

Frequently Asked Questions

Ruby Pipeline Project: In Service and Reclamation Phase

What is the Ruby Pipeline Project?

The Ruby Pipeline Project is a 42-inch diameter, 678 mile interstate natural gas pipeline that crosses 368 miles of Federal land beginning near Opal, Wyoming, extending through northern Utah and northern Nevada, and terminating near Malin, Oregon. The project, built by Ruby Pipeline, LLC (Ruby), also includes a 3-mile lateral pipeline, 4 compressor stations, 4 meter stations, and other related above ground facilities.

The Ruby Pipeline Project was initiated in March 2008, and in January 2010, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and eight Cooperating Agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the pipeline.

The Ruby Pipeline Project was approved for construction by FERC on April 5, 2010, and the Right-of-Way (ROW) Grant and Plan of Development were approved by a Record of Decision (ROD) issued by the BLM on July 12, 2010. BLM issued multiple Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for each pipeline segment after Ruby demonstrated that all conditions and stipulations had been met.

The pipeline went into service on July 28, 2011. Construction restoration, stabilization, and final clean-up are not expected to be completed until later in 2012. FERC and BLM will continue to closely monitor and evaluate restoration progress along the entire pipeline ROW for several years.

Why is this pipeline needed?

According to Ruby, the need for the project arises from a growing demand for natural gas in Nevada and on the West Coast, coupled with a decrease in supply from Canadian sources and an increase in supply in the Rocky Mountains. The pipeline will transport natural gas from the Rocky Mountain region to demand regions in northern California and the Pacific Northwest, and allows for the transportation of up to 1.5 million dekatherms of natural gas per day.

How did this project get approved?

FERC was responsible for authorizing interstate natural gas transmission facilities under the Natural Gas Act and was the lead Federal agency for the preparation of the Final EIS released in January 2010 in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. BLM had the primary responsibility for issuing the ROW Grant and Temporary Use Permit (TUP) for the pipeline across Federal lands pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. On April 5th, 2010 FERC issued its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Ruby Pipeline Project authorizing construction and operation of the pipeline.

On July 12, 2010 the BLM signed a ROD and ROW Grant for the Ruby Pipeline Project. The BLM Nevada State Director, as the designated Federal official, signed the ROD and authorized the ROW for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the pipeline and associated facilities across lands under jurisdiction of the BLM, the US Forest Service, the US Bureau of Reclamation, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the four states involved in the pipeline project.

What did the Final EIS Conclude?

The Final EIS concluded that the construction and operation of the Ruby Pipeline Project would result in some adverse environmental impacts. Most of these adverse impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the implementation of mitigation measures and agency agreements.

Was the public involved?

The public had an opportunity to participate in the development of the Ruby Pipeline Project EIS during public scoping meetings held during April and October of 2008 and during Draft EIS public meetings held during July of 2009. The public was also invited to submit comments in writing and via electronic means. The Final EIS was distributed to all interested members of the public and government agencies for review.

How many jobs did the project create?

The Final EIS included an analysis of effects to the socioeconomic environment. That analysis estimated Ruby would require a temporary construction workforce of 3,400 workers on average, with up to 4,300 workers required during peak construction periods. Ruby estimated that up to 15 percent of the workforce would be local hires and about 85 percent will be non-local hires.

Ruby's website (<http://www.rubypipeline.com/>) now reports that at the peak of construction more than 5,100 people were employed across the length of the pipeline. In the Final EIS, Ruby stated that it will employ 19 permanent employees for operation and maintenance of the pipeline and compressor stations.

Was the entire route approved to start construction?

No. Prior to any construction or other surface disturbance associated with the ROW Grant and TUP, Ruby had to receive written NTPs from FERC on all lands and from the BLM on all Federal lands. NTPs authorized construction or use only for the particular location, segment, area, and use described. NTPs also included stipulations that Ruby had to follow as part of construction.

BLM NTPs are posted on the BLM website and may be viewed at, http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/info/nepa/ruby_pipeline_project/right_of_way_ntp.html

Where can I see a copy of the Final EIS and BLM's ROD?

