

**PUBLIC SCOPING NOTICE
OVERLAND PASS PIPELINE PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Williams Field Services Company (Williams) proposes to construct an approximately 750-mile-long, 14-inch and 18-inch-diameter natural gas liquids (NGL) pipeline that will begin at Williams existing facilities in Opal, Wyoming and end at existing processing and NGL storage facilities near Conway, Kansas. The project is referred to as the Overland Pass Pipeline Project. The proposed pipeline crosses federal lands administered by the BLM and lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service. BLM has been determined to be the lead agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Overland Pass Pipeline Project and the U.S. Forest Service has agreed to be a cooperating agency.

Beginning in Wyoming, the proposed Overland Pass Pipeline route will traverse the state in a west-to-east direction generally along the I-80 corridor. To the extent feasible, the pipeline has been routed from Opal to Echo Springs along various existing utility or pipeline rights-of-way. From Williams' existing facilities in Echo Springs, the pipeline route will run in a southeasterly direction, mostly paralleling the existing Southern Star Pipeline, and traverse to the south of Cheyenne, Wyoming before entering Colorado. From the Colorado border, the pipeline route will continue southeasterly into Kansas, where it will continue to run parallel to the Southern Star Pipeline to south of WaKeeney, Kansas. It will then follow an existing right-of-way to an existing BP Amoco (Wattenberg) pipeline to Bushton, Kansas, after which it will create a new right-of-way to Mitchell, Kansas, and then follow a Williams Pipeline corridor to Conway, Kansas. At Bushton and Conway, the transported NGL will be processed and distributed through existing transportation infrastructure to consumer markets in the Midwest and Texas Gulf of Mexico coast. Figure 1 shows an overview of the proposed project.

The proposed Overland Pass Pipeline Project facilities will cross land under federal and non-federal jurisdiction. Approximately 126.9 miles of pipeline and related ancillary facilities are located on federal land and about 624.0 miles of pipeline, three pump stations, four meter stations, and related ancillary facilities are located on non-federal lands. Approximately 4 percent of the land affected by construction and operation of the proposed project will be on State of Wyoming lands, less than 2 percent will be on State of Colorado lands, and less than 2 percent will be on land managed by the cities of Laramie and Cheyenne, Wyoming. There is no state owned land traversed by the proposed pipeline in Kansas. The remainder of the land that will be affected (76 percent of the project) is privately owned.

The project will transport up to 150,000 barrels per day (bpd) of NGL. The new pipeline will be buried with a minimum cover of 3 feet, and will be designed in full compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Pipeline Safety Regulations, Title 49 CFR Part 195, to be operated at a maximum operating pressure (MOP) of 1,440 pounds per square inch (psig). Additional measures may be implemented at road, river, and railroad crossings beyond the requirements of the DOT's requirements to provide additional protection to ongoing pipeline operations. A corrosion protection external coating will be applied to the pipeline and all buried facilities. Cathodic protection will be provided by an impressed current system.

Overland Pass proposes to use a 75-foot-wide construction right-of-way for the majority of the pipeline route, with 50 feet retained as permanent right-of-way during operation of the new facilities. Extra workspace associated with the construction and installation of pipelines requires careful planning to provide sufficient space and proper configuration to allow a safe work environment while satisfying regulatory obligations. Extra workspace is typically required at drainage crossings, road and utility crossings and on steep slopes. Generally, when workspace is undersized it will prolong the construction process, while oversized workspace has the potential to introduce impacts that are unwarranted. Williams will prepare a comprehensive Plan of Development (POD) to address how the proposed pipeline will be constructed and how extra workspaces will be utilized.

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The project information presented in this scoping document is preliminary. Overland Pass is currently conducting engineering and environmental studies to further define the exact centerline of the project. Additionally, environmental resource (e.g., cultural, biological) surveys will be conducted in the spring and summer of 2006 to further assist in refining the route so as to avoid adversely impacting sensitive or unique resources.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING PLANS AND DOCUMENTS

Resource Management Plans – The Proposed project affects lands in three BLM Field Offices in Wyoming.

Rawlins Field Office: The Great Divide Resource Management Plan (RMP) was completed in November 1990. It was amended in 1998 to open lands to further consideration for coal leasing and to modify Shirley Mountain ORV designations. The RMP is currently in the revision process.

Rock Springs Field Office: The Green River Resource Management Plan (RMP) was completed in October 1997. Since then, four maintenance actions have been completed covering map corrections, establishing the Little Colorado Desert HMA modifying the lands available for community or industrial expansion, prohibiting linear facilities in the South Pass Historic Landscape and clarifying benefiting activities allowed in the Greater Red Creek ACEC.

