

Document Accession #: 20060818-4000

Filed Date: 08/18/2006

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The environmental staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) prepared this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the facilities proposed by CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company (CEGT or Applicant).¹ The facilities proposed by CEGT are hereafter collectively referred to as the Carthage to Perryville Project, or the proposed Project, in this EIS.

On March 10, 2006, CEGT filed an application for the proposed Project with the FERC, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), as amended, and Parts 157 and 284 of the FERC's regulations. Under Docket No. CP06-85-000, CEGT seeks a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (Certificate) to construct, own, operate, and maintain an interstate natural gas pipeline and associated ancillary facilities. The FERC issued a notice of CEGT's application in the Federal Register (FR) on March 17, 2006.

The proposed Project would consist of an approximately 172.1-mile-long, 42-inch-diameter, interstate natural gas pipeline, two new compressor stations totaling 41,240 horsepower (hp), and associated ancillary facilities. The proposed pipeline would extend from multiple receipt points with intrastate natural gas pipeline facilities near Carthage in Panola County, Texas (see Section 1.5), to interconnects with four existing, interstate pipelines in Ouachita and Richland Parishes, Louisiana. CEGT proposes to construct the Carthage to Perryville Project in two phases, with planned in-service dates of February 2007 (Phase I) and October 2008 (Phase II). Following completion of Phase II, the proposed Project would receive and transport up to about 1.2 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) of natural gas.

1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

CEGT indicates that the primary purpose of the proposed Project is to provide the pipeline capacity needed to connect new domestic, onshore natural gas supplies with markets in the Midwest and Northeastern regions of the United States that can be accessed through interconnects with existing pipeline infrastructure. Specifically, the proposed Project would facilitate the transport of natural gas received from the Barnett Shale and Bossier Sand production areas in eastern Texas, as well as the Elm Grove and Vernon Field production areas in Louisiana, to these markets through interconnects with four interstate pipeline systems. CEGT believes that the addition of incremental supply at the proposed interconnect locations would help meet growing energy demands, enhance reliability, and result in supply diversification by providing access to domestic, unconventional natural gas supplies.

Energy demand in the United States has been growing and continues to increase steadily. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) *Annual Energy Outlook 2006 Overview*, estimates that total energy consumption in the United States will increase from 99.7 quadrillion British thermal units (BTU) per year in 2004 to 127.0 quadrillion BTU per year in 2025, representing an annualized increase of 1.2 percent (EIA 2006a). Although this energy will be obtained from a variety of sources (e.g., coal, petroleum, hydropower and other renewable sources), natural gas usage will represent about 22 percent of all energy consumption in the United States by 2025. To maintain pace with growing energy demands, the EIA anticipates that consumption of natural gas in the United States will grow from 22.4 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) per year in 2004 to 27.0 Tcf by 2025, an increase of more than 20 percent. The growth in natural gas demand is being driven primarily by increased use of natural gas for electricity generation and

¹ CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

industrial applications, which together account for 62 percent of the projected demand growth from 2004 to 2025 (EIA 2006a).

The United States natural gas supply currently comes from three main sources: domestic production, pipeline imports from Canada and Mexico, and imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Net pipeline imports of natural gas from Canada and Mexico are expected to decline in coming years, and although LNG represents an increasingly important source of natural gas, LNG imports are only expected to account for about 15 percent of total United States natural gas consumption by 2025. Domestic production of natural gas will continue to account for the majority of total United States consumption, with onshore production expected to account for the bulk of that supply, growing to 14.7 Tcf by 2025 (EIA 2006a). Onshore production of natural gas from unconventional sources (e.g., shale, tight sands, and coal bed methane) is expected to be a major contributor to that growth. The EIA (2006a) projects that unconventional natural gas production in the lower 48 states will account for about 45 percent of total domestic production by 2030.

1.2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS EIS

The FERC is the federal agency responsible for evaluating applications filed for authorization to construct and operate interstate natural gas pipeline facilities. As such, the FERC is the lead federal agency for the preparation of this EIS, in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500–1508), and the FERC regulations implementing NEPA (18 CFR 380).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) are federal cooperating agencies for the development of this EIS. A federal cooperating agency has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved with the proposal and is involved in the NEPA analysis.

Our² principal purposes in preparing this EIS are to:

- identify and assess potential impacts on the natural and human environment that would result from implementation of the proposed action;
- describe and evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that would avoid or minimize adverse effects on the human environment;
- identify and recommend specific mitigation measures, as necessary, to minimize the environmental impacts; and
- facilitate public involvement in identifying the significant environmental impacts.

The topics addressed in this EIS include geology; soils; water use and quality; vegetation and wetlands; fish and wildlife resources; threatened and endangered species; land use, recreation and special use areas, and visual resources; socioeconomics; cultural resources; air quality and noise; reliability and safety; cumulative impacts; and alternatives. The EIS describes the affected environment as it currently exists, addresses the environmental consequences of the proposed Project, and compares the proposed

² The pronouns “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP), part of the FERC staff.

Project's potential impacts to those of alternatives. The EIS also presents our conclusions and recommended mitigation measures.

After the Final EIS is issued, the Commission will determine whether or not the proposed Project should be approved. A final approval will be granted only if, after a consideration of both environmental and non-environmental issues, the FERC determines that the Project is consistent with the public interest. The environmental impact assessment and mitigation development discussed in this EIS will be important factors in that final determination.

Currently, we have received one other proposal to construct and operate an interstate pipeline in the general vicinity of the proposed Project. The East Texas Expansion Project (Docket No. PF06-17-000) proposed by Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP (Gulf South) would share a similar purpose to that of the proposed Project and would also traverse northern Louisiana. Although these projects are on similar schedules, the FERC is preparing separate EISs for each. The Commission does not consider the East Texas Expansion Project to represent a mutually exclusive alternative to the Carthage to Perryville Project. Rather, we view each of these projects to be potentially complementary for the purpose of meeting the United States' projected demands for natural gas. In addition, the FERC has a regulatory responsibility to act on each of the projects that are filed with it in a timely manner. Linking the environmental analyses of both projects into a single EIS could result in delaying action on one or more of the projects based on insufficient data or unresolved issues associated with just one of the projects. The potential cumulative environmental effects of the Carthage to Perryville and East Texas Expansion Projects, as well as other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects and activities are addressed in Section 3.13 of this EIS.

1.3 PERMITS, APPROVALS AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

A number of federal, state, or local regulatory agencies have permit or approval authority or consultation requirements for portions of the proposed Project (see Table 1.3-1). The FERC states in its orders that applicants should cooperate with state and local agencies. However, any state or local permits issued with respect to jurisdictional facilities must be consistent with the conditions of any Certificate the FERC may issue. The FERC encourages cooperation between interstate pipeline companies and local authorities, but state and local authorities may not prohibit or unreasonably delay the construction or operation of facilities approved by the FERC through application of state and local laws.

As the lead federal agency for the proposed Project, the FERC has certain obligations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). At the federal level, required permits and approval authority outside of the FERC's jurisdiction include compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and the Clean Air Act (CAA). Each of these statutes has been taken into account in the preparation of this document.

Section 7 of the ESA, as amended, states that any project authorized, funded, or conducted by a federal agency (for example, the FERC) should not "jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which is determined...to be critical" (16 United States Code (USC) § 1536[a][2]). The FERC, or CEGT as a non-federal party, is required to consult with the FWS to determine whether any species federally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, or their designated critical habitat occur in the vicinity of the proposed Project. If, upon review of existing data or data provided by CEGT, the FERC determines that these species or habitats may be adversely affected by the proposed

TABLE 1.3-1 Summary of Major Permits, Approvals and Consultations for the Carthage to Perryville Project		
Agency	Permit/Approval/ Consultations	Agency Action (Status)
FEDERAL		
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Consultations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)	Has the opportunity to comment on the undertaking. (Consultation pending.)
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity under Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act	Determine whether the construction and operation of the proposed natural gas pipeline is in the public interest. (Application submitted on March 10, 2006.)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)	Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899	Consider issuance of Section 404 permits for the placement of dredge or fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. Considers issuance of Section 10 permit for work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States. (Wetland delineation report submitted March 3, 2006; application pending.)
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Compatible Use Permit	Consider issuance of a permit for crossing of lands enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program. (Application pending.)
U.S. Department of the Interior		
Fish and Wildlife Service	Consultations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act	Consult on endangered and threatened species and migratory birds; general consultation regarding conservation of fish and wildlife resources. (Concurrence letters of no adverse effect to federally endangered or threatened species issued on February 17 and April 27, 2006.)
National Park Service	Consultations under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	Review for impacts on designated Natural Resource Inventory Streams. (Consultation completed on March 10, 2006.)
U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration	Encroachment permit	Consider issuance of permit to work within road right-of-way. (Application pending.)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Compliance with Sections 401, 402, and 404 of the CWA.	Consider issuance of water use and crossing, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge, stormwater, and wetland dredge-and-fill permits. Permitting authority delegated to the states.

TABLE 1.3-1 Summary of Major Permits, Approvals and Consultations for the Carthage to Perryville Project		
Agency	Permit/Approval/ Consultations	Agency Action (Status)
STATE		
Louisiana		
Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Division of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	Consultations under Section 106 of the NHPA	Review and comment on Project activities potentially affecting cultural resources. (Concurrence with findings of initial cultural resources report provided on June 8, 2006. Concurrence with findings of addendum report findings pending.)
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality	Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the CWA	Consider issuance of a permit for stream and wetland crossings in conjunction with COE Section 404 permit. (Consultations on-going.)
	Stormwater Discharge Permit	Consider issuance of a Section 402 permit regulating discharge of stormwater from the construction work area. (Permit no longer required as a result of rule changes effective June 12, 2006.)
	Hydrostatic Test Water Discharge Permit	Consider issuance of a Section 402 permit regulating hydrostatic test water discharge, and construction dewatering to waters of the state. (Application pending.)
	Minor Source Air Permit	Consider issuance of a permit to construct and operate facilities with the potential for air emissions. (Application submitted December 16, 2005.)
Louisiana Department of Transportation	Road Crossing Permits	Consider issuance of permits to cross and work within the right-of-way of state highways. (Permit applications filed in June 2006.)
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	Consultations regarding special status species	Review and comment on activities potentially affecting state-listed species. (Protected species report submitted February 13, 2006; consultations on-going.)
	Scenic Rivers Permit	Consider issuance of a permit for proposed crossings of the Saline Bayou and Black Lake Bayou. (Permits issued on May 26, 2006.)

TABLE 1.3-1 (continued) Summary of Major Permits, Approvals and Consultations for the Carthage to Perryville Project		
Agency	Permit/Approval/ Consultations	Agency Action (Status)
Louisiana Levee Board	Levee Crossing Permit	Consider issuance of a permit for proposed crossings of the Red River and Ouachita River levees. (Application filed with Tensas Levee District on March 6, 2006; letter of request for application submitted to Red River Levee District on February 28, 2006.)
Texas		
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the CWA	Consider issuance of a permit for stream and wetland crossings in conjunction with COE Section 404 permit. (Consultations on-going.)
	Stormwater Discharge Permit	Consider issuance of a Section 402 permit regulating discharge of stormwater from the construction work area. (Permit no longer required as a result of rule changes effective June 12, 2006.)
	Hydrostatic Test Water Discharge Permit	Consider issuance of a Section 402 permit regulating hydrostatic test water discharge, and construction dewatering to waters of the state. (Application pending.)
	Minor Source Air Permit	Consider issuance of a Permit by Rule authorizing construction and operation of facilities with the potential for air emissions. (Permit by Rule authorization received January 26, 2006.)
Texas Department of Transportation	Road Crossing Permits	Consider issuance of permits to cross and work within the right-of-way of state highways. (Application pending.)
Texas Historical Commission	Consultations under Section 106 of the NHPA	Review and comment on Project activities potentially affecting cultural resources. (Concurrence with findings of cultural resources report provided on May 22, 2006. Concurrence with findings of addendum report findings pending)
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Rare Resources Review	Review and comment on activities potentially affecting state-listed species. (Consultations completed.)
	Stream Disturbance Permits	Consider issuance of a permit for disturbance of state-owned streambed and/or removal of streambed materials. (Application pending.)

