

applicant was requested to provide additional information on the issues of environmental justice and alternative pipeline routes. A number of the other U.S. Government agencies involved in the approval process also requested additional information. Dakota Gasification Company provided this information which has been included in the environmental assessment package. This information may be viewed upon request in the Office of International Energy and Commodity Policy at the Department of State.

Based on this information, the Department of State has concluded that issuance of a Presidential Permit authorizing construction of the pipeline will not have a significant effect on the existing vegetation and wildlife, water resources, land use, air quality and human population within the United States. In reaching this conclusion, the Department of State considered several alternatives, including a no-action alternative. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. section 4321 *et seq.*, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, 40 CFR 1501.4 and 1508.13 and Department of State Regulations, 22 CFR 161.8 (C), an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PIPELINE PERMIT APPLICATION, CONTACT:** Bill Memler, Office of International Energy Policy, Room 3535, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC, 20520, (202) 647-4557.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Dakota Gasification Company is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of North Dakota, with its principal place of business in Bismarck, North Dakota. On July 7, 1999, the Department of State published a Notice of Application for a Presidential Permit in the **Federal Register**. No public comments were received and concerned agencies expressed no opposition to issuing the permit. A finding of no significant impact is adopted, and an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Dated: March 7, 2000.

**Peter E. Bass,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Energy, and Commodities.*

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BILLING CODE 4710-07-U

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3253]

### Universal Postal Union Reform Survey

**AGENCY:** Department of State.

**ACTION:** Notice of briefing.

The Department of State will host a briefing on Wednesday, April 19, 2000, to discuss matters related to its on-going participation in the work of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

Within the UPU, a "High Level Group on the Future Development of the UPU" is reviewing various reform initiatives. The Group has created a questionnaire to solicit the individual opinions of "stakeholders" in UPU operations. This questionnaire was sent to about 30 government and private sector agencies in the United States, with the request that the responses be returned to the UPU by March 30, 2000.

The central purpose of this briefing will be to discuss with the U.S. stakeholders the variety of opinions of the UPU that have been expressed, especially in the context of responses to the UPU questionnaire. This briefing will also provide information on other aspects of the High Level Group's work, the March 9 Congressional hearing on international postal policy, and the recent GAO report on this issue. The briefing will be chaired by Ambassador E. Michael Southwick of the Department of State.

The briefing will be held from 2:00 pm until approximately 4:00 pm, on April 19, 2000, in Room 1207 of the Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC. The briefing will be open to the public up to the capacity of the meeting room.

Entry to the Department of State building is controlled and will be facilitated by advance arrangements. In order to arrange admittance, persons desiring to attend the briefing should, no later than noon on April 18, 2000, notify the Office of Technical and Specialized Agencies, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State, preferably by fax, providing the name of the meeting and the individual's name, Social Security number, date of birth, professional affiliation, address and telephone number. The fax number to use is (202) 647-8902. Voice telephone is (202) 647-2752. This request applies to both government and non-government individuals.

All attendees must use the Department of State diplomatic entrance at 22nd and C Streets, NW. One of the following means of identification will be required for admittance: any U.S. driver's license with photo, a passport, or any U.S. Government agency identification card. Questions concerning the briefing may be directed to Mr. Neil Boyer at (202) 647-2752.

Dated: March 7, 2000.

**Lynne Lambert,**

*Director, Office of Technical and Specialized Agencies, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 00-6408 Filed 3-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-19-U

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement; Pike County, KY and Mingo County, WV

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Pike County, Kentucky and Mingo County, West Virginia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jesse Story, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, 330 West Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, (502) 223-6721, e-mail: jesse.story@fhwa.dot.gov; or John Bowlin, Project Manager, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, District 12 Pikeville, P.O. Box 2468, Pikeville, Kentucky, 41502, (606) 785-9466, e-mail: jbowlin@mail.kytc.state.ky.us.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Electronic Access

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded by using a computer, modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the Office of the Federal Register's home page at <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's web page at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

##### Background

The FHWA, in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH), will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposed highway project to construct a segment of Interstate Highway I-66 (Transamerica Transportation Corridor) between western Pike County, Kentucky and eastern Mingo County, West Virginia. The proposed project would involve the construction of a 4-line, controlled access highway on new location between US 23/119 southwest of Pikeville, Kentucky to the proposed