

the meetings will be prepared. For further information, contact Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 208-1088.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-131-000 and CP98-133-000]

Vector Pipeline L.P.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Vector Pipeline Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings and Site Visit

January 14, 1998.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the Vector Pipeline Project.¹ This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

Additionally, with this notice we are asking a number of Federal Agencies (see appendix 2) with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS. These agencies may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their agencies' responsibilities.²

Summary of the Proposed Project

Vector Pipeline L.P. (Vector) proposes to build new natural gas pipeline and compression facilities to transport 1.0 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas from Joliet, Illinois to St. Clair, Michigan. Accessing natural gas

¹ Vector Pipeline L.P.'s applications in Docket Nos. CP98-131-000 and CP98-133-000 were filed with the Commission under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act and part 153 of the Commission's regulations and under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations, respectively.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

supplies from the Chicago area, the Vector Pipeline Project would deliver gas volumes within Michigan and to Vector Pipeline Limited Partnership (Vector Canada) at the U.S./Canada border facility.

Vector requests Commission authorization, in Docket No. CP98-133-000, to construct, lease, and operate the following facilities:

- Construct 265.9 miles of 42-inch diameter pipeline in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan extending from Joliet, Illinois in Will County to Oakland County, Michigan (Segment 1). About 33 miles would be in Illinois, 67.7 miles would be in Indiana, and 165.2 miles would be in Michigan;
- Lease of 58.8 miles of an existing 36-inch-diameter pipeline in Michigan from Oakland County to St. Clair County (Segment 2);
- Construct 3.7 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline in St. Clair County, Michigan terminating at the border of the United States (U.S.) and Canada near St. Clair, Michigan (Segment 3);
- Construct five new meter/regulating stations including two in Will County, Illinois, one in Livingston County, Michigan, one in Oakland County, Michigan, and one in St. Clair County, Michigan;
- Construct two compressor stations each with 30,000 horsepower of compression in LaPorte County, Indiana, and Oakland County, Michigan; and
- Construct associated pipeline facilities, including 21 new mainline valves, 3 pig launchers, 2 pig receivers, and permanent access roads.

The general location of Vector's proposed project facilities is shown in appendix 1. If you are interested in obtaining procedural information, please write to the Secretary of the Commission.

In addition, Vector requests in Docket No. CP98-131-000 a Presidential Permit to construct, operate, and maintain facilities at the International Border between the U.S. and Canada near St. Clair, Michigan. Vector's pipeline would terminate at the point of interconnection with the Canadian facilities of Vector Canada.

Land Requirements for Construction

The Vector Pipeline Project would include 58.8 miles of leased existing pipeline. Vector would construct about 253.4 miles (94 percent) of the new pipeline parallel to various existing utility rights-of-way. Only 15.1 miles (6 percent) of the route would be constructed on newly created right-of-way that does not parallel existing rights-of-way. Where possible, Vector's

right-of-way would overlap the existing rights-of-way as much as 50 feet during construction to minimize impacts.

Vector's pipeline would deviate from the existing rights-of-way in selected locations to avoid impact on homes and existing utility structures (meter stations, etc.). The pipeline would also deviate from the existing rights-of-way in selected locations to improve waterbody crossings and for other environmental or engineering reasons.

Construction of the Vector Pipeline Project would affect a total of about 3,581.9 acres of land including extra workspace and aboveground facilities. Of this total, about 3,268.1 acres would be disturbed by the construction rights-of-way, 270.9 acres would be disturbed by extra workspace, and 42.9 acres would be disturbed by the aboveground facilities and access roads. All these acreage figures are subject to change.