Kemmerer Field Office: The Kemmerer Resource Management Plan (RMP) was completed in April 1986. Two maintenance actions have been completed for healthy rangeland standards and guidelines and to clarify the language in the Record of Decision as the correct description of the plan. A Notice of Intent to revise the Kemmerer RMP was published in the *Federal Register* on June 16, 2003.

All three RMPs allow for the issuance of use authorizations for rights-of-way on a case-by-case basis.

Right-of-Way Authorizations – Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act provides authority for BLM to issue rights-of-way grants across federal lands. When the federal lands are administered by multiple federal agencies for a project (e.g. BLM and Forest Service), the BLM must obtain the concurrence of the other federal land management agency before it considers issuing any right-of-way grant.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

On reviewing the right-of-way application for the Overland Pass Pipeline Project, the BLM has determined that the proposal would constitute a major federal action that could significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations on implementing NEPA, the BLM is preparing an EIS that will describe and evaluate the potential impacts of the Overland Pass Pipeline proposed action, no action, and action alternatives. The purpose of the EIS is to provide the public and decision makers with sufficient information to understand the environmental consequences of the proposal and to identify and develop appropriate mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts. The impact analysis presented in the EIS will result in a Record of Decision for the project.

One early element of the NEPA process is scoping. Scoping activities are conducted early in the process to:

- determine reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that will be considered in the document;
- identify environmental and socioeconomic issues of concern related to the proposed project; and
- determine the depth and range of analyses for issues addressed in the document

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable government agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in, and contribute to, the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

PRELIMINARY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The following issues and concerns have been identified to-date as relating to the proposed action. This list is not meant

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to be all-inclusive, but rather to serve as a starting point for public input. Once all issues and concerns have been gathered through scoping and BLM consideration of the project, corresponding resource disciplines will be identified to conduct analysis for individual issues and concerns.

- potential effects biological resources within the analysis area including species listed under the Endangered Species Act
- increased traffic and associated impacts upon county, state, and BLM roads and highways
- social and economic impacts to local communities
- potential impacts to sensitive soils within the project area and stabilization of those soils
- reclamation of disturbed areas and control of invasive and nonnative plants
- potential impacts to cultural and historical resources within the analysis area
- cumulative effects of pipeline construction activities when combined with other ongoing and proposed developments on public lands
- potential impacts to visual resources
- potential conflicts between pipeline construction and other mineral development activities

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

Based upon current understanding of issues, concerns, and opportunities, an interdisciplinary team (IDT) made up of resource specialists within the BLM Field Offices and the Forest Service has been identified. The following disciplines are represented on the ID team.

Archaeologist
Realty Specialist
NEPA Specialist
Civil Engineer (roads and surface activities)
Wildlife Biologist
Natural Resource Specialist (surface protection)
Hydrologist
Recreation Planner
Soil Scientist
Geologist
Range Management Specialist

TIMING NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS

Government agencies, the public, and other interested parties are encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to be considered, issues or concerns that should be assessed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure that the analysis process is comprehensive.

After a 45-day scoping period is completed and the Draft EIS is prepared, the Draft EIS will be released to the public for review and comment. BLM will again ask the public to participate in meetings designed to gather formal comments relating the adequacy of the Draft EIS. The scoping period for this project ends on May 5, 2006. Please submit your comments to:

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Bureau of Land Management
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Montrose, Colorado 81401
E-mail: Overland_Pipeline_WY@blm.gov

Please refer to the Overland Pass Pipeline Project in your response.

Q&As

WHAT ARE NGL's?

NGL's are hydrocarbon liquids that are associated with the production and processing of natural gas. As natural gas production increases, typical NGL production also increases. When natural gas is removed from the ground, it is compositionally different than what is transported through natural gas transmission systems and ultimately used as an energy source for end users such as home heating and cooking, and industrial energy. When removed from the ground, the mixture is predominately methane, but also includes heavier hydrocarbons and inert gases. Although the mixture can vary greatly, a typical stream may include 85 percent methane, 10 percent heavier hydrocarbons (NGL's), and 5 percent inert gases. Some of the NGL's and inert gases must be removed to make the natural gas salable and transportable.

NGL's are used in other applications, such as:

- Ethane is primarily used for the production of plastics.
- Propane is typically used for heating purposes in areas without access to natural gas, but can also be utilized in the production of plastics.
- Butanes and natural gasoline are primarily used for motor gasoline blending.

WHY DO I SEND MY COMMENTS TO MONTROSE, COLORADO?

Tom Hurshman is a BLM National Project Manager working for the BLM Washington Office. Tom is duty stationed out west and resides in Montrose, Colorado, although he works on major energy right-of-way projects in the western United States.