Project, the FERC is required to prepare a biological assessment to identify the nature and extent of the adverse impact and to recommend measures that would avoid the habitat and/or species, or would reduce potential impacts to acceptable levels. If the FERC determines that no federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat would be adversely affected by the proposed Project, then no further action is necessary. See Section 3.7 of this EIS for further discussion of our ESA review.

Section 106 of the NHPA requires the FERC to take into account the effects of its undertakings on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), including prehistoric or historic sites, districts, buildings, structures, objects, or properties of traditional religious or cultural importance, and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on the undertaking. The FERC has requested that CEGT, as a non-federal party, assist in meeting the FERC's obligations under Section 106 by preparing the necessary information and analyses as required by the ACHP procedures in 36 CFR 800. Additional information on Section 106 consultation is provided in Section 3.10 of this EIS.

CEGT is required to comply with Sections 401, 402, and 404 of the CWA. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has delegated water quality certification (Section 401) to the jurisdiction of individual state agencies, but the EPA may assume this authority if no state program exists, if the state program is not functioning adequately, or at the request of a state. Water used for hydrostatic testing of pipelines that is point-source discharged into waterbodies requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (Section 402) issued by the state with EPA oversight.

The COE has responsibility for determining compliance with the regulatory requirements of Section 404 of the CWA. The EPA also independently reviews Section 404 wetland dredge-and-fill applications for the COE and has Section 404(c) veto power for wetland permits issued by the COE. The Section 404 permitting process regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the construction of pipelines across streams and in wetlands. Before an individual Section 404 permit can be issued, the CWA requires completion of a Section 404(b)(1) guidelines analysis. The FERC, in the NEPA review required to prepare this EIS, has analyzed the technical issues required for the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines analysis, including analysis of natural resources and cultural resources that would be affected by the proposed Project, as well as analyses of alternatives and route variations that would eliminate or minimize the discharge of fill material into the waters of the United States. The COE, as a federal cooperating agency, may use the EIS to support its decision on the Section 404 permit for the proposed Project.

In addition to its CWA responsibilities, the COE has jurisdiction over Section 10 permits. Section 10 permits would be required for all construction activities in navigable waterways under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

Ambient air quality is protected by federal regulations under the CAA. These regulations include compliance under the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and the requirements for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD). The federal permitting process for the CAA has been delegated to individual state agencies. Although applications are reviewed by both the states and the EPA, the states would determine the need for NSPS or a PSD permit. Air quality and applicable regulations are discussed further in Section 3.11.1 of this EIS.

1.4 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

On October 25, 2005, CEGT filed a request with the FERC to implement the Commission's Pre-Filing Process for the Carthage to Perryville Project. At that time, CEGT was in the preliminary design

stage of the proposed Project and no formal application had been filed with the FERC. The FERC granted CEGT's request to use the Pre-Filing Process on November 10, 2005, and established a pre-filing docket number (PF06-1-000) to place information relevant to the proposed Project into the public record. The Pre-Filing Process was established by the FERC to encourage early involvement of interested stakeholders, facilitate interagency cooperation, and identify and resolve environmental issues before an application is filed with the FERC.

On December 1, 2005, the FERC issued a public information notice, *National Environmental Policy Act Pre-Filing Review for the Carthage to Perryville Project*, that explained the Pre-Filing environmental review process for the proposed Project. This notice was sent to affected landowners; federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. The notice also invited interested groups and individuals to attend a series of open houses scheduled by CEGT to provide information about the proposed Project to affected landowners and other stakeholders. Concurrently, CEGT also mailed notification letters to landowners, government and agency officials, and the general public informing them about the proposed Project and inviting them to attend the open houses. CEGT also published notifications of the open houses in local newspapers. The open houses were held on December 13, 14, and 15, 2005, in Carthage, Texas, and Quitman and Delhi, Louisiana, respectively. Staff representing the FERC attended the open houses to explain the environmental review process to interested parties and accept comments about the proposed Project.

On January 6, 2006, the FERC issued a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Carthage to Perryville Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings* (NOI). The NOI was sent to affected landowners; federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; other interested parties; local libraries and newspapers; and other interested parties. The NOI, which was published in the FR provided a summary of the proposed Project, outlined our NEPA-required environmental review process, provided a list of the then currently identified environmental issues, and requested comments on the scope of the analysis for the EIS. The NOI also listed the dates and times of three public scoping meetings that were sponsored by the FERC to give the general public an opportunity to learn more about the proposed Project and to comment on environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS. These scoping meetings were held on January 24, 25, and 26, 2006, in Carthage, Texas, and Quitman and Delhi, Louisiana, respectively.

The transcripts of both scoping meetings, as well as all written comments received before and after the scoping meetings, are part of the public record for the proposed Project and are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (<http://www.ferc.gov>).³ Excluding representatives of CEGT and the FERC, about 40 people attended the public scoping meetings for the proposed Project, and we received verbal statements from a total of four individuals. During the pre-filing and scoping periods for the proposed Project, we received a total of 11 written comment letters from members of the general public, Native American tribes, and federal and state resource agencies. The issues and concerns identified by commentors during the public scoping process for the proposed Project are summarized in Table 1.4-1, which also identifies the EIS section in which these issues are addressed. All comments received during the pre-filing period and since the CEGT's application was filed under Docket No. CP06-85-000 are considered to be part of the record for the Carthage to Perryville Project.

³ Using the "eLibrary link", select "General Search" and enter the Project docket number excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, PF06-1 or CP06-85) in the "Docket Number" field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range.

In addition to the public notice and scoping process discussed above, the FERC conducted agency consultations and participated in interagency meetings to identify issues that should be addressed in this EIS. These activities included participation in interagency meetings on November 15, 2005, March 20, 2006, and June 21, 2006, to discuss the proposed Project and its associated environmental review process with other key federal and state agencies. The agencies that participated in one or more of those meetings included the COE; FWS; the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF); the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ); and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

The FERC prepared a Draft EIS for the Carthage to Perryville Project and issued a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS on May 26, 2006. The Draft EIS was also filed with the EPA, and a formal notice was published in the FR on June 2, 2006, indicating that the Draft EIS was available and had been mailed to individuals and organizations on the distribution list prepared for the proposed Project (see Appendix A). In accordance with the CEQ regulations implementing the NEPA, the NOA and FR notice established a 45-day comment period ending on July 17, 2006; described procedures for filing comments on the Draft EIS; and announced the time, dates, and locations of public comment meetings held to receive comments on the Draft EIS. These announcements also described how additional Project information could be obtained from the Commission's Office of External Affairs and on the FERC's Internet website.

During the Draft EIS comment period, the FERC conducted public comment meetings in Quitman and Delhi, Louisiana, on June 21 and June 22, 2006, respectively. The meetings provided interested groups and individuals the opportunity to present oral comments on the FERC staff's analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed Project as described in the Draft EIS. A single individual provided oral comments at the public meetings. In addition, we received written comments on the Draft EIS from two federal agencies, EPA and FWS, and two state agencies, LDWF and TPWD. The public comment meeting transcripts and all written comments received on the Draft EIS are part of the public record for the Project. Comments received on the Draft EIS and the FERC staff's response to those comments are provided in Appendix J of this EIS. Changes were also made in the text of the Final EIS in response to comments on the Draft EIS and as a result of updated information that became available following issuance of the Draft EIS. All substantive changes in the text of the Final EIS are indicated by vertical bars that appear in the margins of the document.

The Final EIS was mailed to the agencies, individuals, and organizations on the mailing list and submitted to the EPA for issuance of a formal public notice of availability. In accordance with CEQ's regulations implementing NEPA, no agency decision on a proposed action may be made until 30 days after the EPA publishes a notice of availability of a Final EIS. However, the CEQ regulations provide an exception to this rule when an agency decision is subject to a formal internal process that allows other agencies or the public to make their views known. In such cases, the agency decision may be made at the same time the notice of the Final EIS is published, allowing both periods to run concurrently. Should the FERC issue CEGT authorizations for the proposed Project, it would be subject to a 30-day rehearing period. Therefore, the Commission could issue its decision concurrently with the EPA's notice of availability.

TABLE 1.4-1 Issues Identified and Comments Received During the Public Scoping Process for the Carthage to Perryville Project	
Issue/Specific Comments	EIS Section Addressing Comment
General	
Project purpose and need	1.1
Public notification requirements	1.3
Describe construction methods and land requirements	2.2, 2.3, 3.8
Maintenance procedures to be implemented during operation, including vegetation management and inspections	2.5, 3.5, 3.12
Potential damage to existing utilities, including water lines and irrigation systems	2.3
Geology and Soils	
Impacts to soils, including compaction, drainage, and erosion potential following construction, and associated mitigation	3.2
Impacts to prime farmland soils	3.2
Water Resources	
Construction-related impacts to irrigation wells; potential for contamination and monitoring requirements	3.3.1
Impacts to waterbodies (rivers and streams), particularly that associated with crossings of major or state-designated scenic rivers	3.3.2, 3.8
Impacts associated with hydrostatic test water withdrawals	2.0, 3.3.2
Vegetation and Wetlands	
Avoidance and minimization of impacts to sensitive habitats, including wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, riparian habitats, and native prairies and rangelands during construction and maintenance activities; mitigation for Project-related effects	3.4, 3.5
Use of native vegetation and seed mixes to restore disturbed areas	3.2, 3.5
Fish and Wildlife Resources	
Impacts to fish and wildlife habitat	3.4, 3.5, 3.6
Potential impacts to colonial, nesting waterbirds or migratory bird species	3.6, 3.7
Collocation with other existing rights-of-way to minimize habitat fragmentation	3.4, 3.5, 3.6
Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species	
Potential impacts to state and federally protected species, including red-cockaded woodpecker, bald eagle, interior least tern, Louisiana black bear, pallid sturgeon, Louisiana pine snake, or their habitat	3.7
Land Use, Recreation and Special Interest Areas, and Visual Resources	
Impacts to affected property including agriculture, silviculture activities, and property access during operation	2.6, 3.8
Proximity of pipeline to occupied structures	3.8

TABLE 1.4-1 (continued) Issues Identified and Comments Received During the Public Scoping Process for the Carthage to Perryville Project	
Issue/Specific Comments	EIS Section Addressing Comment
Land Use, Recreation and Special Interest Areas, and Visual Resources	
Reduced property access during construction activities, including that of livestock	2.3, 3.8
Allowable uses/restrictions on future development along the permanent right-of-way	3.8
Compatibility/potential conflicts with designated special use areas, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conservation easements and lands within the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Wetland Reserve and Conservation Reserve Programs	3.4, 3.8
Impacts of multiple pipeline and utility rights-of-way	3.8, 4.4
Air Quality and Noise	
Potential impacts from construction-related noise	3.11.2
Potential noise impacts from compressor stations during operations	3.11.2
Cultural Resources	
Identification, evaluation, and protection of potentially affected cultural resources	3.10
Native American notification and consultation	3.10
Socioeconomics	
Potential effect on property values	3.9
Loss of timber production values for affected silviculture operations	3.8, 3.9
General economic effects to agricultural operations	3.9
Potential for landowner liability associated with accidental pipeline damage; associated insurance premium effects	3.9
Responsibility for payment of property taxes along pipeline right-of-way	3.9
Reliability and Safety	
Public safety; risk of leak, explosion, or catastrophic accident	3.12
Stability and integrity of pipeline; potential for damage from outside forces such as agricultural operations and equipment	2.6, 3.12
Cumulative Impacts	
Cumulative impacts of similar proposed pipeline projects	3.13
Alternatives	
Analysis of alternative pipeline routes and aboveground facility locations, including alternative compressor station sites	4.3, 4.4, 4.5
Use of alternative fuels to reduce need for the proposed Project	4.1

1.5 NONJURISDICTIONAL FACILITIES

Under Section 7 of the NGA, the FERC is required to consider, as part of a decision to certificate jurisdictional facilities, all factors bearing on the public convenience and necessity. Toward this end, the

FERC may need to consider the environmental impact of related “nonjurisdictional” facilities that would be constructed upstream or downstream of the jurisdictional facilities for the purpose of delivering, receiving, or using the proposed gas volumes. Integrally related nonjurisdictional facilities could include major power facilities, such as cogeneration plants, as well as less significant facilities, such as lateral pipeline connections.