Vector would generally use a right-of-way width of 100 feet for construction. The Vector Pipeline Project would also require extra temporary work areas for waterbody, highway, and railroad crossing; for additional topsoil storage; and for pipe storage and equipment yards. Following construction and restoration of the right-of-way and temporary work spaces, Vector would retain a 30- to 50-foot-wide permanent pipeline right-of-way depending on whether the pipeline is adjacent to other utilities or on new right-of-way. Total land requirements for the permanent right-of-way would be about 1,185.4 acres. The project would also require an additional 22.1 acres for the operation of the new aboveground facilities and 0.9 acres for the operation of permanent access roads. Vector would restore the remaining 2,373.5 acres of land affected by construction of the project and allow these areas to revert to their former use.

The EIS Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EIS on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EIS. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EIS. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents

of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

The EIS will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project. We have already identified a number of issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Vector. These issues are listed below. This is a preliminary list of issues and may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

• Soils

- Temporary and permanent impacts on prime farmland soils.
- Mixing of topsoil and subsoil during construction.
- Compaction of soil by heavy equipment.
- Impacts on drain tiles and irrigation systems.
- Erosion control and right-of-way restoration.

• Water Resource

- Effect of construction on areas with shallow groundwater.
- Effect of construction on crossings of 92 perennial waterbodies, including 13 coldwater fisheries.
- Crossing of eight rivers 100 feet wide or greater.
- Crossing three rivers on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory List, including an international waterbody.
- Effect of construction in waterbodies with contaminated sediments.
- Potential for erosion and sediment transport to the waterbodies.
- Effect of construction on groundwater and surface water supplies.
- Impact on wetland hydrology.

• Biological Resources

- Short- and long-term effects of right-of-way clearing and maintenance on wetlands, forests, riparian areas, and vegetation communities of special concern.
- Effect on wildlife and fisheries habitats.
- Impact on federally endangered species such as the Indiana bat and on federally threatened species such as the northern copperbelly watersnake.

• Cultural Resources

- Effect on historic and prehistoric sites.
- Native American concerns.

• Socioeconomics

- Effect of the construction workforce on demands for services in surrounding areas.
- Impact on property values.

• Land Use

- Impact on crop production.
- Impact on residential areas.
- Effect on public lands and special use areas including waterbodies on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, a national scenic trail, a state game area, a state recreation area, a forest preserve district, a county park, city/township private parks, church property, a golf course, a county airport, campgrounds, and racetracks.
- Impact on future land uses and consistency with local land use plans and zoning.
- Visual effect of the aboveground facilities on surrounding areas.

• Air Quality and Noise

- Effect on local air quality and noise environment as a result of construction.
- Effect on local air quality and noise environment as a result of operation of the compressor stations.

• Pipeline Reliability and Safety

• Cumulative Impact

- Identify other projects which have been or may be proposed in the same region and similar time frames.
- Identify potential upstream and downstream facilities.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the Draft EIS which will be mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, affected landowners and other interested individuals, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A 45-day comment period will be allotted for review of the Draft EIS. We will consider all comments on the Draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a Final EIS. The Final EIS will include our response to each comment received on the Draft EIS and will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether to approve the project.

Public Participation and Scoping Meetings

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific

comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Send two copies to: David P. Boergers, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, D.C. 20426.
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.1;
- Reference Docket Nos. CP98-131-000 and CP98-133-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before February 20, 1998.

In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments, we invite you to attend the public scoping meetings the FERC will conduct in the project area. The locations and times for these meetings are listed below.

Schedule of Public Scoping Meetings for the Vector Pipeline Project Environmental Impact Statement

February 9, 1998

7:00 pm—Crown Point, Indiana, Marion Education Center, St. Anthony's Hospital, 1201 S. Main Street, (219) 757-6398

February 10, 1998

7:00 pm—Three Rivers, Michigan, Three Rivers Community Center, 103 S. Douglas Avenue, (616) 278-8193

February 11, 1998

7:00 pm—Leslie, Michigan, Leslie High School Auditorium, 4141 Hull Road, (517) 589-8277

February 12, 1998

7:00 pm—Port Huron, Michigan, St. Claire Community College, 323 Erie Street, (810) 984-3881

The public meetings are designed to provide you with more detailed information and another opportunity to offer your comments on the proposed project. Vector representatives will be present at the scoping meetings to describe their proposal. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and to present comments on the environmental issues they believe should be addressed in the Draft EIS. A transcript of each meeting will be made so that your comments will be accurately recorded.