The Final EIS is currently available to all interested parties. To view an electronic copy, log on to FERC's Internet web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> and type "RUBY FEIS" into the Search box near the upper right hand of your screen. You will be directed to a page where you may view or download copies of the Final EIS.

A copy of the ROD is available at affected Federal, state and local government agency offices. It is also available on the Internet at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/info/nepa/ruby_pipeline_project.html. The ROD includes the Decision, as well as stipulations, mitigations to resources, Ruby's Plan of Development, agreement documents, permits, and rental calculations.

The Final EIS and the ROD have also been placed in the public files of FERC, BLM, and US Forest Service and are available for public inspection at the following agency locations.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Public Reference Room
888 First Street, NE., Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82003

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Kemmerer Field Office
312 Highway 189 N
Kemmerer, WY 83101

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Utah State Office
440 West 200 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Salt Lake Field Office
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84119

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, NV 89502

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Elko District Office
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca District Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, NV 89445.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Surprise Field Office
602 Cressler Street
Cedarville, CA 96104

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
333 SW First Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Lakeview Office
1301 S. G Street
Lakeview, OR 97630

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Klamath Falls Office
2795 Anderson Avenue, Bldg. #25
Klamath Falls, OR 97603.

U.S. Forest Service
Fremont-Winema National Forests
1301 S. G Street
Lakeview, OR 97630

U.S. Forest Service
Intermountain Regional Office
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401.

U.S. Forest Service
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Ogden Ranger District
507 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401

U.S. Forest Service
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Salt Lake Office
8256 Federal Building
125 S. State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138.

Where can I find pipeline route maps?

Route quadrangle maps and alignment sheets are available on Ruby Pipeline's website: <http://www.rubypipeline.com/> , under the Certificate Application tab.

What changes have been made to the ROD?

The ROW Grant and TUP for the Ruby Pipeline Route have been amended three times. The first amendment (December 10, 2010) includes the Summit Lake Route Variance in Humboldt County, Nevada, and accepts the final Winter Construction Plan as Appendix V of Ruby's Plan of Development (POD). The second amendment (dated February 24, 2011) is for the Klamath County Reroute in Oregon. The third amendment (dated December 7, 2011) approves four above ground cathode sites and 15 roads to mainline valves.

In order for an amendment to be granted, the BLM had to conduct a formal review that compared the impacts analyzed in the Final EIS with the impacts that would result from changing the ROW route. Because the impacts of the changes were similar to the FEIS analysis, BLM granted the three amendments.

What do the signs mean along the ROW?

The signs have been posted by Ruby so that the chances of successful restoration of the disturbance associated with constructing the pipeline can occur. Ruby has recontoured the ROW to blend into the surrounding terrain, installed erosion control devices, and has revegetated the ROW, temporary work spaces, and roads with a permanent plant cover consisting of native shrubs, grasses, and forbs with an emphasis on greater sage grouse and big game habitat. Use of Off Highway Vehicles in restored areas would be very destructive to ongoing restoration efforts. BLM and Ruby will be monitoring the restoration for the next five years and beyond.

Who can I contact for more information?

Questions about the BLM ROW Grant, TUP, and NTP processes for the Ruby Pipeline Project should be directed to Mark Mackiewicz, National Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management at 435-636-3616 or 125 South 600 West, Price, UT.

Questions about the proposed land use amendments to the Forest Plans should be directed to Catherine Callaghan at the Fremont-Winema National Forests, 1301 S. G St., Lakeview, OR 97630 (phone: 541-947-2151); or to Rick Vallejos at the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, 324 25th St., Ogden, UT 84401 (phone: 801-625-5112).

If you have questions about FERC's EIS process or its process for issuing a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, please contact Dave Swearingen at 202-502-6173 or david.swearingen@ferc.gov. You may also call FERC's Office of External Affairs at 866-208-FERC (3372) or visit the project web site at: <http://www.ferc.gov>.

If you have questions about construction, location, employment, or any other details about the project, visit Ruby Pipeline's website, www.rubypipeline.com, for a list of contacts.