The jurisdictional facilities for the proposed Project are described in detail in Section 2.1. The nonjurisdictional facilities for the proposed Project include three, intrastate natural gas pipeline laterals. These facilities would be constructed and operated by Houston Pipe Line Company (HPL), Duke Energy Field Services (DEFS), and Enbridge Energy Partners, LP (Enbridge) to enable these parties to deliver natural gas to the proposed Carthage to Perryville Project pipeline (Table 1.5-1).

TABLE 1.5-1 Summary of Nonjurisdictional Facilities for the Carthage to Perryville Project	
Facility	Description
Houston Pipe Line Company (HPL) Lateral	A 1.1-mile-long, 42-inch-diameter pipeline lateral, to be constructed and operated by HPL, would deliver natural gas to the Carthage to Perryville Project via an interconnect at the proposed HPL Meter/Regulator (M/R) Station. The HPL facilities would also include a pig launching facility located just upstream of the delivery point to the proposed Project.
Duke Energy Field Services (DEFS) Lateral	An approximately 2,000-foot-long, 24-inch-diameter pipeline lateral, to be constructed and operated by DEFS, would extend from the outlet of the DEFS processing facility in Panola County to an interconnect with the Carthage to Perryville Project at the proposed DEFS-Enbridge M/R Station.
Enbridge Energy Partners, LP (Enbridge) Lateral	An approximately 350-foot-long, 12-inch-diameter pipeline lateral, to be constructed and operated by Enbridge, would extend from the outlet of an existing Enbridge meter facility in Panola County to an interconnect with the Carthage to Perryville Project at the proposed DEFS-Enbridge M/R Station.

1.5.1 The Four Factor Test

We use four factors to determine whether there is sufficient federal control and responsibility over a project as a whole to warrant environmental analysis of project-related nonjurisdictional facilities. These factors are:

- whether the regulated activity comprises "merely a link" in a corridor type project (e.g., a transportation or utility transmission project);
- whether there are aspects of the nonjurisdictional facility in the immediate vicinity of the regulated activity that affect the location and configuration of the regulated activity;
- the extent to which the entire Project would be within the Commission’s jurisdiction; and
- the extent of cumulative federal control and responsibility.

With regard to the first factor, the jurisdictional facilities, the proposed Project, is clearly a link in a natural gas project. The proposed Project would serve as a new pipeline transportation system between the producers and consumers of natural gas. As a common carrier, CEGT serves only to transport natural gas for its customers and does not sell gas to consumers. Therefore, this factor favors examining the nonjurisdictional facilities.

With regard to the second factor, the proposed Project would transport natural gas received from the nonjurisdictional pipeline laterals, but the design and route of the proposed Project has not been uniquely influenced by the location or configuration of the nonjurisdictional facilities. CEGT has made numerous adjustments to its proposed pipeline route with only the need to ultimately reach the delivery points on the eastern end of the proposed Project. Thus, the second factor does not support the FERC's review of the nonjurisdictional facilities.

The third factor weighs the extent to which the entire Project would be within the FERC's jurisdiction. Intrastate pipeline facilities are regulated by state and local permitting agencies, primarily the Railroad Commission of Texas in the case of the three proposed pipeline laterals. The FERC has no authority over the permitting, licensing, funding, construction, or operation of these nonjurisdictional facilities. Because the FERC has no authority over the nonjurisdictional facilities, this factor also weighs against extending the scope of the environmental review.

Finally, the last factor weighs the extent of cumulative federal control and responsibility over the nonjurisdictional facilities. Federal control is determined by the amount of federal financing, assistance, direction, regulation, or approval inherent in a project. The nonjurisdictional facilities are private construction projects under state and local jurisdiction. The federal government has no financial involvement, and no federal lands are involved. Construction of the HPL Lateral would impact wetlands along the proposed construction right-of-way, but it is anticipated that such impacts would be authorized under a COE nationwide permit. Based on the available information, federal agencies are expected to have either very limited or no involvement in the approval of the nonjurisdictional facilities. Therefore, cumulative federal control is minimal, and this factor does not warrant extending the FERC's environmental review.

We have applied the four factor test to the Carthage to Perryville Project and have determined that only one factor favors examining the nonjurisdictional facilities. Therefore, insufficient justification exists to warrant extension of the FERC's environmental review to include the nonjurisdictional facilities. However, because construction of the nonjurisdictional facilities is reasonably foreseeable in the region, we have considered them in our analysis of cumulative impacts (see Section 3.13).

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File [Section_4_Alternatives.PDF] cannot be converted to PDF. (Error: File not found)

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APPENDIX B

FACILITY LOCATION MAPS

Appendix B-1	Facility Location Maps for the Carthage to Perryville Project
Appendix B-2	Pipe Storage and Contractor Yard Maps for the Carthage to Perryville Project

APPENDIX B-1

Facility Location Maps for the Carthage to Perryville Project

Non-Internet Public

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED CARTHAGE TO PERRYVILLE
PIPELINE PROJECT
Docket No. CP06-085-000

Appendix B-1
Facility Location Maps

Public access for the above information is available only
through the Public Reference Room, or by e-mail at
public.referenceroom@ferc.gov.

APPENDIX B-2

Pipe Storage and Contractor Yard Maps for the Carthage to Perryville Project

Non-Internet Public

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED CARTHAGE TO PERRYVILLE
PIPELINE PROJECT
Docket No. CP06-085-000

Appendix B-2
Pipe Storage and Contractor Yard Maps

Public access for the above information is available only
through the Public Reference Room, or by e-mail at
public.referenceroom@ferc.gov.

File [Appendix_C_Spill Prevention Plan.PDF] cannot be converted to PDF. (Error: File not found)

APPENDIX D

DIRECTIONAL DRILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

DIRECTIONAL DRILL CONTINGENCY PLAN (DDCP)

In the event a complete loss of circulation of drilling mud occurs during operation of a horizontal directional drill (HDD) CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission (CEGT) will require the Contractor to cease pumping immediately, contain any drilling fluid which has surfaced, notify the Chief Inspector and Chief Environmental Inspector, and evaluate the data and circumstances leading to the loss of circulation to determine what method is to be utilized to seal the fracture. Most fractures can be sealed, if detected early, by pumping special materials to prevent loss of circulation down hole.

The Construction Inspector(s) and/or the Environmental Inspector(s) will continuously monitor operations during HDD activities. Monitoring activities during drilling operations will include:

- Visual inspection along the drill path, fluid return pit(s) and waterbody surface for evidence of a release;
- Observation and documentation of drilling fluid pressures using HDD instrumentation;
- Observation and documentation of drilling fluid recirculation volumes; and
- Documentation of all drilling fluid products used.

The Contractor will have readily available containment equipment to contain inadvertent releases of drilling mud to waterbodies including earth-moving equipment, portable pumps, containment booms, hand tools, hay bales, silt fence and sandbags. The Environmental Inspector(s) will ensure that adequate quantities of spill containment equipment and supplies are at the drilling location prior to allowing the contractor to begin drilling. Further, the Environmental Inspector(s) will ensure that each individual involved in drilling operations is familiar with the locations of all spill containment equipment and the specific procedures for handling potential drilling fluid releases.

If a significant reduction of drilling fluid circulation is detected without total loss of circulation, Contractor will reduce drilling fluid volumes and subsequent pressures and will increase the yield point of drilling fluid. Then, depending upon the progress of the drilling, the drill pipe may be tripped out until return flow is restored.

Should an inadvertent release of drilling fluid (Bentonite) occur, containment and subsequent clean-up will begin immediately upon detection. Field measures to contain inadvertent releases of drilling fluid will vary according to site-specific conditions (e.g. volume of fluid, topography, and environmental setting). Field measures will differ in wetland versus upland areas and in wetlands will follow the FERC's Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures, where applicable. In wetlands, the most commonly utilized system for containment of surface releases of drilling fluid would incorporate a perimeter coffer constructed of hay bales and silt fences. Where this system of containment cannot be employed the containment procedures will be directed by the Chief Inspector assisted by the Chief Environmental Inspector to minimize the adverse impacts. Alternate mitigating methods within wetlands would include, but not be limited to:

- damming of dry drainage swales using sandbags or plastic water structures.

- isolation using skirted containment booms in inundated or aquatic environments.
- isolation in shallow stream sections utilizing sandbags and plastic water structures.

In upland areas, the most commonly utilized system for containment of surface releases of bentonite would incorporate a perimeter earthen berm or hay bales. Again, where this system of containment cannot be employed, containment procedures will be directed by the Chief Inspector assisted by the Chief Environmental Inspector, again, to minimize impact.

Isolation under certain field conditions is virtually impossible. In the unlikely event that a release occurs within an area that cannot be isolated or contained, drilling operations will be stopped immediately. Upon evaluation by appropriate personnel a decision will be made on how best to continue the crossing construction which minimizes impacts.

After containment, clean-up and restoration will generally be accomplished utilizing one of the following:

- hand labor, hand tools and buckets;
- portable pumps and hand tools;
- rubber tired equipment and hand tools; and
- vacuum trucks and hand tools.

If a directional drill must be abandoned, the drill hole will be filled with drilling fluid and grout sealed for a distance of not less than thirty feet at each end.

In the event of an inadvertent release of drilling fluid within a waterway, CEGT will immediately contact applicable agencies by telephone and/or facsimile detailing:

- the location and nature of the release;
- corrective actions being taken; and
- whether the release poses and threat to public health and safety.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project Manager will also be notified by telephone of an inadvertent water body release as well as in the reports submitted by CEGT.

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File [Appendix_F_Affected Wetlands.PDF] cannot be converted to PDF. (Error: File not found)

File [Appendix_G_Extra Workspaces.PDF] cannot be converted to PDF. (Error: File not found)

File [Appendix_H_Minor Route Variation Maps.PDF] cannot be converted to PDF. (Error: File not found)

File [Appendix_I_Literature Cited.PDF] cannot be converted to PDF. (Error: File not found)

File [Appendix_J_List of Preparers.PDF] cannot be converted to PDF. (Error: File not found)

APPENDIX K
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

U.S. Department Of The Interior



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
P.O. Box 26567 (MC-9)
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-6567



IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 13, 2006

File 9043.1
ER 06/534

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Ms. Salas:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) has reviewed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Carthage to Perryville Project; FERC Nos. CP06-85-000 and PF06-1-000; Panola County, Texas, and Caddo, Desoto, Red River, Bienville, Jackson, Ouachita, Richland Parishes, Louisiana. In this regard, we offer the following COMMENTS for your consideration as you prepare the final document.

The CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company (CEGT) proposes to construct, own, operate, and maintain 171.6 miles of 42-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline to provide new pipeline capacity (i.e., 1.2 billion cubic feet/day) for the transport of domestic onshore gas supplies. The proposed project would begin at receipt points near Carthage in Panola County, Texas, extend through Caddo, De Soto, Red River, Bienville, Jackson, Ouachita, and Richland Parishes in Louisiana, and terminate at interconnections with four existing interstate pipelines located within CEGT's Perryville Hub near Delhi, Louisiana. Additional structures proposed include two compressor stations, two meter and regulator stations at receipt points with new non-jurisdictional intrastate pipelines, four new meter and regulator stations at interconnects with existing interstate pipelines, and ten main valves.

