

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

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In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 2
Rockies Express Pipeline LLC
Docket No. PF06-30-000
§ 375.308(x)

January 24, 2007

Alice Weekly
Project Management, Vice President
Rockies Express Pipeline LLC
500 Dallas Street, Suite 1000
Houston, TX 77002

Re: Draft Resource Reports 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7

Dear Ms. Weekly:

We have reviewed draft Resource Reports 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7 that you filed for our comments. We note that your draft Resource Reports contain background information, but are lacking much of the project specific information needed to analyze your project. Answers to the questions in the enclosure should be included in revised resource reports. The revised resource reports 1, 4, 6, and 7 should be filed for our review prior to filing your certificated application. With your filing of the revised resource reports, please be sure to provide a matrix that identifies the specific locations where the requested information may be found in the reports. We will provide our comments on the remaining resource reports as soon as possible.

When filing documents and maps, be sure to prepare separate volumes, as outlined in "**How-to File Non-Internet Public, CEII or Privileged Material.**" This document is available on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.gov/help/how-to/file-material.asp>.

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.
Technician JS Date Processed 2-1-07

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Laura Turner
Environmental Project Manager
Office of Energy Projects

Enclosure

cc: Public File, Docket No. PF06-30-000
All Parties

Shippen Howe
Attorney for Rockies Express Pipeline LLC
VanNess Feldman
1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

**ROCKIES EXPRESS - EAST PIPELINE PROJECT
DOCKET NO. PF-06-30-000**

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REQUEST

1. The maps and alignment sheets only show the centerline, please add:
 - a. temporary work spaces and staging areas;
 - b. construction and permanent right-of-way
 - c. permanent and temporary access roads;
 - d. meter stations;
 - e. mainline valves; and
 - f. compressor stations.
2. Plot plans for the proposed compressor stations should include all facilities within the fence line (including pig launcher/receivers).
3. Does Rockies Express propose to install any communication towers, remote blowdowns, or cathodic protection beds? If so, provide the locations and the appropriate environmental information.
4. Provide an environmental complaint resolution procedure for the Project. This procedure should include:
 - a. the length of time it would remain active;
 - b. how the landowners would be informed of the procedure; and
 - c. who the landowners should contact if environmental issues arise during and after construction and restoration.
5. Please provide:
 - a. detailed plot plans for the Arlington and Mexico Compressor Stations;
 - b. maps identifying by distance noise sensitive areas near each compressor stations; and
 - c. plot plans for the meter stations.
6. Provide the following items in *Resource Report #1: General Project Description*, please note that the environmental information on all areas that would be disturbed should follow throughout the document:
 - a. a description, maps, and any available environmental information for any nonjurisdictional facilities and jurisdictional facilities built by others that would be constructed in association with the project;
 - b. the locations and dimensions of all temporary work spaces;
 - c. the locations and dimensions of permanent and temporary access roads, identify any improvements that would be made to existing roads;
 - d. the milepost locations for all meter stations and pipeline main valves;
 - e. the locations where blasting will occur during construction;

- f. the locations and dimension of pipe storage and contractor yard locations; and
 - g. provide source and discharge site for hydrostatic test water, indicate how much water would be withdrawn at each site; and
 - h. the mileposts for the start and end points for each of the nine construction spreads.
- 7. Resolve the discrepancy in Table 1.1.2-3, which indicates at total of 21 meter stations for the project. The preceding text indicates at total of 20 meter stations to be constructed.
- 8. Provide the mileposts for each right-of-way (ROW) cross-section described in Appendix 1A.
- 9. For all aboveground facilities, provide the following:
 - a. total site area in acres;
 - b. amount of land required for construction, including access roads, laydown areas, and other areas disturbed; and
 - c. amount of land required for facility operation, including access roads, communication facilities, parking, and other permanently disturbed areas.
- 9. How wide would Rockies Express' construction ROW be in wetland areas? The text states 100 feet while Rockies Express' Wetland and Waterbody Mitigation Procedures (Rex Procedures) states 75 feet. Justify, on a site specific basis the need for a 100 -foot-wide construction ROW in wetlands.
- 10. Explain how Rockies Express would recover the topsoil stored in the travel lane of the ROW as shown in drawing TYP -7 in Appendix 1A.
- 11. How does Rockies Express propose to cross railroads?
- 12. Provide the construction method to be used for each road crossing identified in Appendix 1B.
- 13. Would Rockies Express have full time agricultural inspectors for the project during and after construction?
- 14. Provide a copy of the project specific Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) including copies of any correspondence/records of discussions with state Departments of Agriculture, the state Farm Bureaus, and other interested state and local agencies concerning the AIMA.
- 15. Rockies Express indicates that damaged septic systems would be repaired "as soon as practical". What would Rockies Express do to mitigate for a damaged septic system prior to repair?

16. Provide a list and justification for all differences between FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan (Plan) and Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures (Procedures) and REX's Plan and Procedures.
17. Provide copies of written and/or electronic correspondences of consultations with Federal, State, and local government agencies.
18. Draft Resource Report 4 states that although the report is written in the past tense, some of the actions described have not yet occurred. Please mark this resource report so that we can determine which actions have been taken and which actions are planned.

