



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Coos Bay District
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459

December 2001



Coos County Natural Gas Pipeline Draft Environmental Impact Statement



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Cooperating Agency
PO Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208



Project Proponent
Coos County Board of Commissioners
250 N. Baxter
Coquille, Oregon



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

BLM/OR/WA/PL-02/002+1792

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Coos Bay District Office, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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NORTH BEND, OREGON 97459-2000

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In Reply Refer to:
2800

DEC -7 2001

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for issuing a BLM right-of-way permit to Coos County for construction, operation, and maintenance of a 12-inch natural gas transmission pipeline. The proposed natural gas transmission pipeline would connect to the Williams Gas Pipeline at a meter facility southwest of Roseburg, in or near Section 33 Township 27 South, Range 6 West in Douglas County and would terminate at Ocean Boulevard in the city of Coos Bay (Section 27 Township 25 South, Range 13 West). Under the proposed action the pipeline would be buried within the existing rights-of-ways of the Pacific Corp. (PP&L) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) electric transmission lines, and within the existing roadbed of the Coos Bay Wagon Road. The total length of the pipeline is approximately 60 miles, with approximately 3.0 miles located on BLM-administered lands.

The natural gas transmission pipeline will deliver gas to distribution facilities built by Northwest Natural Gas in the Coos Bay and North Bend communities. Smaller 6-inch or 4-inch laterals will be built off the mainline to serve the cities of Coquille, Myrtle Point, and perhaps Bandon at a later date. The location of the laterals has not been finalized, but is anticipated to follow the location of existing powerline, State highway, or railroad rights-of-way. Locations of the distribution lines within the city limits are not known at this time, but are anticipated to be located within existing road rights-of-way.

You are invited to review and comment on the range and adequacy of the draft alternatives and associated environmental effects. For comments to be most helpful, they should relate to specific concerns or conflicts that are within the legal responsibilities of the BLM.

Public meetings will be held during the comment period. To ensure local community participation and input, public meetings will be held in Coos Bay and at other locations if requested. At least 15 days public notice will be given for activities where the public is invited to attend. Specific dates and locations of meetings and comment deadlines will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, the BLM web site (www.or.blm.gov/coosbay), and the Coos County web site (<http://www.co.coos.or.us>).

The comment period will end 60 days after publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability of this draft environmental impact statement in the Federal Register. Comments on the draft EIS should be received on or before the end of the comment period. Written comments should be sent to Bob Gunther, Project Coordinator, Coos Bay District, BLM, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Coos Bay District Office in North Bend, Oregon, and local libraries.

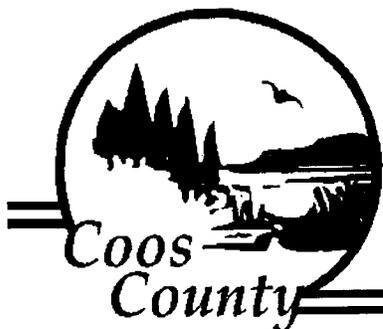
Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Coos Bay District Office during regular business hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the Final EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

We appreciate your help in the review process, and look forward to your continued interest and participation. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the review process, please contact Bob Gunther at (541) 751-4295.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue E. Richardson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sue E. Richardson
District Manager



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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PETE DE MAIN

JOHN GRIFFITH

NIKKI WHITTY

December 4, 2001

Sue Richardson
District Manager
US Bureau of Land Management
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459

Re: Coos County Gas Pipeline

Dear Sue:

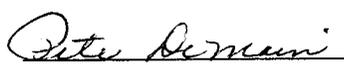
Over the past two years, the Coos County Board of Commissioners has worked with BLM in the development of the proposed natural gas pipeline from Roseburg to Coos Bay. The Environmental Impact Statement has minimized impacts to people and habitat, as well as reducing the estimated cost from the original concept.

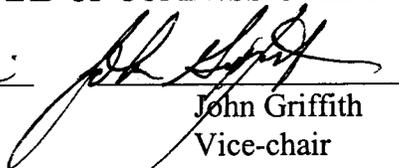
This project was conceived as a means to improve the economic climate of the county. The project was approved by a "double majority" of county voters in November 1999. The County has taken a leadership role, and will own the pipeline for the benefit of its constituents. The state legislature supported the pipeline project with two significant funding grants. The local gas utility, local industries and citizen leaders have been very supportive.

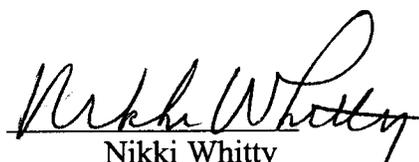
We believe the introduction of natural gas into Coos County will benefit the community in several ways. Natural gas is the preferred fuel of most industrial, commercial and residential utility energy users in the US because of low cost and clean combustion. Natural gas is produced domestically in the US and Canada, and long-term supply appears to be more secure than all other energy resources. Natural gas will allow existing Coos County energy users to operate more competitively, and is a critical key to any future economic growth.

We believe that the project as defined in the EIS will best utilize the public lands, power and road corridors to minimize impacts to the environment. We look forward to working with BLM to successful completion of this vital public works project.

