

SCOPING STATEMENT – BENNETT CREEK PIPELINE PROJECT

Dear Interested Party:

Windsor Wyoming LLC has applied to Cody field Office of the Bureau of Land Management for two pipeline rights-of-way across public lands in the Clark and Elk Basin areas. The pipeline project proposal involves placement of two pipelines (a 10 inch and a 4 inch diameter) in the same trench to transport natural gas and condensate produced from the applicant's Bennett Creek wells on State land next to Line Creek. Well head production facilities that would normally be located at the well site are proposed to be located on private land near the Clark landfill along with several gas compressors and storage tanks. The pipeline would transport gas to a new gas processing plant in Elk Basin on private land where liquids would be removed from the gas stream, with the processed gas then transported to market using existing transmission lines. Please see the attached maps that show the proposed route.

Additional applications for road access and temporary work areas associated with the pipeline rights-of-way have also been received.

Most of the land crossed by the proposed pipeline is privately owned, with approximately 4.5 miles of the 19-20 mile long pipeline crossing public land managed by the BLM. Of the 4.5 miles on public land, about 1.3 miles is in the Clark area. All of the proposed pipeline route on public land would be in or directly adjacent to previously disturbed areas.

Construction of the proposed pipeline will involve temporary vehicle traffic slowdowns and/or delays for residents from area landowners. The applicant proposes to gravel the road used by the Cross Fire Trail Property Owners Association after pipeline construction is complete.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The BLM has begun an analysis of the proposal in accordance with the requirements of NEPA. To comply with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, which implement NEPA, the BLM is required to prepare an environmental analysis. The environmental document will serve several purposes. It will provide both the public and governmental agencies with information about the potential environmental consequences of the project and alternatives; identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the project and alternatives; and provide the responsible official with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project.

One element of the NEPA process is scoping. Scoping activities apply mostly to the public land associated with the pipeline and are initiated early in the process to:

- identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental analysis;
- identify environmental issues of concern related to the proposed project; and
- determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

Scoping Meeting:

An open-house public meeting will be held to provide interested members of the public with further information about the proposed pipeline project and their opportunities to submit scoping comments to the BLM. Information will be provided on the technology and environmental management including construction of the pipeline and other issues. This meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Clark Recreation Center
Wednesday, November 3
6:00-8:00 PM

Timing Needs or Requirements

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Individuals wishing to withhold their name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, may request confidentiality by prominently stating so at the beginning of their written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Comments are due by close of business on December 3, 2004. Please submit your written comments to:

Duane Feick, Project Manager
BLM – Cody Field Office
PO Box 518
Cody, WY 82414

307.578.5917

E-mail: cody_wymail@blm.gov.

Additional information will be posted on <http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cyfodocs/> as it becomes available.

Michael Blymyer, Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Cody Field Office
Box 518
1002 Blackburn Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Sincerely,

/S/ Michael J. Blymyer

Michael J. Blymyer
Field Manager, Cody