NOTE REGARDING QUESTIONS 19, 20, AND 21:

All material filed with the Commission containing **location, character, and ownership** information about cultural resources must have the cover and any relevant pages therein clearly labeled in bold lettering: **"CONTAINS PRIVILEGED INFORMATION – DO NOT RELEASE."**

19. Please provide cultural resources survey reports. Please note that survey reports for all project aspects with the exception of denied access areas are required for filing an application. When cultural resources surveys are completed, provide:
 - a. a summary (tabular, if appropriate) of the status of cultural resources investigations undertaken to date, including identification by milepost of any areas which could not be surveyed because the landowner denied access;
 - b. a narrative summary of the completed Overview and Survey Reports, identifying any cultural resources issues. The summary will not identify specific property locations or sensitive information about cultural resource sites;
 - c. a project map with mileposts, clearly showing boundaries of all areas surveyed (ROW, extra work areas, access roads, etc.) and to be surveyed with corridor widths clearly specified;
 - d. a schedule for completing any outstanding cultural resource studies; and
 - e. copies of all completed Cultural Resource Overview and Survey Reports.
20. When available, provide written SHPO comments on the Overview and Survey Reports and on eligibility recommendations.
21. Please provide all previously unfiled correspondence (including any enclosures/attachments) to and from the Native American tribes contacted.
22. When available, provide plans prepared in consultation with the Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio State Historic Preservation Officers identifying the procedures Rockies Express will follow if human remains are discovered during cultural resources investigations or construction, or if unanticipated historic properties are discovered during construction.
23. Provide data on the number of Camp/RV Parks in the Project vicinity by county.

24. Describe the nature of tourism in the Project vicinity by county; include major tourist attractions in nearby counties which could affect the vacancy rates in the Project area. Include the following:
 - a. types of tourists attractions and activities;
 - b. timing of peak tourism; and
 - c. vacancy rates during peak season.
25. Provide a discussion on the current conditions for the major transportation route crossings. Include,
 - a. level of traffic flow; and
 - b. average annual daily traffic count
26. Provide an estimate of the percent of construction payroll that would spent locally.
27. In Table 6.2-1, fill in the data which is listed as "NA" because it was not available in a data base.
28. Provide a discussion on paleontological resources, including potential impacts and mitigation.
29. Rockies Express should expand its discussion of impacts on mineral resources. Rockies Express indicates construction of the pipeline would not preclude affect the production of mineral resources because the majority of the existing operations are limited by roads and/or property lines. This statement may not be accurate, roads would not necessary limit underground operations and property may be sold.
30. Identify the location of abandoned coal mines by mile post, depth, and type of mining (long wall, pillar and post, etc.).
31. Identify the location of oil and gas wells in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline. Also, identify any gathering lines crossed by the proposed pipeline and any area where blasting may occur. Discuss what mitigation measures would be implemented to ensure no oil or gas wells would be damaged.
32. Provide information on flooding and scouring and identify any areas along the proposed pipeline with the potential for severe scour.
33. Provide a project specific blasting plan.
34. Discuss the impact on the proposed pipeline from ground subsidence (karst or mine collapse). Discuss any mitigation measure that would be used to safe guard the pipeline from these hazards.

35. Provide approximate mile post of areas with 'moderate' and 'high' susceptibility for landslides.
36. After construction how often would Rockies Express patrol the pipeline?
37. How would Rockies Express monitor the depth of cover over the pipeline after construction?
38. Expand Table 7.2.6-1 to include all meter stations. Soil characteristics should include hydric soils.
39. Provide the locations where Bonnell series soils are crossed. Describe the potential impacts to soils in these areas and any mitigation Rockies Express proposes in these areas.
40. Provide a plan to prevent the introduction or spread of noxious weeds and soil pests resulting from construction and restoration activities.
41. Rockies Express indicates that it has only identified, using aerial photography, one irrigation system that would be affected by construction. Please identify any other irrigation systems which would be crossed. Also identify any water systems for livestock that would be crossed by the Project. Discuss the impacts and mitigation for these systems.
42. Discuss whether Rockies Express would agree to provide a third-party monitoring program during the construction of the Project.
43. Provide a detailed discussion on construction in agricultural areas during wet weather. This discussion should include:
 - a. the allowable depth of rutting, and allowable working conditions, prior to the suspension of construction activities based on the topsoil thickness and/or other recognized method;
 - b. designation of authority for the on-site agricultural inspector to have "stop-work" authority in the event of wet weather conditions place topsoil at risk; and
 - c. identification of alternative construction procedures to enable construction to continue without risking the loss and/or mixing of topsoil in the event of an unseasonably wet construction season.
44. Drawing TYP-10 indicates that in some areas Rockies Express would store topsoil and spoil on the same side of the ROW. How would Rockies Express prevent the commingling of the topsoil and spoil in these areas?

45. How would Rockies Express deal with soil compaction in storage/contractor yards and new temporary access roads?