,
Acting Secretary.

cc: The Honorable Condoleezza Rice

Attachments:

Application of Sonora Pipeline, LLC
Draft of Presidential Permit

**DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT
AUTHORIZING SONORA PIPELINE, LLC
TO SITE, CONSTRUCT, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN FACILITIES
FOR EXPORTATION AND IMPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS
AT THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO
IN HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS**

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. CP07-75-000**

(Issued , 2007)

Sonora Pipeline, LLC (Sonora or Permittee), a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas, filed on January 31, 2007, in Docket No. CP07-75-000, an application pursuant to Executive Order Nos. 10485 and 12038 and the Secretary of Energy's Delegation Order No. 00-004.00A, requesting that the Commission issue an order under Section 3 of the NGA and a Presidential Permit authorizing Permittee to site, construct, operate, and maintain certain pipeline and related facilities and the place of entry and exit for importing and exporting natural gas as described in Article 2 below at the International Boundary between the United States and Mexico in Hidalgo County, Texas.

By letter dated , 2007, the Secretary of State, and by letter dated , 2007, the Secretary of Defense, favorably recommended that the Permit be granted. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission finds that the issuance of a Permit is appropriate and consistent with the public interest.

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order Nos. 10485 and 12038, dated September 3, 1953, and February 3, 1978, respectively, the Secretary of Energy's Delegation Order No. 00-004.00A, effective May 16, 2006, and the Commission's Regulations, permission is granted to Permittee to construct, operate, install, and maintain the natural gas transmission facilities described in Article 2 below, upon the terms and conditions of the Permit.

Article 1. It is expressly agreed by the Permittee that the facilities herein described shall be subject to all provisions and requirements of this Permit. This Permit may be modified or revoked by the President of the United States or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and may be amended by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission upon proper application therefore.

Article 2. The following facilities are subject to this Permit:

Approximately 85 feet of 30-inch bidirectional diameter pipeline, with a maximum capacity of 500,000 Dth per day, extending from the Permittee's Mission Line and ending at the International Boundary between the United States and Mexico beneath the Rio Grande River near the City of Mission in Hidalgo County, Texas

Approximately 135 feet of 30-inch bidirectional diameter pipeline, with a maximum capacity of 500,000 Dth per day, extending from the Permittee's Progreso Line and ending at the International Boundary between the United States and Mexico beneath the Rio Grande River near the City of Progreso in Hidalgo County, Texas.

Article 3. The natural gas facilities authorized herein, or which may subsequently be included herein by modification or amendment, may be utilized for importation or exportation of natural gas between the United States and Mexico only in the amount, at the rate, and in the manner authorized under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act.

Article 4. The operation and maintenance of the aforesaid facilities shall be subject to the inspection and approval of representatives of the United States. The Permittee shall allow officers and employees of the United States, showing proper credentials, free and unrestricted access to the land occupied by the facilities in the performance of their official duties.

Article 5. If in the future it should appear to the Secretary of the Army that any facilities or operations permitted hereunder cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of any of the navigable waters of the United States, the Permittee may be required, upon notice from the Secretary of the Army, to remove or alter the same so as to render navigation through such waters free and unobstructed.

Article 6. The Permittee shall be liable for all damages occasioned to the property of others by the operation or maintenance of the facilities, and in no event shall the United States be liable therefor. The Permittee shall do everything reasonable within its power to prevent or suppress fires on or near land occupied under this Permit.

Article 7. The Permittee agrees to file with the Commission, under oath and in such detail as the Commission may require, such statements or reports with respect to the natural gas imported or exported, or the facilities described herein, as the Commission may, from time to time, request. Such information may be made available to any Federal, State, or local agency requesting such information.

Article 8. Neither this Permit nor the facilities, nor any part thereof, covered by this Permit shall be voluntarily transferred in any manner, but the Permit shall continue in effect temporarily for a reasonable time in the event of the involuntary transfer of the

facilities by operation of law (including transfer to receivers, trustees, or purchasers under foreclosure or judicial sale) pending the making of an application for a permanent Permit and decision thereon, provided notice is promptly given in writing to the Commission accompanied by a statement that the facilities authorized by this Permit remain substantially the same as before the involuntary transfer. The Permittee shall maintain the facilities in a condition of repair for the efficient transportation of natural gas and shall make all necessary renewals and replacements.

Article 9. At such time that this Permit is surrendered, revoked, or otherwise terminated, the Commission shall determine which of the authorized facilities shall be removed and which shall remain in place. The Commission will specify the time within which any authorized facilities shall be removed, and the Permittee shall remove those facilities within such time and at the Permittee's expense. Upon failure of the Permittee to comply with the Commission's direction to remove any authorized facilities, the Commission may direct that possession of the same be taken and the facilities be removed at the Permittee's expense, and the Permittee shall have no claim for damages by reason of such possession or removal.

Article 10. The Permittee agrees that when, in the opinion of the President of the United States, evidenced by a written order addressed to it as holder of this Permit, the safety of the United States demands it, the United States shall have the right to enter upon and take possession of any of the facilities, or parts thereof, maintained or operated under this Permit, and all contracts covering the transportation or sale of natural gas by means of said facilities, to retain possession, management, and control thereof for such length of time as may appear to the President to be necessary to accomplish said purposes, and then to restore possession and control to the Permittee; and in the event that the United States shall exercise such right it shall pay the Permittee just and fair compensation for the use of said facilities upon the basis of a reasonable profit in time of peace, and the cost of restoring said facilities to as good condition as existed at the time of taking over thereof, less the reasonable value of any improvements that may be made thereto by the United States and which are valuable and serviceable to the Permittee.

Article 11. This Permit is subject to any action which the Government of the United States may in the future deem expedient or necessary to take in case any part of the aforesaid facilities comes into the control of any foreign government.

Article 12. The Government of the United States shall be entitled to the same or similar privileges as may by law, regulation, agreement, or otherwise, be granted by the Permittee to any foreign government.

By direction of the Commission.

Secretary

IN TESTIMONY OF ACCEPTANCE of all the provisions, conditions and requirements of this Permit, the Permittee this day of _____ has caused its named to be signed by _____, pursuant to a resolution of its Board of Directors duly adopted on the __ day of _____, _____, a certified copy of the record of which is attached hereto.

Sonora Pipeline, LLC

By _____

(Attest)

Executed in triplicate