

transportation with a capacity for approximately 56, barrels per day. The pipeline will facilitate crude oil imports from Canada.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4231 *et seq.*, The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, 40 CFR 1500-1508, and Department's regulations for implementation of NEPA (22 CFR Part 161), the Department of State has conducted an environmental assessment of the proposed construction by Portal Pipe Line Company of a crude oil pipeline across the international boundary near Portal, North Dakota. The Department of State is charged with the issuance of Presidential Permits authorizing construction of such international pipelines under Executive Order 11423 (1968), as amended by Executive Order 12847 (1993). Several federal agencies cooperated in preparation of the environmental assessment, reviewing and commenting on the analysis and conclusions presented therein. Agencies participating in this process together with the Department of State included: the Environmental Protection Agency, the Departments of Defense, Treasury, Interior, Commerce, Transportation, the Attorney General, the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Safety Board, and the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Interested parties were invited to comment on the proposed application in a Federal Register Notice, 60 FR 56384 (November 8, 1995).

Based on the final environmental assessment, which included a preliminary environmental assessment, comments received from interested agencies and responses to those comments, the Department of State has concluded that issuance of a Presidential Permit authorizing construction of the proposed pipeline (as described in the final environmental assessment) will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment within the United States. Therefore, in accordance with CEQ's NEPA regulations 40 CFR 1501.4 and 1508.13 and with State Department Regulations, 22 CFR 161.8 (c) an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

#### Factors Considered

The environmental assessment carefully considered the route alternative that minimized environmental and human impacts while offering the most direct and economic route. The proposed pipeline

would allow the U.S. to move an additional 30,000 barrels a day of oil to major population centers in the Midwest through the construction of an 8 mile pipeline. The pipeline is also being constructed along an existing pipeline right-of-way for most of its length. The proposed pipeline also offers likely advantages over a no action alternative. The U.S. depends heavily on oil imports and other means of importing an additional 30,000 barrels of oil per day could involve greater incremental environmental risks than the proposed pipeline, such as increased shipments by tanker or new pipeline capacity of greater length or through more heavily populated or environmentally sensitive areas.

Further analysis and reasoning supporting the pipeline routing are presented in the original pipeline application. Copies of supporting information for this finding and the final environmental assessment can be obtained from the State Department's Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy, 202-647-2875.

#### Environmental Justice

In addition to the analysis conducted in accordance with NEPA, the Department of State addressed environmental justice considerations pursuant to Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994 ("Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations"). Based on its examination of environmental justice considerations, the Department has determined that the proposed pipeline will not have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. The analysis supporting this determination can be obtained from the State Department, Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy, 202-647-2887.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PIPELINE PERMIT APPLICATION CONTACT:** Susan Phillips, Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy, Room 3529, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC, 20520, (20) 647-2887.

Dated: April 4, 1996.

Stephen J. Gallogly,

*Acting Director, International Energy and Commodities Policy.*

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#### [Public Notice 2390]

#### Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation; Notice of Meeting

The Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic documentation will meet in the Department of State, June 6-7, 1996 in Conference Room 1205.

The Committee will meet in open session from 9:00 a.m. on the morning of Thursday, June 6, 1996, until 12:00 noon. The remainder of the Committee's sessions from 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, until 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 7, will be closed in accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463). It has been determined that discussions during these portions of the meeting will involve consideration of matters not subject to public disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1), and that the public interest requires that such activities will be withheld from disclosure.

Questions concerning the meeting should be directed to William Z. Slany, Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation, Department of State, Office of the Historian, Washington, DC, 20520, telephone (202) 663-1123, (e-mail histoff@ix.netcom.com).

Dated: May 7, 1996.

William Z. Slany,  
*Executive Secretary.*

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#### [Public Notice 2379]

#### Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Certifications Pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162

**SUMMARY:** On April 30, 1996, the Department of State certified, pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 ("Section 609"), that 13 nations have adopted programs to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in shrimp fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States. In addition, the Department certified that the fishing environment in 23 other countries does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles protected under Section 609. Shrimp imports from any nation not certified were prohibited effective May 1, 1996, pursuant to Section 609.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 17, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Hollis Summers, Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and