On April 5, 2006, and June 20, 2006, representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), and CEGT conducted on-site field inspections to evaluate potential impacts to wetlands and associated wildlife habitat. Based on information obtained during that field inspection and review of the DEIS, we offer the following comments in accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (83 Stat. 852; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

U.S. Department Of The Interior

2

General Comments

F1-1

The DEIS is very well written and well organized. It adequately describes the purpose and need for the proposed action and the alternatives considered. As documented in concurrence letters from the FWS dated February 17, 2006, and April 27, 2006, to Coastal Environments, Incorporated, Section 7 ESA consultation has been completed. No further ESA consultation with the FWS will be required unless there are changes in the scope or location of the project or the proposed project has not been initiated within one year.

During the on-site field inspections, specific wetland habitats along the proposed pipeline right-of-way (ROW) were evaluated. Wetland habitats investigated included emergent wetlands, mixed pine-hardwood wetlands, scrub-shrub wetlands, bottomland hardwood wetlands and mixed hardwood and cypress forested wetlands. Areas of particular concern are the bottomland hardwood and cypress forested wetlands associated with Cannisnia Lake Basin in the vicinity of milepost (MP) 43, Castor Creek near MP 75, Six Mile Creek near MP 80, Saline Bayou near MP 81, Castor Creek near MP 113, and Cutoff Bayou near MP 133.

F1-2

Bottomland hardwood forested wetlands, such as those that would be impacted by the proposed project, provide valuable habitat for wildlife within our Federal trusteeship. Those wetlands are likely to support species of migratory and resident waterfowl, wading birds, neotropical birds, and raptors. Some avian species expected to occur in floodplain and riparian forested wetlands (i.e., red-headed woodpecker, prothonotary warbler, Swainson's warbler, and wood thrush) have experienced population declines due to habitat loss and fragmentation, and are of special management concern to the FWS. Mammals, such as swamp rabbit, mink, raccoon, opossum, and white-tailed deer also utilize these forested wetlands. In addition to those habitat values, the wetlands along the proposed pipeline route provide floodwater storage and perform important water quality functions by reducing dissolved nutrient levels and removing suspended sediments.

F1-3

The hydrology of the area historically known as Cannisnia Lake Basin has been altered by the construction of levees and the channelization of Pascagoula Canal. Additionally, the property owner has selectively timbered the area and constructed access roads and open food plots throughout the property for hunting benefits. The area is dominated by sugarberry, hickory, and maple on the ridges, and mature cypress and water tupelo in the swales. Separated by a levee, Bayou Pierre Wildlife Management Area is immediately south of the basin. Although the hydrology within Cannisnia Lake Basin has been significantly altered, the mature forested habitat still provides a high degree of wildlife value; therefore, we recommend aligning the proposed ROW to avoid higher-quality cypress sloughs as much as possible. Existing hunter access roads traverse through the property; we recommend evaluating those existing corridors as possible alignments.

F1-4

The area around Castor Creek appears to be actively managed for timber production. The slope from the managed pine stands to the creek bottom degrades quickly. Dominant vegetation within the creek floodplain consists of Drummond red maple, sweet gum, with an abundance of water elm, cypress, and traces of swamp chestnut oak. According to aerial maps provided by the applicant, portions of the creek bottom are not delineated as jurisdictional wetlands, and yet contain many of the same hydrologic indicators as those in the delineated wetland areas.

F1-1

Thank you for your comment. Section 3.7.1 discusses our Section 7 ESA consultation process for the proposed Project.

F1-2

Comment noted. We agree that forested wetlands within the proposed Project area provide valuable wildlife habitat, as well as hydrologic and water quality functions, as discussed in Sections 3.4 and 3.6 of the Final EIS.

F1-3

Please refer to Section 3.4.3 of the Final EIS for a discussion of site-specific impacts and mitigation to the Cannisnia Basin forested wetland (vicinity of MP 43.0). We concur that further minimization of impacts to the Cannisnia Basin forested wetland, particularly to mature trees within that wetland, might be feasible and appropriate. We have therefore included a recommendation in the Final EIS for CEGT to consult with FWS and LDWF to develop a site-specific wetland crossing plan that considers all practicable methods to minimize the width of the cleared right-of-way and identifies how impacts to mature trees within and adjacent to the construction right-of-way might be avoided.

F1-4

In response to this comment, we requested that CEGT clarify and resolve any potential discrepancies between its proposed extra workspace areas and the delineated wetland boundaries at the Castor Creek forested wetland (MP 74.8 to 74.9). Through additional field investigation, CEGT verified the findings of its initial wetland delineation and confirmed that the proposed extra workspace areas in question would be located outside of the delineated wetland boundaries. CEGT determined that although the vegetative composition appears similar within and to the west of the delineated wetlands, the hydrology of that area has been altered and hydric soils are not present. All field delineations were performed according to the COE Wetland Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987), and the COE would be responsible for approving all wetland delineations and permitting all wetland impacts for the proposed Project.

U.S. Department Of The Interior

3

- F1-4** Because the vegetative community and hydrology in that area is similar to the adjacent wetlands, we recommend that the wetland delineation be reevaluated. We will also recommend that the Corps of Engineers (Corps) re-verify the wetland delineation for this project prior to issuance of a requested permit. Additionally, extra work spaces have been sited in those areas that appear to be wetlands; we, therefore, request that those work areas be positioned outside of wetlands and hardwood forested areas as much as possible.
- F1-5** Six Mile Creek is a braided channel that traverses through a narrow floodplain (i.e., approximately 800 feet) surrounded by managed timber. Dominant vegetation includes mature water tupelo, cypress, and buttonbush. Because of the high-quality habitat of this cypress and tupelo vegetated tributary and because of the potential cumulative impacts associated with an existing transmission line ROW and two proposed pipeline ROWs (i.e., CEGT's and Gulf South's proposed pipeline projects), we believe this area warrants the use of the horizontal directional drill (HDD) technique. The applicant has expressed concern for using the HDD technique at Six Mile Creek, which requires a minimum of 1,600 feet of drill length to avoid approximately 800 feet of wetlands. Moreover, Saline Bayou, designated as part of the Natural Scenic River System (NSRS), is also proposed to be directionally-drilled. Because Saline Bayou and Six Mile Creek are located in close proximity to one another, it may not be technically feasible to HDD both locations. We recommend, however, that the FERC thoroughly evaluate the feasibility using HDD to avoid the high-quality wetlands associated with Six Mile Creek.
- F1-6** Because of its designation as part of the NSRS, Saline Bayou will be directionally-drilled. However, the floodplain associated with that Bayou also contains high-quality wetlands. Through previous coordination, the applicant has agreed to extend the drill length to an existing transmission line ROW which traverses the proposed pipeline ROW to the east of Saline Bayou. We commend the applicant's cooperation and efforts to avoid additional wetlands at this location.
- F1-7** Castor Creek adjacent to MP 113 is a major tributary north of Chatham, Louisiana. Because of the low water levels at the time of inspection, the drain was a system of braided tributaries. Dominant vegetation includes willow oak, elm, Drummond red maple, and alligator weed. Where the proposed pipeline ROW crosses the Creek, the Creek intersects with Louisiana Highway 34. A pasture is immediately north of the hardwood drain. Because Louisiana Highway 34 would be directionally-drilled, the applicant has agreed to extend the drill length to include most of the forested floodplain. To ensure that the maximum amount of wetland area is avoided, we recommend that the entry site of the HDD be positioned in the open pasture west of the drain and extend to the pine-forested area east of the bridge.
- F1-8** On April 5, 2006, the FWS briefly inspected portions of an area to the east of Cutoff Bayou. The area is a cypress/hardwood swamp associated with the Ouachita River. According to aerial photography, Cutoff Bayou drains south through agricultural land via two small tributaries with minor vegetative buffers. South of the agricultural fields, Cutoff Bayou opens up into a cypress/hardwood swamp. That swamp continues east, and a portion of it is actively managed for migratory waterfowl. Cutoff Bayou and the swamp reconnect with the Ouachita River as two separate tributaries to the south. The property owner of the managed wetland area has selectively cleared areas of his property, to provide open-water habitat for waterfowl. After the

F1-5 Refer to Section 3.4.3 of the Final EIS for discussion regarding the feasibility of implementing an HDD crossing to avoid impacts at the Sixmile Creek forested wetland (MP 79.8 to 79.9). We acknowledge the high vegetative quality and habitat value of the Sixmile Creek forested wetland, but we do not consider that avoidance of this resource would justify implementation of an HDD crossing, given the width of the resource relative to the minimum feasible HDD crossing length (see Section 3.4.3 of the Final EIS for additional discussion). However, we concur that further minimization of impacts to the Sixmile Creek forested wetland, particularly to mature trees within that wetland, might be feasible and appropriate. We have therefore included a recommendation in the Final EIS for CEGT to consult with FWS and LDWF to develop a site-specific wetland crossing plan that considers all practicable methods to minimize the width of the cleared right-of-way and identifies how impacts to mature trees within and adjacent to the construction right-of-way might be avoided.

F1-6 As proposed, the crossing of the Saline Bayou forested wetland (MP 80.7 to MP 81.5) would be accomplished via a combination of a 1,600-foot-long HDD and conventional open-cut installation methods. Refer to Section 3.4.3 of the Final EIS for discussion regarding the feasibility of extending the Saline Bayou HDD crossing to further avoid forested wetland impacts. To minimize waterbody and associated forested wetland impacts, the proposed pipeline route was collocated with an existing electric transmission line right-of-way in the vicinity of Saline Bayou. Construction effects and cumulative impacts can normally be reduced by avoiding the creation of new rights-of-way through undisturbed areas. For these reasons, we do not consider the marginal increase in forested wetland impact avoidance that would result from extension of the Saline Bayou HDD to be justified.

F1-7 As proposed, the crossing of the Castor Creek forested wetland (MP 112.9 to MP 113.5) would be accomplished via conventional open-cut installation methods. Refer to Section 3.4.3 of the Final EIS for discussion regarding the feasibility of implementing an HDD crossing to avoid impacts at the Castor Creek forested wetland. Given the habitat and functional value of these wetlands, we evaluated the potential for an HDD crossing to entirely avoid impacts to the Castor Creek forested wetland. Such a crossing would also avoid the conventional bore of State Highway 34, any associated extra workspace requirements, and eliminate the potential for conflict with

U.S. Department Of The Interior

4

F1-8 April 5, 2006, field trip, the landowner, the Corps, and the LDWF met to discuss the property owner's intentions. The property owner wants the proposed pipeline ROW to traverse his property in a manner that creates an oxbow feature for waterfowl hunting. By positioning the proposed ROW to facilitate the landowner's intentions, the proposed pipeline ROW traverses the narrowest forested area associated with the swamp. According to the Corps, approximately 90 percent of forested wetlands associated with the initial ROW alignment have been avoided by moving the ROW to its currently proposed alignment to the north. However, the FWS believes that impacts to forested wetlands could be avoided completely by moving out of the swamp entirely. Agricultural land surrounds the swamp to the north and provides a reasonable alternative. Accordingly, the FWS looks forward to working with the applicant and other State and Federal agencies to evaluate the feasibility of this alternative.

F1-9 We commend the applicant's efforts to avoid wetland impacts by using the HDD construction technique to cross major waterbody crossings and sensitive habitats. We believe, however, that habitat quality at the Six Mile Bayou and Castor Creek (MP 113) crossings also warrant further feasibility evaluations of using or extending the HDD construction technique at those sites. Moreover, the feasibility of realigning the proposed ROW to avoid sensitive areas associated with Cannisnia Lake Basin and Cutoff Bayou should also be evaluated. In any case, construction ROWs through such areas should be minimized as much as practicable, while providing for safe working conditions. Any significant remaining wetland habitat impacts that cannot be avoided or minimized would require compensatory mitigation. Such mitigation should be designed in consultation with the Corps, the FWS, and other interested natural resource agencies, and should be implemented prior to, or concurrently with, project implementation.