On the dates of the meetings, we will also be conducting limited site visits to

the project area. Anyone interested in participating in the site visit may contact the Commission's Office of External Affairs identified at the end of this notice for more details and must provide their own transportation.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EIS scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an "intervenor." Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide copies of its filings to all other parties. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 3).

The date for filing of timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Environmental Mailing List

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. It is also being sent to all interested potential right-of-way grantors. As details of the project become established, representatives of Vector may also separately contact landowners, communities, and public agencies concerning project matters, including acquisition of permits and rights-of-way.

All commentors will be retained on our mailing list. If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to keep informed and receive copies of the Draft and Final EIS, you must return the Information Request (appendix 4). If you do not send comments or return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-42203B; FRL-5766-7]

Enforceable Consent Agreement Development for Diethanolamine; Solicitation of Interested Parties and Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA is soliciting interested parties who want to monitor or participate in negotiations on an enforceable consent agreement (ECA) concerning the use of pharmacokinetics (PK) studies and mechanistic data to help meet testing requirements for diethanolamine (CAS No. 111-42-2) in the proposed hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) test rule. In addition, EPA invites all interested parties to attend a public meeting to initiate negotiations on the ECA for diethanolamine.

DATES: EPA must receive written notification requesting designation as an interested party for diethanolamine on or before February 11, 1998. Those persons who identify themselves as interested parties for diethanolamine may submit written comments to EPA on the PK proposal for this chemical, on EPA's preliminary technical analysis, and on other materials in the docket for the proposed HAPs test rule, that relate to the ECA process for this chemical by February 11, 1998.

The public meeting is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on February 24, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Each comment must bear the docket control number OPPTS-42203B. All comments should be sent in triplicate to: OPPT Document Control Officer (7407), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Rm. G-099, East Tower, Washington, DC 20460.

EPA will address these comments at the public meeting.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov following the instructions under Unit VI. of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

All comments which contain information claimed as CBI must be clearly marked as such. Three sanitized copies of any comments containing information claimed as CBI must also be submitted and will be placed in the public record for this document. Persons submitting information on any

portion of which they believe is entitled to treatment as CBI by EPA must assert a business confidentiality claim in accordance with 40 CFR 2.203(b) for each such portion. This claim must be made at the time that the information is submitted to EPA. If a submitter does not assert a confidentiality claim at the time of submission, EPA will make the information available to the public without further notice to the submitter.

The public meeting will be held at EPA Headquarters, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC in the EPA Conference Center, North Conference Area in Room 1.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: *For additional information:* Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Rm. ET-543B, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone: (202) 554-1404, TDD: (202) 554-0551; e-mail address: TSCA-Hotline@epamail.epa.gov.

For technical information: Richard W. Leukroth, Jr., Project Manager, Chemical Control Division (7405), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone: (202) 260-0321; fax: (202) 260-8850; e-mail address: leukroth.rich@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Electronic Availability

Internet: Electronic copies of this document and various support documents are available from the EPA Home Page at the **Federal Register**—Environmental Documents entry for this document under "Laws and Regulations" (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-TOX/1998/>).

II. Background

EPA proposed health effects testing under section 4(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) on June 26, 1996, for a number of HAPs chemicals (61 FR 33178) (FRL-4869-1). As indicated in the proposed HAPs test rule, EPA would use the data obtained from testing to implement several provisions of section 112 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), including the determination of residual risk, the estimation of the risks associated with accidental releases of chemicals, and determinations whether substances should be removed from the CAA section 112(b)(1) list of hazardous air pollutants (delisting). The data also would be used by other Federal agencies (e.g. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), National