Sincerely,
COOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Pete De Main
Chair


John Griffith
Vice-chair


Nikki Whitty
Commissioner

Summary

Summary

The Coos County Board of Commissioners is proposing to construct and operate and maintain a natural gas pipeline between Roseburg and Coos Bay, Oregon. This pipeline would begin at an existing natural gas pipeline a few miles south of Roseburg and terminate in the city of Coos Bay where a distribution facility would be built. This pipeline would be approximately 60 miles long and have a capacity of 70 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. The entire pipeline would be located within existing road and utility rights-of-way (ROW). Approximately 3.0 miles of the pipeline would cross lands within utility rights-of-way managed by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Coos County contracted three independent consulting corporations (Pipeline Solutions, Inc., Industrial Gas Service, Inc.) as professional advisors and (Biological Information Specialists, Inc.) for preparation of this environmental impact statement (EIS).

To gain easements on public and privately owned lands, the Coos County Board of Commissioners filed an application with the BLM for a perpetual and renewable right-of-way in May 2000, and filed an application with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for consent to construct portions of the natural gas line within BPA utility corridors in August 2000.

Coos County submitted an application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permission to construct the pipeline across streams and wetlands in November 2000.

Agency Roles and Decisions to be Made

Numerous agencies are involved in EIS preparation, consultation and permitting decisions for the pipeline project, as shown in Table S-1.

The Bureau of Land Management serves as Lead Agency. The Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, is mandated to process Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) applications across federal lands. Assuming the Record of Decision (ROD) selects the proposed action for construction of the pipeline, BLM will then issue authorization (right-of-way grant) under the MLA for use of federal lands.

Table S-1. Overview of Permit, Approval and Consultation Requirements for the Proposed Action

Agency	Permit/Authority
Federal Government	
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Record of Decision (ROD)/ Minerals Leasing Act: Title 1, Section 28 (c)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, November 16, 1973 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to grant or renew rights-of-way (ROW) or permits and to enter into agreements with other land-managing federal agencies for the processing of applications for pipelines to transport oil natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or refined products produced therefrom.
	Right-of-way (ROW Grant/Minerals Leasing Act)
	Notice to Proceed
	Consultation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)	Cooperating Agency
	Section 404
	Section 7 Permit
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Consultation and Concurrence
	Section 7/Endangered Species Act
All Land Owners Along the Pipeline ROW	
Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)	ROW and consent to build sections of a natural gas pipeline within BPA utility corridors
Private land owners	ROW ownership agreements

Need for Action

Lacking natural gas, cities within Coos County currently depend on electricity, heating oil, propane and wood for its fuel needs. In most cases, natural gas is more efficient and less expensive than electricity, oil or propane. In February 1999, ECONorthwest published a study forecasting the economic impacts of natural gas supplied to Coos County. ECONorthwest, forecasting the dynamic efficiency effect of the proposed action, estimates that by the tenth year, consumers will save over \$6.7 million a year. Coos County ballot measure #6-63 (November 1999) authorized funds for construction of a natural gas pipeline.

Purpose of the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to gain a perpetual or renewable right-of-way easement for the construction, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline across BLM-managed lands.

Alternatives Analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Proposed Action: Natural Gas Pipeline

The proposed action responds to the above-stated Purpose and Need by transporting natural gas from Roseburg, Oregon, to Coos Bay, Oregon, at a lower cost than other alternatives.

The proposed natural gas pipeline would originate at an existing Williams Gas pipeline just south of Roseburg, extend southwest for approximately 60 miles where it would terminate at a distribution facility that would be built in Coos Bay. The proposed action would include construction of pipeline laterals supplying natural gas to the communities of Coquille, Myrtle Point and possibly Bandon. The routes of these laterals are not yet finalized. Approximately 3.0 miles of the preferred pipeline route would cross BLM-managed lands within BPA utility ROW. The remainder of the pipeline would be located within the rights-of-way of the Coos Bay Wagon Road (CBW Road), other public roads and utility rights-of-way crossing privately owned properties. The pipeline would cross 188 streams and 1 wetland.

The pipeline would be a 12-inch diameter pipe, operating at a pressure from 500 to 800 pounds per square inch (psi). With the exception of line markers, test stations, bridge crossings and valve settings, the pipeline would be buried for its entire length.

No Action

For the purposes of this EIS the “No Action Alternative” is defined as the BLM would not grant Coos County a discretionary Right-of-Way permit for construction, operation and maintenance of the natural gas pipeline on lands administered by the BLM. Affects addressed in the EIS associated with the No Action Alternative assume that the present conditions remain as they currently exist, that is, the pipeline would not be constructed.

However, if the Proposed Action as described in the EIS is denied, Coos County will proceed with plans to construct, operate and maintain the natural gas pipeline within public roads and private easements included in the Proposed Action, avoiding crossing Federal land as necessary. Obtaining a right-of-way permit for crossing federal lands would not be necessary. Segments C, E and G of the described Proposed Action would be built, mostly in the Coos Bay Wagon Road. Approximately 86 percent of the proposed route would be built in the location described in the EIS Proposed Action. This re-route would result in the construction of approximately 4.0 additional miles of pipeline and cost an estimated \$2.3 million dollars more than the proposed action.

