



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Farmington Field Office
6251 College Blvd Suite A
Farmington, New Mexico 87402
www.blm.gov/nm



In Reply Refer To:
2800 (F01210) sh

November 17, 2014

Subject: Public Scoping for the Saddle Butte San Juan Midstream LLC's Piñon Pipeline Project, Multiple Counties, New Mexico

Dear Interested Public,

This letter is to inform you that a 30-day public scoping period for the Saddle Butte San Juan Midstream, LLC (Saddle Butte) Piñon Pipeline project will commence on December 1, 2014, and will conclude on December 31, 2014. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Farmington Field Office is considering Saddle Butte's application for a 75-foot right-of-way for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a crude oil pipeline and gathering system, crude terminal, and related facilities. Saddle Butte would construct and operate approximately 50 miles of 6- to 8-inch- diameter crude oil gathering pipeline and 80 miles of 10- to 12-inch-diameter crude oil transport pipeline from the proposed Lybrook Terminal facility in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, to a point along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail line in McKinley County, near the city of Milan, New Mexico. The project would cross BLM, private, State of New Mexico, and Navajo tribal lands.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to assess the potential impacts to the human environment associated with approval of the project's Proposed Action or an alternative.

Scoping is the process that leads to the identification of the issues to be addressed and the range of actions and alternatives to be analyzed in the EA. It is a process, not an event, that continues throughout the development of a NEPA document and results in identification of the proper scope of the analysis. The scoping meeting is an opportunity for the public to learn more about the project, as well as to discuss route alignment, construction details, resource mitigations, safety concerns, or other questions about the project. Comments received will be incorporated into the planning process and used to develop the scope of the environmental document.

You are invited to attend a public scoping meeting regarding this project:

Meeting Date	Time	Location/Address
Thursday, December 4, 2014	5:00 p.m.	Lybrook Elementary School--9935 U.S. 550, Lybrook, NM (<i>appx. 52 mi. south of the intersection of Hwys. 550 & 64 in Bloomfield, NM; at mile marker 99.5</i>)

Project Background

Saddle Butte is requesting a right-of-way grant for approximately 130 miles of gathering and transport pipelines to gather produced crude oil from the Lybrook area and transport it to a rail facility where the product can ultimately reach market. The total right-of-way is 75 feet wide including 40 feet of permanent and 35 feet of temporary work space. The need for the project is to provide adequate takeaway capacity for the large amount of product currently under extraction and to meet the need to transport future volumes. Currently one (smaller) pipeline and trucking are the only available ways to export the crude out of the area to any delivery point. Saddle Butte proposes to alleviate the restriction by building the Piñon Pipeline system, thereby providing ample capacity for the current predictions of crude oil production. The proposed pipeline route would be designed to accommodate initial startup volumes of 15,000 barrels per day of oil from Lybrook and would follow existing pipeline/utility corridors wherever possible to minimize the surface impact and resource conflicts.

If the right-of-way is granted, construction would commence in the summer of 2015 and is anticipated to conclude by the end of 2015. More details regarding construction, equipment, staging areas, road access, associated facilities, and health and safety precautions will be provided at the upcoming public scoping meeting on December 4, 2014, at Lybrook Elementary School, and will be described in detail in the Draft EA (to be released in early Spring 2015).

The BLM and Saddle Butte are currently evaluating additional alternatives to be analyzed in the EA and are interested in the public's feedback regarding issues or concerns.

Comments

If you have any information or comments regarding this Proposed Action, please use one of the following methods to submit your comment on or prior to December 31, 2014:

Email: BLM_NM_Comments@blm.gov

Fax: 505-564-7607

Mail: Bureau of Land Management
c/o Scott Hall
6251 College Blvd. Suite A
Farmington, NM 87402

For additional information, please contact Scott Hall, Realty Specialist, at (505) 564-7721 or at shall@blm.gov. We greatly appreciate your interest in our management of public lands and hope to see you at the upcoming meeting on December 4, 2014, at 5 p.m. at the Lybrook Public Elementary School.

Sincerely,



Dave Mankiewicz
Assistant Field Manager for
BLM Farmington Field Office