Specific Comments

F1-10 Section 3.4.3, Page 3-41 – During a June 21, 2006, meeting between the applicant and State and Federal agencies, several areas of forested wetlands (i.e., as noted above) and possible avoidance and/or minimization measures were discussed. While no final measures were decided, all parties involved have agreed to work together to avoid and minimize impacts to forested wetlands. Furthermore, we recommend including the FWS in the development and identification of additional appropriate avoidance and/or minimization measures to further reduce impacts to forested wetlands.

F1-11 Section 3.4.3, Page 3-43 - We also recommend including the FWS in the development of a compensatory wetland mitigation plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the DEIS and to assist your agency during the early stages of project planning. Please have your staff contact Angela C. Trahan (337/291-3137), FWS (ES) Field Office, Lafayette, LA, if further assistance is needed regarding our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Spencer
Regional Environmental Officer

F1-7 Continued

an ammonia pipeline. For these reasons, we have included a recommendation in the Final EIS for CEGT to implement an HDD crossing rather than the proposed construction plan at the Castor Creek forested wetland.

F1-8 In response to this request, we have considered a route variation (i.e., the FWS Cutoff Bayou Variation) in Section 4.4.6 of the Final EIS. In that section, we have also included a recommendation for CEGT to adopt a route variation that would further reduce construction impacts to the Cutoff Bayou forested wetland (MP 132.7 to 133.7).

F1-9 Please see response to comments F1-3, F1-5, F1-7, and F1-8 above. CEGT would minimize impacts to wetlands by implementing the measures identified in our Procedures, as modified in this Final EIS. CEGT has also indicated that compensatory mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts would be provided through the purchase of wetland mitigation bank credits in the area of the proposed Project. In Section 3.4.4 of the Final EIS, we have included a recommendation for CEGT to consult with the COE, FWS, LDWF, TPWD, and other applicable agencies to further develop its compensatory wetland mitigation plan.

F1-10 We appreciate the input and assistance of FWS to date regarding wetland impact avoidance and minimization measures. We have also included a recommendation in the FEIS for CEGT to consult with FWS to develop site-specific plans that would further avoid and minimize impacts to several forested wetlands identified in FWS' comments. We consider that impacts to forested wetlands would be sufficiently minimized given compliance with our Procedures, implementation of our recommendations for development of site-specific wetland crossing plans and incorporation of an additional HDD, and development of a compensatory wetland mitigation plan, as discussed above.

F1-11 Section 3.4.4 of the Final EIS, and the associated condition for further development of a compensatory mitigation plan, has been revised accordingly.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1446 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E. Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

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REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket Nos: CP06-85-000 and PF06-1-000

Dear Ms. Salas:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the construction and operation of 171.9 miles of 42-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline and facilities proposed by CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission (CEGT). CEGT's Carthage to Perryville Project would be located in various counties and parishes in eastern Texas and northern Louisiana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are Federal cooperating agencies in the development of this DEIS.

F2-1

This proposed project is located in Panola County, Texas and multiple parishes in Louisiana (Caddo, DeSoto, Red River, Bienville, Jackson, Ouachita, and Richland). This county and all of the parishes are in attainment of all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. As such, project-level conformity requirements are not applicable under either the transportation or general conformity regulations. No long-term adverse air quality impacts are expected from this project.

F2-1

Comment noted. Section 3.11.1 of the Final EIS provides for further discussion of air quality standards and associated permitting requirements.

F2-2

EPA rates the DEIS as "LO," i.e., EPA has "Lack of Objections" to the proposed Federal action. Our classification will be published in the *Federal Register* according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act to inform the public of our views on this proposed Federal action. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Jansky of my staff at (214) 665-7451 or jansky.michael@epa.gov, for assistance.

F2-2

Thank you for your comments.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the DEIS. Please mail two (2) copies of the Final EIS when it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, EPA (Mail Code 2252A), Ariel Rios Federal Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004.

Sincerely yours,

Rhonda M. Smith, Chief
Office of Planning and
Coordination (6EN-XP)

Texas Department Of Parks And Wildlife

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Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E., Room 1A
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 3
CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company
Docket No. CP06-85-000
Carthage to Perryville Natural Gas Pipeline Project
(Panola County, Texas and Louisiana Parishes)

Dear Ms. Salas:

Thank you for providing the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company (CEGT) under the above-referenced docket. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) provided comments during the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Pre-Filing Environmental Review Process and requested a copy of the Draft EIS for review. At this time, TPWD staff has reviewed the draft EIS and has coordinated with CEGT regarding TPWD comments and concerns via email, telephone conversations, letters of transmittal, and agency meetings. CEGT has addressed the TPWD comments and concerns of our previous letters, though CEGT needs to consider the following items.

As previously discussed with CEGT, the pipeline project will impact portions of the TPWD designated natural plant community described as the Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*) – Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) (WO-WO) G4-S3 bottomland hardwood floodplain forests associated with the Sabine River. The draft EIS indicates that at the Sabine River crossing 2.2 acres of forested wetland within the temporary construction right-of-way (ROW) and 1.2 acres of forested wetland within the permanent pipeline ROW would be impacted by the proposed project. The permanent ROW would be converted to an herbaceous state for the life of the project. CEGT has ensured TPWD that they have chosen the optimal horizontal directional drill (HDD) length and location to avoid and minimize impacts to the WO-WO community at the Sabine River crossing, though some impacts will occur due to the associated workspaces needed to conduct the HDD procedures. It is likely that all of the impacts to the WO-WO community at the Sabine River crossing fall under regulatory jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) per Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and unavoidable impacts would be



Take a kid
hunting or fishing
• • •
Visit a state park
or historic site

S1-1

S1-2

S1-1 Comments noted. Project impacts to the Water Oak-Willow Oak Series are addressed in Section 3.4.3.1 of the Final EIS.

S1-2 In response to this comment, we included a recommendation in Section 3.4.3.2 of the Final EIS that CEGT consult with TPWD to develop a compensatory mitigation plan to offset any unavoidable impacts to the Water Oak-Willow Oak Series that would not be covered by its compensatory wetland mitigation plan.

4800 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744-3291
512.389.4800
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Texas Department Of Parks And Wildlife

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Magalie Salas

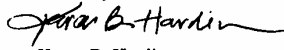
Page 2

July 11, 2006

- S1-2 ↑ mitigated for through purchase of mitigation bank credits from either the KLAMM or Byrd Tract Mitigation Banks in Texas. Because the Sabine River bottoms are valuable resources that are still biologically and ecologically rich in animal and plant species, TPWD requests that permanent impacts to the WO-WO community that do not fall under the jurisdiction of the COE be mitigated for at a 5:1 ratio through purchase of mitigation bank credits. As previously discussed
- S1-3 [with CEGT, TPWD concurs with their forested wetland restoration plan to allow natural re-forestation of the temporary construction right-of-way (ROW) with the addition of monitoring and correction of invasive species occurrences.
- S1-4 [As discussed with CEGT, TPWD concurs with their proposal to conduct waterbody crossings outside the time window specified by the FERC procedures.
- S1-5 [As recommended in the draft EIS, TPWD would like a copy of the invasive species control plan. Additionally, TPWD would like to be consulted prior to construction regarding the Sabine River construction plans, impacts to the WO-WO community, and development of the compensatory wetland mitigation plan.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact me at (903) 675-4447.

Sincerely,



Karen B. Hardin
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

kbh/11583

cc: Gas Branch 3, DG2E

S1-3 Comment noted. As described in Section 3.4 of the Final EIS, wetland restoration would be accomplished in accordance with our Procedures, which include requirements for post-construction monitoring to ensure successful vegetative restoration.

S1-4 Thank you for your comment. CEGT's proposal to conduct waterbody crossings outside the time window specified in our Procedures is addressed in Section 3.3.2.2 of the Final EIS.

S1-5 In Section 3.5.3.3 of the Final EIS, we have included a recommendation that CEGT develop a Nuisance Species Plan that incorporates FWS recommended measures for the control of invasive plant species, and following approval, submit copies of that plan to the agencies, including TPWD. We appreciate the input and assistance of TPWD to date regarding the proposed Sabine River construction plans, which would include an HDD crossing to avoid and minimize impacts to the river and the associated Water Oak-Willow Oak Series vegetative community. In Section 3.4.4 of the Final EIS, we have included a recommendation for CEGT to consult with the COE, FWS, LDWF, TPWD, and other applicable agencies to further develop its compensatory wetland mitigation plan.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

200607145074 Received FERC OSEC 07/14/2006 04:31:00 PM Docket# CP06-85-000



State of Louisiana

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

DWIGHT LANDRENEAU
SECRETARY

July 12, 2006

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Carthage to Perryville Project
CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company
Docket No. CP06-85-000

Dear Ms. Salas:

The professional staff of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), Office of Wildlife, has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company's Carthage to Perryville Project. The proposed 42-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline stretches approximately 172 miles through Panola County, Texas, and Caddo, De Soto, Red River, Bienville, Jackson, Ouachita, and Richland Parishes, Louisiana. Based upon this review and three separate interagency field investigations, LDWF submits the following comments:

S2-1

Regarding the Castor Creek crossing near mile post 75, LDWF requests that the stream crossing be horizontal directionally drilled (HDD). The proposed CenterPoint route and crossing method (i.e., open cutting) would introduce a permanently maintained disturbance within a segment of stream that is currently undisturbed. LDWF does not want a new permanent right-of-way through this riparian corridor nor does LDWF want the stream to be open cut. The HDD should be configured in a manner that avoids impacts to Castor Creek and adjacent wetlands (approximately 400 feet in width). The nearest existing right-of-way crossing on Castor Creek is approximately 1,300 feet downstream of the proposed pipeline alignment. A realignment of the proposed pipeline route that crosses at this already disturbed downstream location could be a suitable alternative to HDD.

S2-2

Regarding the Sixmile Creek crossing near mile post 80, LDWF requests that the stream crossing be HDD. The proposed CenterPoint route and crossing method (i.e., open cutting) would introduce a permanently maintained disturbance within a segment of stream that is currently undisturbed. LDWF does not want a new permanent right-of-way through this riparian corridor nor does LDWF want the stream to be open cut. The HDD

P.O. BOX 98000 • BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70899-9000 • PHONE (225) 765-2800
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

S2-1 Refer to Section 3.4.3 of the Final EIS for discussion regarding the feasibility of implementing an HDD crossing to avoid impacts at the Castor Creek forested wetland (MP 74.8 to 74.9). We acknowledge the vegetative quality and habitat value of the Castor Creek forested wetland, but we do not consider that avoidance of this resource would justify implementation of an HDD crossing, given the width of the resource relative to the minimum feasible HDD crossing length (see Section 3.4.3 of the final EIS for additional discussion). However, we concur that further minimization of impacts to the Castor Creek forested wetland, particularly to mature trees within that wetland, might be feasible and appropriate. We have therefore included a recommendation in the Final EIS for CEGT to consult with FWS and LDWF to develop a site-specific wetland crossing plan that considers all practicable methods to minimize the width of the cleared right-of-way and identifies how impacts to mature trees within and adjacent to the construction right-of-way might be avoided.

S2-2 Please see response to comment F1-5.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

200607145074 Received FERC OSEC 07/14/2006 04:31:00 PM Docket# CP06-85-000

Page 2
Ms. Salas
July 12, 2006

S2-2 ↑ should be configured in a manner that avoids impacts to Sixmile Creek and adjacent wetlands (approximately 400-500 feet in width).

S2-3 Regarding the Saline Bayou crossing and neighboring wetlands near mile post 81, LDWF requests that CenterPoint HDD a minimum of 3,000 feet beginning from the proposed directional drill entry location (~3700+00). A 3,000 foot HDD would avoid Saline Bayou, a Louisiana designated Natural and Scenic River, and approximately two-thirds of the nearly 4,600-foot wide Saline Bayou bottomland. LDWF would certainly support a longer HDD, to avoid more impacts to these wetlands, if this could be safely accomplished.