The Hwy 42 Alternative

This alternative would deliver natural gas from near Roseburg to Coos Bay by constructing a pipeline under or beside the road bed of Oregon Hwy 42 for approximately 83 miles. This route would cross sensitive wildlife areas and be located within difficult construction zones for approximately 7 miles. Construction would be more difficult due to the existing fiber optic cables buried on each side of the road. Construction along Hwy 42 would result in considerable traffic delays for an extended period of time.

This route would cross 209 streams and 9 wetlands. A route summary of environmental and economic impacts is given in Table S-2.

Table S-2. Impacts and Route Summary Including No Action

Alternative	Proposed Action	Hwy 42	No Action
Total length (miles)	59.1	82.7	63.1
Total stream crossings	188	209	188
Total wetlands crossed	1	9	1
Federally listed species	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Survey and Manage species	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Estimated Costs	\$34 million	\$48 million	\$36.3 million

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study

Alternatives to the proposed action that were determined not to meet the need included alternative sources of natural gas; Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Pacific Gas Transmission (PGT) and an alternative route following Hwy 38. All of these alternatives were rejected because they were not economically feasible.

Potential Impacts

Five categories were used to evaluate potential impacts to the natural and built environments: negative impact, no negative impact, no anticipated impact, no effect and beneficial impact. For the resources discussed in this EIS, potential impacts from construction and operation are estimated to be “negligible short-term” to “no effect.”

List of Acronyms Used Within this Document

ACEC	-	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACS	-	Aquatic Conservation Strategy
AD	-	Anno Domini
AMA	-	Adaptive Management Area
API	-	American Petroleum Institute
BA	-	Biological Assessment
BIS	-	Biological Information Specialists
BLM	-	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	-	Best Management Practice
BP	-	Before Present
BPA	-	Bonneville Power Administration
CBW	-	Coos Bay Wagon
CEQ	-	Council on Environmental Quality
CHU	-	Critical Habitat Unit
CFR	-	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	-	cubic feet per second
CNG	-	Compressed Natural Gas
CR	-	County Road
CSZ	-	Cascadia Subduction Zone
CWTD	-	Columbian White-Tailed Deer
DEQ	-	Department of Environmental Quality
DOT	-	Department of Transportation
EA	-	Environmental Assessment
ECA	-	Equivalent Clearcut Area
ECP	-	Erosion Control Plan
EIS	-	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	-	Environmental Protection Agency
ERMA	-	Extensive Recreation Management Area
ESA	-	Endangered Species Act (1973)
FLPMA	-	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FONSI	-	Finding of No Significant Impact
FSEIS	-	Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
GIS	-	Geographical Information System
GLO	-	General Land Office
ha	-	hectares

HUC	-	Hydrologic Unit Code
IDT	-	Inter-disciplinary Team
IMPLAN	-	Impact Analysis for Planning
km	-	kilometer
kV	-	kilovolt
Kw	-	Kilowatt
LNG	-	Liquefied Natural Gas
LRMP BO	-	Land Resource Management Plan Biological Opinion
LSR	-	Late Successional Reserve
LSOG	-	Late Successional-Old-Growth
LWD	-	Large Woody Debris
mi	-	miles
MAOP	-	Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure
MOP	-	Maximum Operating Pressure
NEPA	-	National Environmental Protection Act (1969)
NMFS	-	National Marine Fisheries Service
NRHP	-	National Register of Historic Places
NFP	-	Northwest Forest Plan
NTU	-	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
O&C	-	Oregon and California (land designation)
O&M	-	Operation and Maintenance
ODF	-	Oregon Department of Forestry
ODFW	-	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ODOT	-	Oregon Department of Transportation
OMP	-	Operation and Maintenance Plan
ONHP	-	Oregon Natural Heritage Program
OPUC	-	Oregon Public Utilities Commission
OSHA	-	Office of Safety and Health Administration
PDC	-	Project Design Criteria
PE	-	Polyethylene
POC	-	Port Orford Cedar
pH	-	Potential of Hydrogen
PP&L	-	Pacific Power and Light
psi	-	pounds per square inch
psig	-	pounds per square inch gauge
PUE	-	Public Utility Easement
RCYBP	-	Radiocarbon Years Before Present
RMP	-	Resource Management Plan

ROD	-	Record of Decision
ROW	-	Right-of-Way
SC	-	Species of Concern
SCADA	-	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SDP	-	Site Discovery Probes
SHPO	-	State Historic Preservation Office
SMYS	-	Standard Maximum Yield Strength
SWOCC	-	Southwest Oregon - Coos County
T&E	-	Threatened and Endangered
TMDL	-	Total Maximum Daily Load
T##S, R##W, Sec. ##	-	Township ## South, Range ## West, Section ##
USDI	-	United States Department of Interior
USFWS	-	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	-	United States Geological Service
VRM	-	Visual Resource Management
WA	-	Watershed Analysis
WAU	-	Watershed Analysis Unit

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