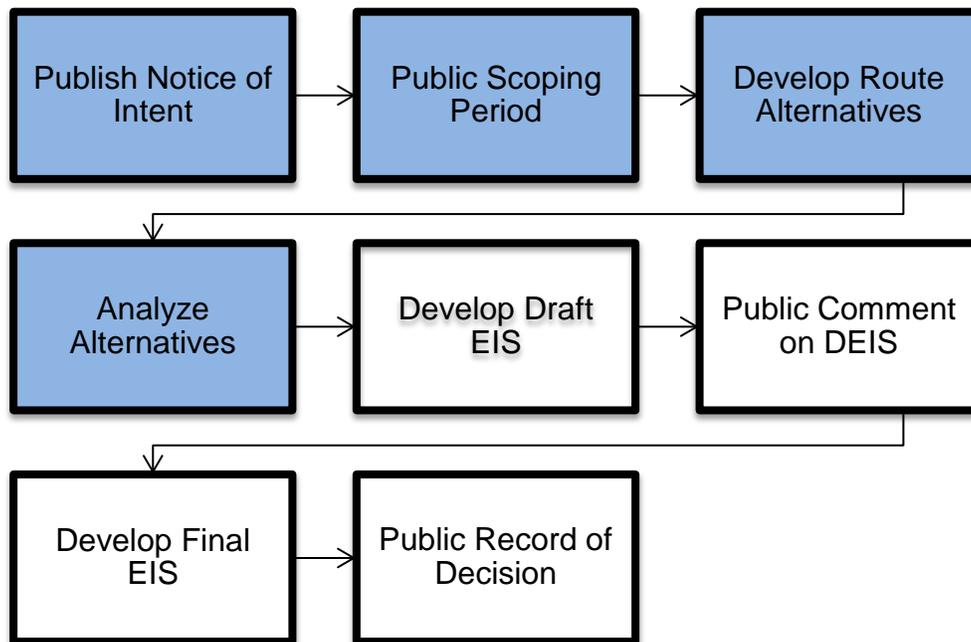


**How does the BLM analyze the impacts of this proposed project?**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that all federal agencies involve interested publics in their decision-making, consider reasonable alternatives to proposed actions, develop measures to mitigate environmental impacts, and prepare environmental documents which disclose the impacts of proposed actions and alternatives. When the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment, the BLM prepares an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will describe the affected environment, identify a range of alternatives to the proposed action, and analyze the environmental impacts of each of the possible alternatives.

The public has an opportunity to participate in the development of an EIS during the initial scoping process and by commenting on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS also incorporates comments and information from regulatory agencies, Native American Tribes, landowners, and other affected parties. Moreover, the Final EIS will include recommended environmental conditions and mitigation measures that must be met if the project is to be approved by the Federal agency.

The below graphic identifies the steps in the EIS. At this point, the BLM has completed the blue steps.



**How do I get involved?**

The formal Public Scoping Period began on October 31, 2013, and ended on January 29, 2014. The scoping report can be viewed on the BLM Lobos Project website ([www.blm.gov/nm/lobosco2](http://www.blm.gov/nm/lobosco2)), and the BLM will continue to accept comments throughout the EIS process. In addition, the public will have the opportunity to provide comments on the project when the Draft EIS is available for public review. The BLM will provide notification when the Draft EIS is available.

## Lobos CO<sub>2</sub> Pipeline – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Where will the pipeline be located?**

At this time, the BLM has not made a decision on whether to approve the project. The analysis will help inform this decision. The BLM will analyze the potential effects of the proposed pipeline and alternative routes before identifying an agency preferred alternative and ultimately making a decision on the proposed pipeline project. The BLM's decision will only apply to public lands administered by the BLM. A decision will not be made until the public has had the opportunity to review the Draft EIS and a Final EIS has been published.

### **What routes will the BLM consider in the analysis?**

The BLM will analyze Kinder Morgan's proposed route, as well as a range of reasonable alternatives, in the EIS. The BLM alternatives will include alternatives identified during the scoping process, as well as a "No Action Alternative" (an alternative in which the BLM does not grant a right-of-way across public land). In addition, the BLM may be looking at other alternatives that attempt to address unresolved conflicts. The BLM will base its Preferred Alternative on this analysis and the Preferred Alternative will be identified in the Draft EIS. While the BLM will consider Kinder Morgan's proposed route and alternatives, the alternatives brought forward in the Draft EIS may not necessarily be the same.

### **How does the BLM identify a range of reasonable alternatives?**

The NEPA process requires an evaluation of a range of reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action, including a No Action Alternative. The BLM's alternatives assessment process includes review of Kinder Morgan's Application and Plan of Development (POD), review of public and agency comments received during scoping, and additional feedback from agency resources specialists, cooperating agencies, and Native American tribes.

The [BLM NEPA Handbook](#) (Section 6.6.3) gives criteria for selecting alternatives for detailed analysis. An alternative could be eliminated from detailed analysis IF:

**Criterion 1:** It is ineffective (it would not meet or respond to the purpose and need).

**Criterion 2:** It is technically or economically infeasible.

**Criterion 3:** It is inconsistent with basic policy objectives for the management of the area.

**Criterion 4:** Its implementation is remote or speculative.

**Criterion 5:** It is substantially similar in design to an alternative that will be analyzed.

**Criterion 6:** It has substantially similar effects to an alternative that will be analyzed.

The EIS will include a description of all the alternatives considered, analysis of the alternatives carried forward for detailed analysis, and the rationale behind a decision not to carry an alternative forward for detailed analysis in the Draft EIS. For more information, see the following link to the Council of Environmental Quality's 40 Most Asked Questions regarding alternatives: [CEQ 40 Question 1-10 \(link\)](#).

