

Frequently Asked Questions

Ruby Pipeline Project: Construction Phase – ROW Grant and TUP Amendment

What is the Ruby Pipeline Project?

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

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 would transport natural gas from the Rocky Mountain region to demand regions in northern California and the Pacific Northwest, and allow for the transportation of up to 1.5 million dekatherms of natural gas per day.

How did this project get approved?

The FERC is 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 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) released in January 2010 in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The U. S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has the primary responsibility for issuing ROW grants and temporary use permits for natural gas pipelines across most Federal lands pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. On April 5th, FERC issued its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Ruby Pipeline Project authorizing construction and operation of the gas pipeline, approximately 2.6 miles of 42-inch diameter lateral pipeline, and related above ground facilities.

On Monday, July 12, the BLM signed a Record of Decision (ROD) and Right-of-Way Grant (ROW) 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 U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the four states involved with the 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 Project Final EIS was distributed to all interested members of the public and government agencies for review.

How many jobs will the project create?

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) includes an analysis of effects to the socioeconomic environment. That analysis estimates Ruby will require a temporary construction workforce of 3,400 workers on average, with up to 4,300 workers required during peak construction periods. Ruby estimates that up to 15 percent of the workforce will be local hires and about 85 percent will be non-local hires. Ruby has stated that it will employ 19 permanent employees for operation and maintenance of the pipeline and compressor stations.

Is the entire route approved to start construction?

No. Prior to any construction or other surface disturbance associated with the ROW grant and TUPs, Ruby must receive written Notices to Proceed (NTPs) from the FERC on all lands and from the BLM on all Federal Lands. NTPs authorize construction or use only for the particular location, segment, area, and use described. NTPs may also include stipulations that must be followed as part of construction.

Notices to Proceed (NTPs) will be posted to the BLM website, http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/info/nepa/ruby_pipeline_project.html, shortly after they are issued.

Where can I see a copy of the Final EIS and BLM’s Record of Decision?

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 the FERC, BLM, and USFS 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 Elko District Office 3900 E. Idaho Street Elko, NV 89801	U.S. Forest Service Fremont-Winema National Forests 1301 S. G Street Lakeview, OR 97630
U.S. Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office P.O. Box 1828 Cheyenne, WY 82003	U.S. Bureau of Land Management Winnemucca District Office 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd. Winnemucca, NV 89445.	U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Regional Office 324 25th Street Ogden, UT 84401.
U.S. Bureau of Land Management Kemmerer Field Office 312 Highway 189 N Kemmerer, WY 83101	U.S. Bureau of Land Management Surprise Field Office 602 Cressler Street Cedarville, CA 96104	U.S. Forest Service Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Ogden Ranger District 507 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401
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 Oregon State Office 333 SW First Avenue Portland, OR 97204	U.S. Forest Service Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Salt Lake Office 8256 Federal Building 125 S. State Street Salt Lake City, UT 84138.
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 Lakeview Office 1301 S. G Street Lakeview, OR 97630	
U.S. Bureau of Land Management Nevada State Office 1340 Financial Blvd. Reno, NV 89502	U.S. Bureau of Land Management Klamath Falls Office 2795 Anderson Avenue, Bldg. #25 Klamath Falls, OR 97603.	

Where can I find Route Maps?

Route maps and alignment sheets are available on Ruby Pipeline’s website, www.rubypipeline.com, under the Certificate Application tab.

What changes are being made to the Record of Decision?

The Right-of-Way Grant and Temporary Use Permit for the Ruby Pipeline Route are being amended to include the Summit Lake Route Variance in Humboldt County, Nevada, and to accept inclusion of the final Winter Construction Plan as Appendix V of the Project’s Plan of Development.

What is the Summit Lake Route Variance?

The Summit Lake Route Variance is an alternative route developed to avoid a cultural resources area identified during ongoing Section 106 consultation. It was concluded in a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) that the Variance conformed to the applicable land use plans and that the NEPA documentation referenced in the DNA fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM’s compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

What is the Winter Construction Plan?

The Winter Construction Plan was developed in order to reduce construction impacts during winter weather conditions. The Plan will be accepted and incorporated as Appendix V of the Ruby Plan of Development.

Who can I contact for more information?

Questions about the BLM right-of-way grant process for the Ruby 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.