

as required by U.S. Department of Transportation regulations.

A map depicting the proposed pipeline route and compressor stations is provided in appendix 1.⁴

Transwestern proposes to place the project in service by June 2005. To achieve this in-service date, Transwestern intends to request approval to begin construction of the pipeline facilities in July 2004.

Land Requirements

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 1,082.1 acres of land. The construction right-of-way width for the pipeline would be 110 feet, and would be adjacent to existing rights-of-way for its entire length (25 feet overlap of the existing right-of-way and 85 feet new construction right-of-way). Transwestern would maintain approximately 220.1 acres of new permanent right-of-way (50 feet of permanent easement, of which 25 feet would be overlap of the existing right-of-way) for pipeline operation and maintenance following construction.

The EA 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 discover and address issues and concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues and reasonable alternatives. By this notice, we are requesting agency and public comments on the scope of the issues to be analyzed and presented in the EA. All scoping comments received will be considered during the preparation of the EA. To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section of this notice. The FERC will be the lead Federal agency in the preparation of the EA. The document will satisfy the requirements of NEPA.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be included in an EA. The EA will be mailed to Federal, Navajo Nation, state, and local government agencies; elected officials;

environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; affected landowners; other interested parties; local libraries and newspapers; and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A 30-day comment period will be allotted for review of the EA. We will consider all comments on the EA and revise the document, before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, reasonable alternatives routes to the proposal, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before January 19, 2004, and carefully follow these instructions:

- 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;
- Label one copy of your comments for the attention of Gas Branch 2; and
- Reference Docket No. PF03-8-000 on the original and both copies.

Please note that we are continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. Therefore, the Commission encourages electronic filing of comments.

See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Internet Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Prepare your submission in the same manner as you would if filing on paper and save it to a file on your hard drive. Before you can file comments you will need to create an free account by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. This filing is considered a "Comment on Filing."

Availability of Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1-866-208-FERC or on the FERC Internet Web site (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number excluding the

last three digits in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance with eLibrary, the eLibrary helpline can be reached at 1-866-208-3676, TTY (202) 502-8659, or at FERCONLINESUPPORT@FERC.GOV. The eLibrary link on the FERC Internet Web site also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to the documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" is available for viewing on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>). This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings.

Finally, Transwestern has established an Internet Web site for this project at <http://www.crosscountryenergy.com/about/tw.shtml>. The Web site includes helpful information about the project.

Linda Mitry,
Acting Secretary.

Appendix—Information Request

Please keep my name on the mailing list for the San Juan 2005 Expansion Project

Name _____
Agency _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

- [] Please provide detailed maps for the facilities closest to the following area(s):
[] My mailing address.
[] My property.

(Requests for more than a single map location may be expedited by asking the company directly.)

(Be as specific as you can about the location(s) of your area(s) of interest. Please include any information that would help us accurately locate these area(s). For example: county, town, cross-streets, or landmarks.

[FR Doc. E3-00675 Filed 12-31-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

⁴ The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) at the "eLibrary" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch at 202.502.8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the end of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.