



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
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713/215-2000

April 8, 2021

Ms. Rebecca Albert
Environmental Group Manager
PADEP Regional Permit Coordination Office
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: REGIONAL ENERGY ACCESS EXPANSION PROJECT – LUZERNE, MONROE, BUCKS, NORTHAMPTON AND CHESTER COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA; CHAPTER 102 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL GENERAL PERMIT (ESCGP-3) PERMIT APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

Ms. Albert,

On March 26, 2021 Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco), indirectly owned by The Williams Companies, Inc. filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (Certificate) under Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and Part 157 of the Commissions regulations to construct, own, operate, and maintain the proposed Regional Energy Access Expansion Project (Project). The Project is an expansion of Transco's existing natural gas transmission system that will enable Transco to provide an incremental 829,400 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) of year-round firm transportation capacity from the Marcellus Shale production area in northeastern Pennsylvania (PA) to multiple delivery points along Transco's Leidy Line in PA, Transco's mainline at the Station 210 Zone 6 Pooling Point¹ in Mercer County, New Jersey (NJ) and multiple delivery points in Transco's Zone 6 in NJ, PA, and Maryland (MD). The Pennsylvania portion of the Project will consist of the following components:

- Approximately 22.3 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline partially collocated with Transco's Leidy Line A from milepost (MP) 0.00 to MP 22.32 in Luzerne County, PA (Regional Energy Lateral);
- Approximately 13.8 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline collocated with Transco's Leidy Line System from MP 43.72 to MP 57.50 in Monroe County, PA (Effort Loop);
- Addition of two gas-fired turbine driven compressor units with 63,742 nominal HP at ISO conditions and modification of three existing compressors at existing Compressor Station 515 in Luzerne County, PA to support the Project and to accommodate the abandonment and replacement

¹ A pooling point defines the aggregation of gas from multiple physical and/or virtual receipt points to a single physical or virtual point, and the disaggregation of gas from a single physical or virtual point to multiple physical and/or virtual delivery points.

of approximately 17,000 HP from five existing gas-fired reciprocating engine driven compressors and increase the certificated station compression by 46,742 HP;

- Uprate and rewheel two existing electric motor-driven compressor units at existing Compressor Station 195 in York County, PA to increase the certificated station compression by 5,000 HP and accommodate the abandonment of two existing gas-fired reciprocating engine driven compressors which total approximately 8,000 HP of compression. No earth disturbance is proposed at Compressor Station 195;
- Modifications at existing Compressor Station 200 in Chester County, PA;
- Modifications to three (3) existing pipeline tie-ins in PA (Hildebrandt Tie-in, Lower Demunds REL Tie-in, and Carverton Tie-in);
- Addition of regulation controls at an existing valve setting on Transco's Mainline "A" in Bucks County, PA (Mainline A Regulator);
- Modifications at the existing Delaware River Regulator in Northampton, PA;
- Contractual changes (no modifications) at four (4) existing delivery meter stations in PA (Lower Mud Run Meter Station, Post Road Meter Station, Marcus Hook Meter Station, Ivyland Meter Station)
- Additional ancillary facilities, such as mainline valves (MLVs), cathodic protection, communication facilities, internal inspection device (e.g., pig) launchers and receivers, existing, improved, and new access roads and contractor yards/staging areas in PA.

Transco is submitting an Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP-3) for review under Chapter 102 of the Pennsylvania Code for the proposed Regional Energy Access Expansion Project. An online submission of the ESCGP-3 Permit package has been uploaded to the PADEP OnBase file sharing service. Each county has been sent copies of the applicable sections of the ESCGP-3 application that pertains to their county. The county submittals include necessary Erosion and Sediment Control Plan review fees, as it relates to each county. The Notice of Intent (NOI) filing fee of \$500 and the disturbed acre fee of \$69,000 has been separately mailed to your attention. Two checks made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Clean Water Fund" are enclosed herein.

Regulatory Background/Proposed Project Timeline

Transco's operations and the location of its facilities are subject to exclusive federal jurisdiction under the NGA (15 U.S.C. 717-171z). The facilities being constructed are "interstate natural gas pipeline facilities" which are subject to the regulatory authority of FERC and of the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The regulatory authority of FERC derives from the provisions of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), 15 U.S.C. §717, et seq., and the regulatory authority of the PHMSA derives from the Pipeline Safety Act, 49 U.S.C. §60101, et seq. State or local regulation of the location and construction of these facilities is preempted.²

² *Schneidewind v. ANR Pipeline Co.*, 485 U.S. 293 (1988) (U.S. Supreme Court held that FERC has exclusive authority over the "rates and facilities" of interstate gas pipelines). *National Fuel Gas Supply Corp. v. Public Service Commission of New York*, 894 F.2d 571, 578-79 (2d Cir. 1990) (Court holding that the regulation of the "facilities" of interstate gas pipelines encompasses a site-specific environmental review by FERC). *NE Hub Partners, L.P. v. CNG Transmission Corp.*, 239 F.3d 333, 346 n.13, 348 (3d Cir. 2001) (Court holding that where FERC considers an issue prior to issuing a certificate, any state or local regulation on that issue is preempted).

FERC is the designated lead agency for the Project for purposes of coordinating all applicable Federal authorizations and for the purposes of complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 15 U.S.C. § 717n(b)(1). The Natural Gas Act requires each federal and state agency considering an aspect of an application for a Federal authorization to cooperate with FERC and comply with the deadlines established by FERC, 15 U.S.C. § 717n(b)(2). The purpose of this is to “ensure expeditious completion” of the review of all Federal authorization applications, 15 U.S.C. § 717n(c)(1). In accordance with FERC’s regulations, each Federal or State agency responsible for a Federal authorization, must file with FERC within 30 days of the date of receipt of a request for a Federal authorization notice of, among other things, whether the application is ready for processing, and if not, what additional information or materials will be necessary to assess the merits of the request., 18 C.F.R. § 385.2013. Each Federal or State agency must also provide, within 30 days of the date of receipt of a request for a Federal authorization, notice to FERC of the anticipated date of the agency’s final decision, 18 C.F.R. § 385.2013.

Subject to FERC approval of the Project and receipt of the necessary permits and authorizations, Transco anticipates that construction of the Project will commence in the third quarter of 2022 to meet a target in-service date of in the fourth quarter of 2023.

It is our hope that the information as provided will allow you to complete your review in accordance with your regulations and issue the requested ESCGP-3 permit in alignment with the proposed schedule. If you require any additional information that will facilitate your review, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Olson at (713) 215-4232 or at Karen.Olson@williams.com, or Josh Henry at (412) 787-4277 or at Josh.Henry@williams.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Dean", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph Dean
Manager, Environmental Health and Safety