S2-4 Regarding the Dugdemona River crossing near mile post 95, LDWF requests that the stream crossing be HDD. The proposed CenterPoint route and crossing method (i.e., open cutting) would introduce a permanently maintained disturbance within a segment of stream that is currently undisturbed. LDWF does not want a new permanent right-of-way through this riparian corridor nor does LDWF want the stream to be open cut. LDWF requests that CenterPoint HDD a minimum of 3,000 feet. A 3,000 foot HDD would avoid the Dugdemona River and nearly half of the approximately 6,500-foot wide bottomland. LDWF would certainly support a longer HDD, to avoid more impacts to these wetlands, if this could be safely accomplished.

S2-5 Regarding the Castor Creek crossing near mile post 113, LDWF requests that the stream crossing be HDD. The proposed CenterPoint route and crossing method (i.e., open cutting) would introduce a permanently maintained disturbance within a segment of stream that is currently undisturbed. LDWF does not want a new permanent right-of-way through this riparian corridor nor does LDWF want the stream to be open cut. LDWF requests that CenterPoint HDD a minimum of 3,000 feet beginning from the proposed directional drill entry location (~5630+00). A 3,000 foot HDD would avoid Castor Creek and nearly all of the approximately 3,100-foot wide bottomland. LDWF would certainly support a longer HDD, to avoid all impacts to these wetlands, if this could be safely accomplished.

S2-6 Regarding the property owned by Mr. Phil Robertson near mile post 133, LDWF does not object to the proposed pipeline alignment discussed and evaluated in the field on June 6, 2006, between CenterPoint, the landowner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and LDWF. All wetland impacts associated with installing the pipeline in wetlands need to be adequately and appropriately mitigated for.

S2-7 ↓ The comments above also need to be considered and evaluated with respect to other currently proposed natural gas pipelines (i.e., Gulf South Pipeline Company's East Texas Expansion Project). From CenterPoint mile post 73 to mile post 172 a second 42-inch pipeline is proposed to be installed adjacent to the proposed CenterPoint pipeline. Two adjacent pipelines are going to increase the permanent maintained wetland right-of-way

S2-3 Please see response to comment F1-6.

S2-4 Since the issuance of the Draft EIS, CEGT has adopted a route variation in the vicinity of the Dugdemona River forested wetland. As part of that reroute, CEGT has proposed to implement an approximately 2,300-foot-long HDD crossing of the that would reduce impacts to the Dugdemona River forested wetlands (RMP 94.2 to RMP 95.5). Refer to Section 3.4.3 of the Final EIS for discussion regarding the feasibility of extending the Dugdemona River HDD crossing to further avoid forested wetland impacts. Extending the length of the Dugdemona River HDD would introduce constructability concerns. Additionally, the affected landowner in the vicinity of the Dugdemona Creek forested wetland has immediate plans to clear timber from areas including, and in addition to, the proposed Project construction right-of-way. For these reasons, we do not consider extension of the proposed Dugdemona River HDD to be justified.

S2-5 Please see response to comment F1-7.

S2-6 Comment noted. In Section 4.4.6 of the Final EIS, we have included a recommendation for CEGT to adopt a route variation that would further reduce construction impacts to the Cutoff Bayou forested wetland (MP 132.7 to 133.7). CEGT has also indicated that compensatory mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts would be provided through the purchase of wetland mitigation bank credits in the area of the proposed Project. We have included a recommendation in Section 3.4.4 of the Final EIS for CEGT to consult with the COE, FWS, LDWF, TPWD, and other applicable agencies to further develop its compensatory wetland mitigation plan.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

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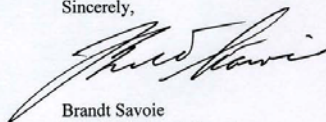
Page 3
Ms. Salas
July 12, 2006

S2-7

width from 30 feet, for one pipeline, to 70 feet for two pipelines (based on information provided at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's interagency meeting for Gulf South Pipeline Company's East Texas Expansion Project on June 21, 2006). Therefore, should CenterPoint be authorized to open cut Sixmile Creek, Dugdemona River, and both Castor Creeks, the adverse impacts to these locally undisturbed streams and riparian corridors will increase significantly with the installation of Gulf South's pipeline in an adjoining right-of-way. HDD should be employed at each crossing to prevent compounding the impacts at these relatively undisturbed sites.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries seeks to work with you in a facilitative manner on this and future endeavors. Please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Balkum (225-765-2819) of our Habitat Section should you need further assistance.

Sincerely,



Brandt Savoie
Deputy Assistant Secretary

kfb

c: EPA, Dallas, TX
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, MS
USFWS, Ecological Services Field Office, Lafayette, LA
W. Parke Moore, III, Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife
Venise Ortego, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

S2-7 Comments noted. The proposed East Texas Expansion Project is being evaluated separately by the FERC (see Section 1.2 of the Final EIS). The proposed East Texas Expansion Project has not yet been approved, and we are uncertain if or when that action would occur. However, the potential for cumulative impacts resulting from construction and operation of the proposed Carthage to Perryville and East Texas Expansion Projects is addressed in Section 3.13 of the Final EIS. Please see our responses to comments F1-5, S2-4, and F1-7 and S2-1 regarding recommendations for the forested wetland crossings at Sixmile Creek, Dugdemona River, and the Castor Creeks, respectively.

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

1

1 BEFORE THE
2 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
3
4
5 - - - - -X
6 IN THE MATTER OF: : Docket Number
7 EAST TEXAS EXPANSION PROJECT : PF06-17-000
8 DRAFT EIS FOR THE PROPOSED : CP06-85-000
9 CARTHAGE TO PERRYVILLE PROJECT :
10 - - - - -X
11
12
13
14 Quitman High School Auditorium
15 181 Wolverine Drive
16 Quitman, Louisiana
17
18 Wednesday, June 21, 2006
19
20
21 The above-entitled matter came on for public
22 meeting, pursuant to notice at 7:10 p.m.
23
24 MODERATOR: JOHN PECONOM, FERC
25
26

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

2

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2 MR. PECONOM: Good evening, everybody.
3 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
4 Commission -- Can everybody hear me all right? I don't know
5 if this microphone is picking me up so I'm trying to yell a
6 bit. But I see nobody -- it seems to be all right.
7 Can you hear me back there?
8 (No response.)
9 MR. PECONOM: This is pretty informal, as you can
10 tell.
11 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
12 Commission I'd like to thank all of you for coming out
13 tonight. My name is John Peconom, and I'm an environmental
14 project manager with the Federal Energy Regulatory
15 Commission. With me tonight is Todd Ruhkamp, also with the
16 FERC. Alongside me is Doug Mooneyham, and in the back is
17 Erik Dilts and Zack Lifton of Entrix.
18 Entrix is a private consulting firm that is
19 helping us with our work here tonight.
20 We have invited you here tonight to -- because
21 we're interested in hearing your comments on the Draft
22 Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Carthage to
23 Perryville Project sponsored by CenterPoint Gas -- excuse
24 me, CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission. And we're also
25 interested in hearing your comments on the proposed East
26

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20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

3

1 Texas Expansion Project sponsored by Gulf South Pipeline
2 Company.

3 The FERC is responsible government agency with
4 responsibility for approving interstate natural gas
5 pipelines. FERC has received an application from
6 CenterPoint Gas Transmission to construct a natural gas
7 pipeline known commonly as the Carthage to Perryville
8 Project. As part of our review process we have prepared a
9 Draft Environmental Impact Statement to identify and address
10 potential environmental concerns.

11 As required by the National Environmental Policy
12 Act, we have initiated 45-day public review comment period.
13 This meeting tonight is to allow the public, you know, a
14 chance to review and comment on that DEIS or Draft
15 Environmental Impact Statement.

16 FERC Staff has also initiated a prefiling process
17 to review these proposed East Texas Expansion Project
18 sponsored by Gulf South Pipeline Company. Our prefiling
19 process also has a similar -- Actually, excuse me, our
20 prefiling review process will result in an environmental
21 impact statement similar to what we have prepared for the
22 CenterPoint project. We're here tonight to hear comments on
23 what we should be including in that environmental impact
24 statement.

25 Your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact
26

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

4

1 Statement prepared for the Carthage to Perryville Project,
2 as well as the comments for the environmental impact
3 statement to be prepared prior to the East Texas Expansion
4 Project are important to us. We want to know what you
5 think. We want to know what you think on the DEIS and the
6 EIS we're going to prepare for the Gulf South project.

7 Normally we would hold two separate meetings, one
8 for each project. But because these projects are similar in
9 scope and size and run parallel for quite some distance, we
10 decided to combine these meetings to make it easier for the
11 public.

12 I guess really quickly, before we go on, does
13 anybody have any questions on the FERC process? I touched
14 on it just briefly.

15 Essentially what we do is when we get an
16 application we review it, we prepare an environmental
17 analysis, and then we give that information to the full
18 Commission who uses that, along with other information, to
19 decide whether or not to approve the project. We have
20 prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
21 CenterPoint Project and we will be preparing a Draft
22 Environmental Impact Statement for the Gulf South Project.

23 Anybody have any questions on the process?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. PECONOM: Okay. Well, if you do I'm

26

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

5

1 available afterwards to kind of answer how we review these
2 projects. I kind of, like I said, wanted to go quickly and
3 make sure that everybody understands.

4 I think to help those of us who aren't familiar
5 with the projects we've asked both the pipeline companies
6 tonight to give a brief presentation on their projects.
7 Because this is a public comment meeting, we've asked the
8 companies not to take questions at this time; but they will
9 be available afterwards to answer questions that you might
10 have.

11 Let me, with that, go ahead and ask Bud Pylant of
12 CenterPoint to come up and give us a brief presentation on
13 their proposal. And then we'll have Gulf South folks, Kyle
14 Stephens, come up afterwards just to give a brief
15 presentation as well.

16 MR. PYLANT: Thank you, John.

17 My name is Bud Pylant. I'm with CenterPoint
18 Energy Gas Transmission at Shreveport. I'd like to talk
19 just a little bit tonight about the need for our project.

20 As you all are probably aware, this is pretty
21 exciting times in the oil and gas business. For those
22 operators that are drilling wells, there's a lot of drilling
23 activity going on, especially in North Louisiana, in the
24 Varton field over at Shreveport, the Elm Grove, Caspianna
25 Field. We have renewed interest in the Carthage field in
26

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

6

1 east Texas. Also the Bossier Sand and the Barnett Shales up
2 around Fort Worth, Texas, a lot of drilling activity over
3 there, a lot of gas being produced with no place to go.

4 That brings me to talk about the need for our
5 project here, or what our project actually is. It's going
6 to originate in Carthage, Texas, and run 172 miles through
7 North Louisiana to Delhow, Louisiana. It's a 42-inch steel
8 pipeline; runs through Panola County, Caddo Parish, Red
9 River Parish, Bienville Parish, Jackson Parish, Ouachita
10 Parish, and Richland Parish.

11 In association with the pipeline we are proposing
12 two compressor stations, one in east Texas called the Panola
13 Compressor Station, and one in Jackson Parish, just a little
14 bit down the road here, called the Vernon Compressor
15 Station. At each one of those two compressor stations we're
16 proposing to put a 10,000 horsepower turbine engine
17 initially, and then following that initial installation
18 we'll follow it with an additional 10,000 horsepower turbine
19 compressor, the first phase, or the first engine to be in
20 service along with the pipeline in February of 2007, the
21 second engine at each station to be available for service
22 mid-summer 2007.