### **How does the BLM select the agency Preferred Alternative?**

The BLM must consider multiple factors when analyzing alternatives. These factors include, among others, scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values, as well as recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, human occupancy and use, and the

## Lobos CO<sub>2</sub> Pipeline – Frequently Asked Questions

need for domestic sources of natural resources. The agency's Preferred Alternative is the alternative which the agency believes would fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical, and other factors.

The BLM will document its preliminary agency Preferred Alternative and the reasoning behind that preference in the Draft EIS. After consideration of the public's comments, the BLM will revise the document and release a Final EIS.

### **When will the Draft EIS be available for public review?**

The BLM expects the Draft EIS to be published in early 2015. Release of the Draft EIS will initiate a 45 day public comment period. The BLM will notify the public of the release of the Draft EIS by notice in the Federal Register, advertisements in local newspapers, by letter or post card (see note below on how to be added to the mailing list), and updates to the BLM's project website.

### **Why is Kinder Morgan already purchasing land/easements?**

In anticipation of a permit from BLM, Kinder Morgan made a business decision to purchase easements, and acquire other lands for construction of the proposed pipeline. CEQ Regulations do not prohibit a proponent from taking action on private land. The BLM will make a decision on the proposed action based on the NEPA analysis regardless of any actions Kinder Morgan may take on private land.

The BLM continues to follow the NEPA process and is analyzing the potential environmental impacts of Kinder Morgan's proposed route, as well as alternative routes and the "no action" alternative. A no decision will be made regarding project approval until the NEPA process is completed.

The BLM informed Kinder Morgan that actions, such as purchasing easements or beginning construction carry a high risk since the BLM has not made a decision on whether to approve the project. A copy of a letter from the BLM to Kinder Morgan regarding this matter is available [here](#).

### **Does the BLM have jurisdiction over private land? Does the BLM consider environmental impacts on private land?**

The BLM only has authority over public land. Although the BLM only has jurisdiction over public lands and only can approve actions on public lands, the EIS will analyze potential effects of the pipeline across all jurisdictions (public lands, private lands, state, tribal, and other Federal lands).

### **Will surveys be conducted on public and private lands?**

Surveys will be conducted on all jurisdictions. These surveys will provide baseline information for the EIS analysis.

### **What would be the width of the easement or right-of-way?**

If the BLM approves the right-of-way, the right-of-way width during construction would be 100 feet. The permanent right-of-way after construction would be 50 feet. Proposed pump stations would occupy about five acres each, with an additional half acre for electrical substations. On private, state and tribal

## Lobos CO<sub>2</sub> Pipeline – Frequently Asked Questions

lands the permanent width could be different, depending on the language in the individual land owner agreement and easement.

### **What is CO<sub>2</sub>?**

CO<sub>2</sub>, or Carbon Dioxide, is a naturally occurring chemical compound found in the earth's atmosphere. It is a gas at standard temperature and pressure and is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-flammable. CO<sub>2</sub> is used by plants in photosynthesis and has various uses in the food, chemical, and oil industries. For more information about CO<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines, please visit the following links.

- Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory- [Carbon Dioxide Frequently Asked Questions Information Portal \(link\)](#)
- Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory- [Natural CO<sub>2</sub> Reservoirs on the Colorado Plateau and Southern Rocky Mountains: Candidates for CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration \(link\)](#)

### **For what would the CO<sub>2</sub> be used?**

Kinder Morgan proposes that the CO<sub>2</sub> would be used for enhanced oil and gas recovery in existing oil production areas in the Permian Basin in New Mexico and Texas.

### **What are the safety concerns related to CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines?**

The draft EIS will discuss health and safety issues in the health and safety section. For more information about CO<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines, please visit the following link:

- US Department of Transportation- [Pipeline Safety Stakeholder Communication: Regulatory Fact Sheet: New Mexico \(link\)](#)

### **I have questions or concerns about how the pipeline would be constructed and how it would affect my land. Where can I get answers?**

Although the BLM welcomes comments about impacts to all lands, the BLM does not have authority over private land. Land owners with questions and concerns should discuss them directly with Kinder Morgan. For more information about Kinder Morgan's proposed project, including routing efforts and locations, or to discuss concerns about private land, you may contact Kevin Winner at 505-239-6505 or [kevin.winner@steeleland.com](mailto:kevin.winner@steeleland.com). Mr. Winner works for Steele Land Services, which Kinder Morgan has contracted to manage the rights-of-way for this project.

In addition, Kinder Morgan currently is preparing a Plan of Development (POD), which will provide details about the proposed construction, post-construction monitoring, and reclamation methods and activities. The Draft POD will be available for public review along with the Draft EIS.

### **How do I get on the BLM mailing list to receive project updates?**

Please submit your contact information to [BLM\\_NM\\_SFO\\_Comments@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_NM_SFO_Comments@blm.gov) and ask to be placed on the Lobos CO<sub>2</sub> Pipeline mailing list. Project updates also will be placed on the BLM project website at [www.blm.gov/nm/LobosCO2](http://www.blm.gov/nm/LobosCO2).

## Lobos CO<sub>2</sub> Pipeline – Frequently Asked Questions

### **I have a question that is not listed on the FAQs.**

If you have a question that this FAQ does not address, feel free to send your question to [BLM\\_NM\\_SFO\\_Comments@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_NM_SFO_Comments@blm.gov). The BLM will update this FAQ throughout the project.

Should there be additional questions, contact BLM Project Manager Mark Mackiewicz at (435) 636-3616.

At this time, it is possible that the BLM does not have enough information to respond to your question(s), of the ongoing analysis of the proposed project. The BLM will provide many more details about the potential impacts of the proposed project in the Draft EIS.