

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

November 1, 2006

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Mike Pence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pence:

I am writing in response to your October 5, 2006 letter regarding the Rockies Express Pipeline Project – East (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Docket No. PF06-30-000).

We have recently begun working with the project sponsor and other stakeholders in our pre-filing process for this project. We designed this process so that the Commission staff, agencies, stakeholders, and the project sponsor can identify and resolve environmental concerns at the early stages in the development of the project before an application is filed. Throughout the process, the project sponsor will file project information with the Commission as it is developed, including information on alternative pipeline routes, and impacts on residences, developed properties, and agricultural lands. Please know that in planning for pipeline routing, the Commission's regulations require that the use of existing rights-of-way be considered and that landowners' desires be taken into account.

To date, nine scoping meetings were held September 11 through 15, 2006 in the project area. In the months ahead, you and your constituents will have many opportunities for participation in our process. We welcome your comments, and we will consider them in our analysis of this project. You are on our mailing list to receive copies of the notices and other formal documents regarding the project.

If an application is filed for the Rockies Express Pipeline Project – East, the Commission staff will issue a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for this proposal that will address all of the issues raised during the scoping process. After a 45-day comment period and the consideration of comments received on the draft EIS, a final EIS will be issued. The Commission will make a decision as to whether or not to approve the project.

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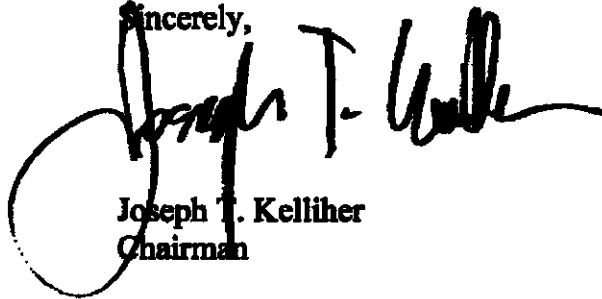
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It is only if the Commission authorizes the project that the certificate holder is authorized by section 7(h) of the Natural Gas Act to acquire property through the use of eminent domain (and then only after it has failed to acquire necessary lands through negotiated contracts or compensation agreements). At that point, jurisdiction over the matter rests with the state or federal court, which is required to follow local law.

If I can be of further assistance in this or any other Commission matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph T. Kelliher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Joseph T. Kelliher
Chairman