23 We're still working with all of the permitting
24 agencies. FERC in their Draft Environmental Impact
25 Statement has suggested that we continue a consultation with
26

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

7

1 those agencies to further refine and review the project.
2 And we've been quite successful in doing so and have
3 mitigated -- or proposed mitigations for impacts associated
4 with the project. We're continuing to work with landowners
5 to define the route and make it more amenable to them. And
6 we're also negotiating -- in negotiation with landowners to
7 purchase the right-of-way.

8 Basically that's our project, John. It's pretty
9 benign so far.

10 MR. PECONOM: Thank you very much. Appreciate
11 it.

12 REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN: Wait. Wait. How many
13 employees at Vernon Station?

14 MR. PYLANT: There will be proposed five
15 additional jobs associated with the entire project,
16 permanent jobs. So that's probably two at each compressor
17 station.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN: You said that would be
19 ready by February '07?

20 MR. PYLANT: That's the in-service date for the
21 pipeline, February 2007. We're proposing five spreads
22 across there in construction.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN: You're going to be
24 pumping by then?

25 MR. PYLANT: That's the in-service date, the
26

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

8

1 target date.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN: Okay.

3 MR. PECONOM: We would also like to ask Kyle
4 Stephens of Gulf South to make a quick presentation.

5 MR. STEPHENS: I just quickly wanted to begin by
6 talking a little bit about some natural gas facts. I know
7 this may be a little hard to see. Feel free to move a
8 little closer.

9 Americans use 62 billion cubic feet of natural
10 gas every day. Texas and Louisiana produce about 56 percent
11 of the natural gas produced in this country every single
12 day. On an average year a home will use about 84,000 cubic
13 feet of natural gas.

14 In addition, natural gas is used to generate
15 about 23 percent of the nation's electric power and is one
16 of our cleanest major fuel sources. Concerning greenhouse
17 gases specifically, it produces about 30 percent less CO-2
18 than oil and about 45 percent less CO-2 than coal.

19 Let's talk about the need for the pipeline a
20 little bit. As Bud mentioned, there's a significant amount
21 of gas stranded that has no place to go. CenterPoint's
22 pipeline and our pipeline are going to be hauling that gas
23 to primary markets. Natural gas will increase in
24 utilization across the country by 22 percent in the next 20
25 years. Three billion cubic feet of natural gas is currently
26

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

9

1 stranded in the fields that Bud mentioned -- specifically
2 Barnett Shale and Bossier Sand. These are east Texas and
3 east Texas-Louisiana fields.

4 Well, where's the gas going to go? In a sense we
5 have got local distribution companies and regional electric
6 generators that are current customers of Gulf South that
7 will be buying this gas. It will also be shipped to
8 interstate markets in the Midwest, the northeast and the
9 southeast.

10 The scope of our particular project is to move
11 1.5 billion cubic feet from east Texas to the Perryville,
12 Louisiana area, specifically Delhi. It's going to provide -
13 - yeah, right now we've got 1.2 billion cubic feet under
14 contract of the 1.5 capability. 149 miles of 42-inch
15 pipeline and about 100,000 horsepower of compression.

16 Construction we're anticipating will begin in
17 spring of '07 with an in-service date of September 1, 2007.

18 This is a current map of the project. The dark
19 blue lines are Gulf South's existing assets. We'll be
20 paralleling our existing assets in Desoto and Red River
21 Parishes, splitting off in -- just north of our Haul Summit
22 Station there, heading across Bienville Parish, Jackson,
23 Ouachita and Richland, adding compression in Carthage,
24 Texas, Panola County -- Carthage Junction Station, Panola
25 County -- and adding a station in Vixen, southern Ouachita
26

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

10

1 County -- Parish.

2 Safety and environment. Interstate natural gas
3 pipelines are regulated by the Department of Transportation.
4 We are designing and we will engineer and construct this
5 pipeline using state of the art technology.

6 The NEPA process that the FERC is shepherding
7 ensures environmental stewardship. There are minimum
8 disturbances required. We're seriously protecting wetlands.
9 And wetlands that are going to be impacted, we'll be
10 mitigating for that wetland loss.

11 In addition, construction is conducted using the
12 FERC's plan of procedures. This is tantamount to a best
13 practices type of concept. We have extremely protective
14 methods for construction in sensitive areas and we'll be
15 recontouring the land as nearly as possible to the original
16 and using revegetation practices that are based on local
17 knowledge, local seed mixes, and recommendations from your
18 NRCS.

19 There's ways to contact Gulf South. If you have
20 a general project question you can contact me. There's a 1-
21 800 number that goes directly to my office. If you have an
22 issue concerning right-of-way, location of the pipeline on
23 your property, stakes on your property from surveys, please
24 contact Russell Verba. And he's in our Monroe office.

25 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Kyle.

26

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

11

1 Before we move on to the public comment portion
2 of this meeting, I would point out that we have a court
3 reporter here tonight to help us accurately record your
4 comments. As I said before, your comments are important to
5 us. And we want to get them on the record. That way we can
6 use them later in our environmental analysis.

7 So with that, we can go ahead and open up the
8 meeting.

9 State Representative Banning would like to speak
10 tonight. And then after he's done --

11 REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN: Is there anyone else who
12 would like to speak?

13 MR. PECONOM: You're first.

14 REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN: First and last.

15 MR. PECONOM: Yes.

16 And we can open it up if anyone else is
17 interested in speaking about the project afterwards. And I
18 encourage people to do so, if you're interested.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN: It's good to be here. I
20 don't see a lot of faces that I would like to see. And
21 certainly I want to thank CenterPoint and Gulf South for
22 coming and being available to the public.

23 I had shared earlier --

24 MR. PECONOM: Could you say your name for the
25 record?

26

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

12

1 REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN: Okay. The record.
2 State Representative Jim Fannin. I serve
3 Bienville, Jackson and Ouachita Parishes.
4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.
5 REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN: I had shared earlier that
6 maybe we should choose a night other than Wednesday night in
7 order to get the number of public comments that I think is
8 important. When you ask for public comments then, you know,
9 we need to make every effort to be here at a time that the
10 public can be available to come. So I would -- I had asked
11 to make this statement on the record so that it will get
12 back, and had some assurance from the folks here that they
13 will make every effort to try to do better next time.
14 But you know, this is the area that the -- the
15 meeting that should have people from Bienville Parish and
16 Jackson Parish and Ouachita Parish. I know we have a
17 meeting in Delhi that -- but, you know, we're closer here.
18 And we have more folks from Gulf South and from CenterPoint
19 than we do the public.
20 So I guess I'm a little discouraged that we've
21 handled it this way. But I want to say to CenterPoint and
22 Gulf South that I do sit on the Transportation Committee in
23 Baton Rouge and we get to see many of the issues that come
24 by. I work -- You all have a lobbyist there, Malcolm Hook
25 and Associates with CenterPoint, I think, and maybe Jim
26

P1-1 Comment noted. Public notice of the Draft EIS comment meeting was issued in accordance with CEQ regulations implementing the NEPA. The Draft EIS comment meeting was announced in the Draft EIS, which was issued on May 26, 2006, and in the Federal Register notice of availability of the Draft EIS published on June 2, 2006. Additionally, the Draft EIS comment meeting was noticed in local newspapers in advance of the meeting date. The FERC has attempted to involve the general public, elected officials, and other interested stakeholders throughout the EIS process through meetings, informational correspondence, and distribution of the Draft EIS for review and comment. The public review and comment process are described in more detail in Section 1.4 of the Final EIS.

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

13

P1-1

1 Harrison Associates with Gulf South, that we work closely
2 with. When constituents have -- and I appreciate you
3 putting that up on the board -- but there again more of them
4 many times come to our office simply because they're not
5 here, didn't know about the opportunity. So we probably get
6 more questions at our office on these issues than what
7 you'll get here tonight.

P1-2

8 But, you know, I would encourage you, as the
9 government end of this thing, and from the corporate end of
10 it, to make sure that you make every effort to work with
11 property owners. I mean it's -- I think you have a history
12 of doing that. And I certainly hope that this is no
13 different in this case.

14 When you leave here, you know, it's -- the law
15 that we work under allows you to do this, and basically if
16 you can't satisfy landowners then you have eminent domain
17 that you fall back on to use on pipelines. And, you know,
18 that's been a hot issue nationally lately. And we've just
19 recently made some strong changes in Baton Rouge, but it
20 will not affect you. You know, it affects for economic
21 development but not public issues. So you in no way are
22 affected by the legislation that we just passed.

23 But there again, as many pipelines and as much
24 activity as we have here, it is important that you work with
25 my constituents and the public here to make sure that
26

P1-2 The easement acquisition process for the proposed Project is described in Section 3.8.2 of the Final EIS. The FERC has no direct role in these negotiations or in eminent domain cases. However, the FERC actively solicits input from affected landowners (see Section 1.4 of the Final EIS), and we have considered all comments received in our environmental review of the proposed Project. Additionally, both CEGT and the FERC would maintain telephone hotlines during construction of the proposed Project that would provide potentially affected landowners and stakeholders with a venue for providing comments and ensure that any landowner issues are resolved in an effective and timely manner.

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

14

P1-2

1 they're dealt with and their issues and concerns are handled
2 as quickly as possible.

P1-3

3 And certainly one other comment, and I'll be
4 dealing with I guess folks maybe a little further up the
5 chain. When you get into the contractor that does the
6 pipeline, that it's important that you encourage them to do
7 as much business with our rural local folks as possible
8 because it means a lot for our school system and for our
9 roads. And heavy equipment does a lot of damage to our
10 roads. And we struggle with trying to keep our local rural
11 roads up, and then certainly the state rural roads.

12 And so, you know, just to say to you that we want
13 to work with you from this area. We appreciate any new jobs
14 that you can bring and economic development to the area.
15 But it's important that we all work together to make it be
16 as smooth as possible.

17 Thank you so much.

18 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN: And I guess I'll answer
20 questions if anyone would have one for me.

21 (No response.)

22 REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN: That's good.

23 (Laughter.)

24 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

25 Would anybody else from the general public like
26

P1-3 Section 3.9 of the Final EIS addresses the potential socioeconomic effects of the proposed Project, including effects on the local economy and employment. CEGT estimates that approximately 600 local workers would be hired during construction of the proposed Project, and five full-time positions would be created during operation. In general, it is anticipated that construction of the proposed Project would result in a temporary, stimulatory effect on the local economy. The potential for Project-related effects to existing transportation infrastructure is considered in Section 3.8.4 of the Final EIS.

Transcript from Quitman High School Public Meeting

20060621-4014 Issued by FERC OSEC 06/21/2006 in Docket#: PF06-17-000

15

1 to make a comment on either project?
2 (No response.)
3 MR. PECONOM: Okay.
4 Seeing that there are no other comments out
5 there, what I'm going to do is go ahead and recess this
6 meeting for some time and we'll stay for another -- at least
7 until eight o'clock, maybe a little longer, and see if
8 anybody else comes. And at that point, if people come,
9 we'll open back up the meeting and if not we'll go ahead and
10 conclude it then.
11 So we'll go ahead and recess for now and
12 reconvene if necessary.
13 So again, thank you all for coming. And both the
14 companies and myself and the Representative will be in the
15 back to answer any questions you might have.
16 Thanks again. Drive safely.
17 (Recess.)
18 MR. PECONOM: Seeing that it's eight o'clock now
19 we'll go ahead and conclude this public meeting tonight.
20 Thank you very much.
21 (Whereupon, at 8:00 p.m., the meeting in the
22 above-entitled matter was adjourned.)
23
24
25

Transcript from Delhi High School Public Meeting

1

1 BEFORE THE
2 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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4

5 - - - - -x

6 IN THE MATTER OF: : Docket Number

7 EAST TEXAS EXPANSION PROJECT : PF06-17-000

8 DRAFT EIS FOR THE PROPOSED : CP06-85-000

9 CARTHAGE TO PERRYVILLE PROJECT :

10 - - - - -x

11

12

13

14 Delhi High School Auditorium

15 413 Main Street

16 Delhi, Louisiana

17

18 Thursday, June 22, 2006

19

20

21 The above-entitled matter came on for public

22 meeting, pursuant to notice at 7:10 p.m.

