



Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

**Requirement J-1
Project Description Narrative**

Regional Energy Access Expansion Project – Effort Loop

April 2021

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1. General Project Description

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco), indirectly owned by the Williams Companies, Inc. (Williams) is seeking authorization from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations, to construct, own, operate, and maintain the proposed Project facilities associated with the 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 Point in Mercer County, New Jersey (NJ) and multiple delivery points in Transco's Zone 6 in NJ, PA, and Maryland. Subject to FERC's certification of the Project and receipt of the necessary permits and authorizations, Transco anticipates construction of the Project to start in third quarter 2022 to meet a proposed in-service date of December 1, 2023.

1.1 Effort Loop

The Effort Loop component of the Project will consist of approximately 13.8 miles of 42-inch pipeline co-located with existing Transco Leidy Lines between Mileposts 43.72 and 57.50 in Ross, Chestnuthill and Tunkhannock Townships, Monroe County. The new pipeline will tie-in to the existing 42-in Leidy Line "D" on both ends, completing the segment. With the segment completed, the existing pig traps (industry term for manifolds that launch or receive in-line inspection tools) at both tie-ins will no longer be needed and will therefore be removed, while the existing mainline valves will remain. Transco will be installing a new mainline valve and appurtenant equipment at Milepost 49.6 off of Sugar Hollow Road. The valve installation is a means to isolate gas flows. One Contractor Yard is proposed at the east end of the pipeline at MP 43.72. One remote anode groundbed is proposed at MP 43.72.

Unavoidable impacts to wetlands, streams and floodways are necessary to construct the proposed Effort Loop. Dry open-cut construction methodology will be utilized within all but one resource crossing. A conventional bore is being proposed at one location due to the location of an adjacent roadway. Disturbed wetland, streams and floodways within the right-of-way will be returned to pre-construction grade and contour upon completion of construction.

2. Project Purpose and Need

Transco proposes to construct and operate the Project facilities to provide an incremental 829,400 Dth/d of year-round firm transportation capacity from the Marcellus Shale production areas in northeastern PA to Transco's mainline at the Station 210 Zone 6 Pooling Point in Mercer County, NJ, and multiple delivery points along Transco's mainline and Marcus Hook and Trenton Woodbury Laterals in NJ, PA, and MD. To subscribe the proposed firm transportation capacity under the Project, Transco conducted an open season for the Project capacity from March 8, 2019 through May 8, 2019, a supplemental open season from April 28, 2020 to May 28, 2020, and a reverse open season from April 24, 2020 to May 25, 2020. Another supplemental open season is expected in May 2021 for new capacity not previously offered, consistent with FERC policy to solicit bids that became available under the Project. However, Project volumes, paths and facilities for this Project will remain unchanged as the shipper has agreed to reallocate volumes if other parties bid via the open season. As a result of those offerings, Transco is proposing to construct facilities to provide 829,400 Dth/d of firm transportation capacity by December 1, 2023. Transco has executed long-term, binding precedent agreements for all of the capacity with eight shippers, which together combine for a commitment of firm capacity of 829,400 Dth/d. These agreements are included in the Certificate Application. Placing the Project facilities in service by December 1, 2023 is required to meet the firm transportation service requirements of the Project shippers. As detailed in the Certificate Application, the Project does not rely on subsidization from existing customers.

The Project will provide Transco's customers and the markets they serve with greatly enhanced access to Marcellus Shale supply, therefore, further diversifying fuel supply access. Currently, access to the Marcellus Shale production area is constrained on peak days by limited pipeline take-away capacity. By increasing gas supply access along Transco's existing Leidy Line, the Project will support overall reliability and diversification of energy infrastructure in the Northeast. Moreover, the Project will benefit the public by promoting competitive markets and enhancing the security of natural gas supplies to major delivery points serving the Northeast. As detailed in the Certificate Application, the Project will not adversely affect service to Transco's existing customers, or other pipelines and their captive customers, and supports diversification of supply in the Northeast.

A review of the Annual Energy Outlook 2021 (Energy Information Administration 2021) reference case indicates that natural gas consumption will rise from 33.43 trillion cubic feet (Tcf)

in 2020 to 39.75 Tcf in 2040 and will continue to grow to 42.79 Tcf in 2050. Therefore, Transco’s proposal is consistent with expected market demand and the needs expressed in Transco’s binding precedent agreements that have been executed for this additional capacity. As such, the Project is also fully consistent with the Commission’s Statement of Policy on the Certification of New Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities.

