

National Park Service, Long Distance Trails Office;

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas and Colorado Field Offices;

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Colorado and Kansas Districts; Kansas State Historic Preservation Office;

Colorado State Historic Preservation Office;

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks;

Colorado Division of Wildlife; Santa Fe Trail Association.

Other agencies or organizations who are interested in participating should indicate this in a written request to the Secretary of the Commission (Secretary). Please carefully follow the instructions in the "Public Participation" section of this notice. All participating agencies are encouraged to take part in the scoping process and provide us written comments. Agencies are also welcome to suggest format and content changes that will make it easier for them to adopt the EIS. However, we will decide what modifications will be adopted in light of our production constraints.

### Summary of the Project

El Paso states that its project would transport up to 540,000 dekatherms per day from the hub at Cheyenne to major pipelines in the Midwest. The preliminary facilities include:

- About 380 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline in Weld, Morgan, Washington, Yuma, and Kit Carson Counties, Colorado; and Sherman, Wallace, Logan, Scott, Lane, Finney, Hodgeman, Ford, and Kiowa Counties, Kansas;
- An additional 32,675 horsepower to be installed at CIG's existing Cheyenne Compressor Station in Weld County, Colorado;
- Two new meter stations to be installed at the Cheyenne Compressor Station for Wyoming Interstate Gas Company and CIG. A new amine processing facility is also planned;
- Up to six meter stations/interconnects with various other major pipeline companies' facilities at the termination of the mainline; and
- Various aboveground facilities, such as pig launchers and receivers, and block valves placed about every 15 to 18 miles.

El Paso plans to construct this project in the third quarter of 2004, to be placed in-service by mid-2005. A general location map of the project facilities is shown in Appendix 2.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's Web site at the

Construction of the planned pipeline would require about 4,700 acres including the pipeline construction right-of-way (ROW) and additional temporary work spaces. Following construction, about 2,300 acres would be retained as new permanent ROW for the pipeline. The remaining 2,400 acres of temporary work space would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use. Construction at the existing Cheyenne Compressor Station would occur on the existing site.

### The EIS Process

NEPA requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to solicit and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the EIS on the important environmental issues. With this notice, the Commission is continuing to seek public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EIS. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EIS. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

### Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the planned facilities and the environmental information provided by El Paso. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on our analysis:

- Federally listed endangered or threatened species, may occur in the project area.
- The Pawnee National Grasslands is crossed.
- Numerous streams and wetlands are crossed.
- Agricultural fields and pastures are crossed, including those that are actively cultivated and irrigated.
- Rangelands, including those that are actively grazed, are crossed.
- The Santa Fe Trail is crossed in Ford County, Kansas.

Our evaluation will also include possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and

"FERRIS" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or call 1-866-208-3676. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

we will make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas of concern.

Our independent analysis of the issues will result in the publication of a draft EIS that will be mailed to Federal, State, and local government agencies; Native American tribes; elected officials; public interest groups; interested individuals; interested affected landowners; newspapers; libraries; and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A 45-day comment period will be allotted for review of the draft EIS. We will consider comments on the draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS. The final EIS will include our response to comments received on the draft EIS and will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether or not to approve the project.

### Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EIS and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations and routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Send an original and two copies of your letter to: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Refer to Docket No. PF03-1-000;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas Branch 1, PJ-11.1.

Please note that we are continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. As a result, we will include all comments that we receive within a reasonable time frame in our environmental analysis of this project. However, the Commission encourages electronic filing of any comments or interventions or protests to this proceeding. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create a free account which can be created by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."