



NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FARMINGTON FIELD OFFICE ■ 1235 LA PLATA HWY ■ FARMINGTON NM 87401

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For Additional Information

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BLM Seeks Public Input on Mid-America Pipeline Company's Proposed Natural Gas Liquids Pipeline Project

FARMINGTON, New Mexico – An Environmental Analysis (EA) will be prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a proposed natural gas liquids pipeline project to analyze the potential impacts of granting rights-of-way and temporary use permits for 12 pipeline loop sections to be constructed by the Mid-America Pipeline Company (MAPL). Parallel sections of pipeline would total 202 miles along an 840-mile route between the Rock Springs Pump Station in Sweetwater County, in southwest Wyoming, and the Hobbs Pump Station in Gaines County, west Texas.

Three public meetings are currently scheduled to discuss the project. MAPL representatives will be on hand to present their proposal and answer questions. BLM representatives will also be on hand to discuss the environmental process to be used for assessing the proposal, because 12 of 23 pump stations that would be upgraded are on federal public lands. Meetings will be in an “open-house” format providing attendees an opportunity to view display materials and ask questions of the BLM, MAPL representatives, and the environmental contractor.

After a short presentation by each of these representatives, information, comments and concerns will be recorded at several topical stations located in the room. The meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

- Thursday, June 17, 2004, at the Comfort Inn, 1670 Sunset Drive, Rock Springs, WY; 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 29, 2004, at the Placitas Elementary School, 5 Calle De Carbon, Placitas, NM; 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 30, 2004, at the Best Western, Sally Port Inn and Suites, 2000 N. Main Street, Roswell, NM; 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



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If approved, the proposed pipeline upgrade would require construction spaced over an 18-month period and would operate continuously with a projected 50-year life. The pipelines would be 6 to 16 inches in diameter, buried, steel, and carry natural gas liquids. Existing ancillary facilities, including pump stations, would be expanded to have more capacity.

Individuals making written comments at the public meetings may request confidentiality. If individuals wish to withhold their name or street address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, they must state this definitively at the beginning of their written comments. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and for individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

More detailed information on the proposed project and a project map will be available at the public meetings, or can be found on the website at <http://www.nm.blm.gov>. The preliminary and the final EA, when completed, will also be available online.

The EA will address the proposed action and (at this time) one alternative. Other alternatives may be developed as necessary. Under the No Action alternative, the BLM and the Bureau of Indian Affairs would not issue a right-of-way grant for the project, and the project would not begin. The areas identified for the project would remain intact, in their current state, and the natural gas liquids would need to be transported by another method.

Public participation is encouraged throughout the public scoping period. Persons having issues, concerns, comments, or alternatives they would like to have addressed in the EA are invited to ask questions and provide oral or written comments at the public meetings. Comments received will be considered and evaluated during the analysis. Comment sheets will be available at the public meetings or online. Comments are **due on July 15, 2004** to the BLM's Farmington Field Office, 1235 La Plata Highway, Suite A, Farmington, NM 87401.

For further information contact Jerry Crockford, Project Manager, phone (505) 599-6333; cell phone (505) 486-4255; email at jcrockfo@blm.gov.