As detailed in the Certificate Application, Transco is taking the necessary steps to minimize adverse impacts on landowners and surrounding communities. Transco has minimized potential environmental impacts by collocating the proposed pipelines with existing ROWs to the extent practicable; in total, approximately 78% of the proposed pipelines will be collocated with existing and/or certificated ROWs. Transco already has obtained one hundred percent of the survey permissions needed for the proposed Project, and will work diligently with landowners to enter into agreements for acquisition of rights of way.

**Table 1.1-1
 Transco’s Customers and Transportation Capacity Subscribed to the Project**

Shipper	Transportation Contract Quantity
PECO Energy Company	100,000 Dth/d
Elizabethtown Gas Company	30,000 Dth/d
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company	40,000 Dth/d
South Jersey Gas Company	25,000 Dth/d
PSEG Power, LLC	60,000 Dth/d
South Jersey Resources Group, LLC	71,400 Dth/d
New Jersey Natural Gas Company	353,000 Dth/d
Williams Energy Resources	150,000 Dth/d
Key: Dth/d = dekatherms per day	

3. Water Dependency

Based on the Project purpose and need presented above, the Effort Loop Project was sited, to the extent practicable, to avoid and minimize impacts to surrounding resources. Wetland and watercourse delineations for the Project were conducted in 2020 (Requirement L-3, Module 2, Appendix S2-1). During the delineation, thirty-three wetlands (with multiple Cowardin classifications) and fourteen streams were identified and delineated within the investigation area.

Pursuant to 25 Pa. Code § 105.18(a)(2) PADEP determines on a case by case basis whether linear infrastructure projects are water dependent based upon whether wetland, stream and floodway crossings are unavoidable. Due to the linear nature of this 13.8-mile Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulated interstate pipeline project, the route unavoidably crosses wetlands, streams and floodways; therefore, PADEP would be justified in determining pursuant to its regulations that the Project is water dependent. In total, the Effort Loop will cross/impact nine streams and associated floodways (three floodway only) and eighteen wetlands. Wetland, stream and floodway Impacts associated with the Project are provided in the PADEP Aquatic Resource Impact Table provided in Requirement J-2 of this application, and are also depicted on Chapter 105 Impact Plans provided in Requirement H.

4. Public Health, Safety, and the Environment

To minimize incidents, interstate natural gas pipeline facilities are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT's) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Standard 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 192 (49 CFR Part 192). These federal safety standards, together with pipeline-integrity management programs and recent advances in pipeline manufacture, construction, and inspection techniques, minimize the potential for pipeline failure. These measures include improved public awareness initiatives, such as the "811" call system, "Call Before You Dig," and other One Call programs intended to reduce third-party damage to underground utilities, including buried high-pressure natural gas pipelines.

Transco will follow standard operating procedures and regulations during installation of the Project. Safety is a common concern with respect to natural gas pipeline projects and associated compressor facilities. While the Commission has oversight in ensuring that aboveground facilities are safely constructed and installed, once the natural gas is flowing in the new facilities, the USDOT assumes oversight responsibility during the operational life of the pipeline and supporting appurtenances. The USDOT is also responsible for setting the federal safety standards for natural gas.

Transco will comply with, and in most cases exceed, the requirements of the USDOT, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and other applicable regulations, standards, and guidelines for safety. This will include compliance with applicable design standards and codes, construction provisions as mandated, and operation procedures and standards, such as the Pennsylvania, One Call system.

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The Effort Loop has been designed to minimize environmental impacts to the greatest extent practicable. Due to the linear nature of the Project, unavoidable impacts, mostly temporary in nature, to wetlands and waterbodies are proposed. The majority of wetland and stream crossings are located immediately adjacent to and within an existing right-of-way due to the Project being co-located to existing Transco pipelines. A summary table outlining the wetland, stream and floodway impacts associated with the Project are provided in the PADEP Aquatic Resource Impact Table provided in Requirement J-2 of this application, and are also depicted on Chapter 105 Impact Plans provided in Requirement H.

During construction, impacts to wetland areas will be minimized to the extent possible by employing the wetland construction procedures specified in the Project's Environmental Construction Plan (ECP) and within the approved Erosion and Sediment Control plans. The Project's ECP is modeled after the Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC) guidance and meets industry standards.

5. References

Cowardin LM, Carter V, Golet FC, LaRoe ET. 1979. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Pub. FWS/OBS-79/31, Washington, DC.

FERC Online eLibrary.
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The Pennsylvania Code. Title 25 Environmental Protection, Chapter 105. Water Quality Standards. (PACODE) Available online at:
[http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pacode?file=/secure/pacode/data/025/chapter105/chap105toc.html&d=Accessed on January 5, 2021](http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pacode?file=/secure/pacode/data/025/chapter105/chap105toc.html&d=Accessed%20on%20January%205%2C%202021)