23

24 MODERATOR: JOHN PECONOM, FERC

25

Transcript from Delhi High School Public Meeting

2

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. PECONOM: Good evening, everybody.

3 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory

4 Commission I'd like to thank you all for coming here

5 tonight. My name is John Peconom and I'm an environmental

6 project manager on Staff with the Federal Energy Regulatory

7 Commission -- or the FERC for short. With me tonight are

8 Doug Mooneyham, Erik Dilts, and Zack Lifton in the back.

9 We invited all of you here tonight because we're

10 interested in hearing your comments on the proposed Carthage

11 to Perryville and East Texas Expansion Projects.

12 Specifically we're interested in hearing your comments about

13 environmental resources that may be affected by the proposed

14 projects.

15 As many of you know, the FERC is the responsible

16 government agency for routing and the construction of

17 interstate natural gas pipelines and associated facilities.

18 In March of this year the Commission received an

19 application from CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission to

20 construct a natural gas pipeline commonly known as the

21 Carthage to Perryville Project. As part of our review

22 process we have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact

23 Statement that has identified and addressed potentially

24 affected environmental resources. This Draft Environmental

25 Impact Statement was issued at the end of May.

Transcript from Delhi High School Public Meeting

3

1 As required by the National Environmental Policy
2 Act, a 45-day comment period has been initiated to allow
3 for the public review of this document. We're here tonight
4 as part of that review process and to hear your comments on
5 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

6 We're also here tonight because FERC Staff have
7 initiated a pre-application environmental review of Gulf
8 South Pipeline Company's proposed East Texas Expansion
9 Project. As part of this review we are identifying issues
10 and collecting information that will be used to prepare an
11 environmental impact statement. We are here tonight to hear
12 comments on what environmental issues should be assessed in
13 this environmental impact statement.

14 Your comments on the Carthage to Perryville Draft
15 Environmental Impact Statement as well as the proposed East
16 Texas Expansion Project are important to us and will help us
17 prepare our recommendations to the Commission.

18 For those of you who are unfamiliar with these
19 projects, we have asked both CenterPoint and Gulf South to
20 make brief presentations on their respective proposals.
21 However, because this is a public comment meeting, we have
22 asked both companies not to take questions at this time.
23 However, they will be available following the meeting to
24 take any questions.

25 Before I ask CenterPoint and Gulf South to come

Transcript from Delhi High School Public Meeting

4

1 up and give their presentations I wanted to take a minute
2 and see if anybody had any questions regarding the FERC
3 process.

4 (No response.)

5 MR. PECONOM: Okay.

6 Mr. Pylant will you please come up and give us a
7 brief presentation on the Center Point proposal.

8 MR. PYLANT: I've got my PowerPoint presentation
9 here.

10 I'm Bud Pylant with CenterPoint Energy Gas
11 Transmission. Thanks, John, for inviting me down tonight.

12 I wanted to talk to you all a little bit tonight
13 about the need for a project such as this. As you all well
14 know, there's a lot of drilling activity in the United
15 States. There's been a lot of natural gas drilling activity
16 in east Texas and north Louisiana. The Bossier Sands in
17 east Texas and the Barnett Shales fields in east Texas, they
18 found a lot of gas and there's no way to get it out of
19 there. There's not enough pipeline structure in place to
20 get that gas to the markets. Those producers and those
21 landowners need for that gas to get to the market so that
22 the people in the United States can enjoy the benefits of
23 it.

24 We are proposing to build a 172 mile 42-inch
25 steel pipeline, welded steel pipeline from Carthage, Texas,

Transcript from Delhi High School Public Meeting

5

1 to Delhi. It will cross one county in Texas and seven
2 counties in Louisiana..

3 We're proposing to build two compressor stations,
4 one in Panola County, Texas and one in Jackson Parish,
5 Louisiana. The one in east Texas is the Panola Compressor
6 Station. It will ultimately have two turbine compressor
7 stations -- or two turbine engines there, 20,000 horsepower.
8 And so will the Vernon Compressor Station in Jackson Parish.

9 We're well on our way to getting this project
10 permitted as the FERC has issued the Draft Environmental
11 Impact Statement. We're continuing to consult with
12 agencies, as directed by the FERC to continue our permitting
13 process and finalize all the permits on the project. And we
14 have made great strides with that. We're continuing to
15 negotiate with landowners. We're purchasing right-of-way
16 and working with people to try to make this project a go.

17 We do have some minor re-routes and refinements
18 of the route that we've been looking at since inception of
19 the project. And some of those will be filed probably next
20 week with the FERC as a supplemental information request for
21 the FERC.

22 We plan on using FERC's planning procedures.
23 They mandate how we do things as far as restoration
24 practices and practices that we utilize in wetland
25 construction and upland construction. We'll also work with

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6

1 the landowners and use the seed mixes that they request, and
2 in lieu of that we'll go with the NRCS seeding
3 recommendations.

4 We'll also mitigate for wetland impacts through
5 the Corps of Engineers. They're the permitting agency on
6 the wetlands.

7 So we're following everything that FERC requires
8 us to do. And we want to be a good steward of the land and
9 make sure that we restore the right-of-way like it should
10 be.

11 And we'll also construct this pipeline, as we've
12 indicated in all of our landowner letters, according to DOT
13 specifications.

14 And basically, that's the synopsis of our
15 project.

16 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

17 Mr. Stephens.

18 MR. STEPHENS: I just wanted to quickly run
19 through a few issues, very similar to Bud's presentation.

20 Gulf South is a large interstate natural gas
21 pipeline company. We've been in business for about 75
22 years. We own about 7500 miles of pipe that extends from
23 Texas to Florida. And we're going to be building a
24 relatively large natural gas pipeline, about 150 miles or so
25 from Carthage, Texas to the Delhi area.

Transcript from Delhi High School Public Meeting

7

1 I just wanted to start with a few natural gas
2 facts.

3 Americans use 62 billion cubic feet of natural
4 gas every day. Texas and Louisiana combined produce about
5 56 percent of the natural gas produced in the country
6 onshore.

7 Just thinking about your average home, it will
8 use about 3-4,000 cubic feet of natural gas every year.

9 Natural gas is used to generate 23 percent of the
10 nation's electric power. And natural gas is one of our most
11 environmentally friendly fuels. Concerning greenhouse gases
12 specifically, it will utilize 30 percent less CO-2 than oil
13 and will give off 45 percent less CO-2 than coal.

14 Let's talk about this pipeline specifically.
15 Natural gas usage will increase about 22 percent in the
16 nation in the next 20 years. There's about three billion
17 cubic feet of natural gas in the Barnett Shales and Bossier
18 Sand, as Bud mentioned, that has no place to go. It's what
19 we call stranded. The infrastructure is full. New
20 infrastructure needs to be built.

21 On Gulf South specifically, we have local and
22 regional markets. There will be interconnects with this
23 pipeline with our existing facilities. Some of our regional
24 customers, Atmost and Entex from a local distribution
25 standpoint, and Southern and Entergy, from a local and

Transcript from Delhi High School Public Meeting

8

1 regional electric generator, they'll be able to take
2 advantage of this gas.

3 In addition there are several interstate markets
4 for the gas. Midwest, northeast and southeast will be
5 interconnecting with other, major interstate pipelines and
6 the producers who are taking the contracts for this will be
7 able to ship their gas to markets nationwide.

8 The scope of the project. We've got about 1.2
9 billion cubic feet of the 1.5 total under contract
10 currently. It's going to go from approximately Keatchie,
11 Louisiana to the Delhi area. 1.5 bcf of capability, 150
12 miles of 42-inch, and approximately 100,000 horsepower of
13 compression.

14 The construction will begin in the spring of '07.

15 Here's a map of what we're talking about. The
16 dark blue lines are Gulf South's existing facilities. The
17 two new compressor stations associated with this portion of
18 the project will be over at Carthage Junction -- the dark
19 blue square -- and over at Vixen, which is in southern
20 Ouachita Parish -- again the dark blue square.

21 Talking a little bit about safety and the
22 environment. This pipeline is state of the art. It's
23 designed, engineered and constructed using what we would
24 consider the best practices: welded steel pipe.

25 In addition, interstate pipelines are regulated

Transcript from Delhi High School Public Meeting

9

1 by the United States Department of Transportation. They
2 have extremely rigorous operating and safety procedures once
3 the pipeline is constructed.

4 Turning to environmental a little bit, the NEPA
5 process that we're going through, the generation of
6 environmental impact statements and the FERC's shepherding
7 of that process ensures environmental stewardship. We are
8 required to provide minimum disturbance to land-owners,
9 significant wetlands protections. And to the extent we
10 can't absolutely protect the wetland, we are required to
11 mitigate for that wetland loss.

12 In addition, the construction will be handled
13 using the FERC's plan of procedures. These are essentially
14 best management practices for the construction itself. It
15 protects sensitive areas and it will recontour and
16 revegetate the land in accordance with not only what was
17 there before, but local recommendations of local
18 authorities.

19 There's a couple ways to contact us if you have
20 more questions. If you need a general project question of
21 where we are, what's going on, et cetera, please feel free
22 to contact me at the 1-800 number. I'm Kyle Stephens again.
23 If you have a right-of-way issue, a surveying issue or a
24 concern about somebody who is on your property or has called
25 you about access to your property, please contact Russell

Transcript from Delhi High School Public Meeting

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1 Verba. And his number is there as well.

2 I'll leave that up for a little bit if anybody
3 wants to write that down.

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

5 Well, as I said previously, the purpose of this
6 meeting is to allow for the public -- to allow an
7 opportunity for the public to give us comments, as well as
8 their representatives.

9 Before we open up the public commenting portion
10 of this meeting I'd like to point out that there's a court
11 reporter here tonight to accurately record your comments.
12 Comments provided by the public and/or their representatives
13 will be recorded by the court reporter and made available in
14 a transcript. We will use that transcript to make sure we
15 take everybody's comments into account.

16 So I guess at this time I'd like to ask if
17 anybody would like to comment on the project.

18 (No response.)

19 MR. PECONOM: Did anybody else have any general
20 questions about the FERC process?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. PECONOM: And I know both companies will be
23 available after the meeting to answer any questions you all
24 might have.

25 I'd like to thank you all for coming. And have a

Transcript from Delhi High School Public Meeting

11

1 good night. And we'll stick around in case anybody else

2 shows up in the next half-hour, hour or so.

3 (Recess.)

4 MR. PECONOM: Let the record show that we

5 concluded this meeting at eight o'clock. Thank you very

6 much.

7 (Whereupon, at 8:00 p.m., the meeting in the

8 above-entitled matter was adjourned.)

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Document Content(s)

Report_Cover_and_Spine.PDF.....	1
Cover_Letter_to_the_Parties.PDF.....	2
Table_of_Contents.PDF.....	3
Executive_Summary.PDF.....	4
Section_1_Introduction.PDF.....	5
Section_2_Proposed Action.PDF.....	18
Section_3_Environmental Analysis.PDF	19
Section_4_Alternatives.PDF.....	20
Section_5_Conclusions and Recommendations.PDF.....	21
Appendix_A_Distribution List.PDF.....	22
Appendix_B_Facility Location Maps.PDF.....	23
Appendix_C_Spill Prevention Plan.PDF	28
Appendix_D_Directional Drill Contingency Plan.PDF.....	29
Appendix_E_Waterbody Crossings.PDF.....	32
Appendix_F_Affected Wetlands.PDF.....	33
Appendix_G_Extra Workspaces.PDF.....	34
Appendix_H_Minor Route Variation Maps.PDF	35
Appendix_I_Literature Cited.PDF.....	36
Appendix_J_List of Preparers.PDF.....	37
Appendix_K_Response to Comments.PDF.....	38