

before the intervention or protest date need not serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 14 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link and is available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an "eSubscription" link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive e-mail notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please e-mail [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Intervention and Protest Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time August 23, 2006.

**Magalie R. Salas,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-13888 Filed 8-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP04-400-001]

#### Golden Pass Pipeline L.P.; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Optimized Pipeline Project

August 15, 2006.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed for the Optimized Pipeline Project (OP Project) in Jefferson and Orange Counties, Texas, in the above-referenced docket. The OP Project is an amendment to the Golden Pass Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal and Pipeline Project proposed in Docket Nos. CP04-386-000 and CP04-400-000 and approved in an order issued by the Commission on July 6, 2005 (Order). The OP Project amends only certain pipeline facilities approved in Docket No. CP04-400-000. The OP project includes the Optimized Design

Variation and the Optimized Route Variation.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The EA also evaluates alternatives to the proposal.

The EA addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following amended natural gas pipeline facilities:

- The Optimized Design Variation would replace the two 36-inch-diameter pipelines (Mainline and Loop) approved in the Order with a single 42-inch-diameter pipeline from the pipeline origin at milepost (MP) 0.0 at the Golden Pass LNG Terminal to the American Electric Power Texoma Pipeline interconnection at MP 42.8; and

- The Optimized Route Variation would incorporate a route change between MP 14.1 and MP 34.9 that would reduce the pipeline length between these two points from 20.8 miles to 11.9 miles; and

- The relocation of the interconnections to Kinder Morgan (KM) Tejas Pipeline, KM Texas Pipeline, and Centana Gas Pipeline due to construction of the amended facilities.

The purpose of the proposed facilities would be the same as that authorized in the Order: to provide an additional source of firm, long-term, and competitively priced natural gas to the Texas intrastate and interstate natural gas markets.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference Room, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502-8371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, State and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send an original and two copies of your comments to: Secretary, Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;

- Reference: Docket No. CP04-400-001;

- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas Branch 2, PJ11.2; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before September 14, 2006.

Please note that we are continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. As a result, we will include all comments that we receive within a reasonable time frame in our environmental analysis of this project. However, the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing of any comments or interventions or protests to this proceeding. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create a free account which can be created by clicking on "Sign-up."

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentator a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).<sup>1</sup> Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1-866-208-FERC or on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the

<sup>1</sup> Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to the documents. Go to <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>.

**Magalie R. Salas,**  
Secretary.

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. PF06-30-000]

**Rockies Express Pipeline, LLC; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Rockies Express Pipeline Project, Eastern Phase Request for Comments on Environmental Issues and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings**

August 16, 2006.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will address the environmental impacts of the proposed Rockies Express Pipeline Project, Eastern Phase (the Project), which involves the construction and operation of facilities by Rockies Express Pipeline, LLC (Rockies Express) in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. These facilities would consist of 622 miles of 42-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline; five new compressor stations; and approximately 41 mainline valves and 20 interconnects. 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.

This notice explains the scoping process that will be used to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the Project. Your input will help determine which issues/impacts need to be evaluated in the EIS. Please note that the scoping period will close on September 29, 2006.

Comments may be submitted in written form or verbally. In lieu of or in addition to sending in written comments, you are invited to attend the public scoping meetings that are scheduled in the Project area. Nine scoping meetings are scheduled for September 11 through 15, 2006, and are listed below. Further details on how to submit written comments and additional details on the public scoping meetings are provided in the Public Participation section of this notice.

Please note that written comments carry the same weight as comments made orally by participants at the scoping meetings, so if you are unable to attend one of the Commission-sponsored public scoping meetings, we highly encourage you to submit written comments to the Secretary of the Commission.

Date and time	Location(s)
Monday, September 11, 2006 ..... 7 p.m.–10 p.m. ....	Mexico, Missouri, Presser Hall, 900 South Jefferson Street, Mexico, Missouri 65265, 573-581-2765. Greensburg, Indiana, Greensburg High School Auditorium, 1000 E. Central Avenue, Greensburg, Indiana 47240, 812-663-7211.
Tuesday, September 12, 2006 ..... 7 p.m.–10 p.m. ....	Springfield, Illinois, Illinois Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62702, 217-782-1698. Greenwood, Indiana, Greenwood Middle School, 532 South Madison Avenue, Greenwood, Indiana 46142, 317-889-4040.
Wed., September 13, 2006 ..... 7 p.m.–10 p.m. ....	Pittsfield, Illinois, Pike County Farm Bureau, 1301 E. Washington Street, Pittsfield, Illinois 62363, 217-285-2233. Trenton, Ohio, Edgwood High School Auditorium, 5005 Oxford State Road, Trenton, Ohio 45067, 513-867-7425.
Thursday, September 14, 2006 ..... 7 p.m.–10 p.m. ....	Rockville, Indiana, Clark's Hall Reception Area, 2155 East U.S. Highway 36, Rockville, Indiana 47872, 765-569-5794. Ashville, Ohio, Teays Valley High School Auditorium, 3887 St. Route 752, Ashville, Ohio 43103, 740-983-3131.
Friday, September 15, 2006 ..... 7 p.m.–10 p.m. ....	Zanesville, Ohio, Zanesville High School Auditorium, 1701 Blue Avenue, Zanesville, Ohio 43701, 740-588-4022.

The Rockies Express Project, Eastern Phase, is currently in the preliminary stages of design, and at this time a formal application has not been filed with the Commission. For this proposal, the Commission is initiating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review prior to receiving the application. This allows interested stakeholders to become involved early in project planning and to identify and resolve issues before an application is filed with the FERC. A docket number (PF06-30-000) has been established to

locate in the public record information filed by Rockies Express and related documents issued by the Commission.<sup>1</sup> Once a formal application is filed with the FERC, a new docket number will be established.

With this notice, we are asking other Federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues in

the project area to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS. These agencies may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their responsibilities. Agencies that would like to request cooperating status should follow the instructions for filing comments described later in this notice. We encourage government representatives to notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

<sup>1</sup> To view information in the docket, follow the instructions for using the eLibrary link at the end of this notice.