

## CONSTITUTION PIPELINE

# **Constitution Pipeline**

Corporate Communications Williams 2800 Post Oak Blvd., Level 17 Houston, TX 77056

# **CONTACT US**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us anytime.

Toll-free hotline: 866-455-9103

E-mail: PipelineExpansion@williams.com

You may also call or write one of our land offices, located at:

# **Constitution Pipeline (Schenectady Project Office)**

PO Box 14139 Albany, NY 12213 518-982-1637

# **Constitution Pipeline (Binghamton Project Office)**

PO Box #340

Kirkwood NY 13795

# CONSTITUTION PIPELINE COMPANY



www.constitutionpipeline.com

# **Preliminary Survey Work Begins for Pipeline Project**

In June 2012 survey crews began conducting field studies in areas where survey permission had been obtained to gather data that will be used to potentially locate a new natural gas pipeline extending from northern Pennsylvania into New York.

Constitution Pipeline Company is in the preliminary stages of developing a new natural gas pipeline project designed to connect abundant Pennsylvania natural gas supplies with growing northeastern markets by spring 2015. The company is providing this newsletter to parties who may be affected or have an interest in the pipeline proposal.

The proposed pipeline project would start in Susquehanna County, Pa., and extend about 120 miles across parts of Broome, Chenango, Delaware and Schoharie Counties in New York, ending in Schoharie County, NY. The proposal also includes construction of a new compressor facility in Schoharie County.

In developing the primary proposed route, project engineers attempt to balance environmental and landowner considerations with the engineering requirements for safely constructing a transmission pipeline. These factors include topography, geography, environmental concerns, collocation with other linear development and constructability.

The current proposed route is part of a study corridor and is subject to change. The route attempts to maximize opportunities to co-locate with existing corridors while avoiding the watersheds and aqueduct tunnels. The proposed route avoids populated areas where possible,

while minimizing impacts to wetland, riparian and other high value wildlife habitat areas. The proposed route also minimizes river and stream crossings to reduce environmental impact.

In May 2012 Constitution Pipeline sent letters to about 1,000 property owners seeking permission to conduct ground surveys to gather information that can be used in developing the pipeline proposal. Initial ground surveys (environmental, cultural and civil surveys) began in June 2012, subject to landowner approval. The survey area consists of a study corridor about 600 feet wide. All information collected during these surveys will be used to help determine the best location for the proposed pipeline facilities.

"It's important that landowners allow us to survey so that we can identify existing buried infrastructure or other potential issues that might not be visible from the air," said Project Manager Matt Swift. "Buried infrastructure like septic lines, drain tiles, and electric lines are important for us to identify so we can make good decisions about pipeline routing."

The survey process involves several steps. Generally, each property will be visited by various specialists in land, engineering and environmental sciences. These may or may not be concurrent visits but should not last longer than one or two days each. Some properties may need to be revisited to obtain additional data.

Vehicular traffic will be confined to existing roads and access ways. After the survey teams are finished, property owners may see survey stakes and/or ribbon tied to fences or vegetation. These markers are



Survey crews representing Constitution Pipeline are in the process of gathering civil, cultural and environmental field data.

necessary to maintain a line of sight for the areas that have been surveyed and are not necessarily an indication of the pipe's proposed location.

In areas where brush or tall grass is encountered, crews may need to cut some of this vegetation to maintain the line of sight. Some minor surface disturbance may be required with hand tools to collect soil samples.

"Our survey crews will take every precaution to ensure there is no damage or disruption of the property owner's daily activities," added Swift. "We don't want to inconvenience them, but it is important we have an opportunity to build a dialogue with them so that we can identify and address potential routing issues that may be present."

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### PRELIMINARY PROJECT SCHEDULE April 2012 Pre-filing process begins June 2012 Ground surveys begin July 2012 Open Houses and Informational Meetings Fall 2012 Begin easement negotiations 2013 Submit 7(c) application to FERC January 2014 April Proposed construction start 2015 March Target in-service

PRELIMINARY PROJECT SCOPE			
Facility Type	Length (Miles)	County	State
30-inch diameter natural gas pipeline	22.7	Susquehanna	PA
	15.2	Broome	NY
	8.7	Chenango	NY
	43.3	Delaware	NY
	30.7	Schoharie	NY
Compressor Station (32,000 hp)		Schoharie	NY

# **Survey Work**

(continued from front)

Before interstate natural gas pipelines such as Constitution can be constructed, pipeline companies must apply for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), in addition to various state and local permits.

Constitution Pipeline Company has not yet filed a formal application with FERC, but in April 2012 the company requested that FERC initiate a preapplication environmental review of the project (called a pre-filing). The FERC pre-filing process is designed to allow applicants and FERC to consult with stakeholders including landowners, local officials and permitting agencies to identify potential issues associated with the proposed project before the company finalizes its project design and files its formal application with FERC. FERC has assigned a pre-filing docket number: PF12-9.

All documents and correspondence submitted to or issued by the FERC regarding the proposed Constitution Pipeline project can be accessed by referencing this docket number on the FERC website located at www.ferc.gov.

Constitution Pipeline Company is committed to working with landowners, as well as local, state and federal agencies, to design and construct the project in a manner that minimizes environmental and landowner impacts. The company is also committed to extensive public outreach in advance of submitting our application to the FERC.

Prior to any formal application to construct facilities in your area, Constitution will provide you and other interested parties an opportunity to review the proposal and provide comments at a series of public meetings that will be held along the proposed pipeline route. Your input is important and can help shape the final project scope.

# Closer Look:

# The Federal Regulatory Process

FERC is responsible for determining whether or not proposed interstate pipeline projects are in the public interest. The information below explains FERC's review process for the planned project, and how you can get involved in the process.

# **FERC Pre-Filing**

Before a pipeline company obtains authorization to construct an interstate transmission pipeline, the company must first file a detailed project plan with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This plan is formally called an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (Certificate Application).

The Certificate Application is a comprehensive document that describes the proposed project, its need and potential environmental impacts.

When a pipeline company like Constitution Pipeline Company is ready to begin preparing its Certificate Application, it typically initiates what is known as the FERC pre-filing process. The pre-filing process is designed to encourage involvement by citizens, government entities and other interested parties during the design stage of a proposed project.

As part of this process, Constitution Pipeline Company will host a series of public workshops in the areas potentially affected by the proposal. Representatives from FERC normally participate in these meetings, as well. FERC may also hold public scoping meetings in the project area.

Once the pre-filing process begins, all documents and correspondence submitted to or issued by FERC regarding the project can be accessed by referencing the Docket Number on FERC's website: http:// elibrary.ferc. gov/. A docket number is assigned to the project during prefiling and a separate docket number is assigned when the certificate application is filed. For this project, information is aggregated by FERC under docket number PF12-9. The subsequent docket number will be assigned when Constitution Pipeline makes its Certificate Application.

# **FERC Filing**

Constitution Pipeline Company anticipates filing its Certificate Application for the pipeline project in early 2013.

Among other things, the Certificate Application contains a description of the new facilities, need for the project, detailed maps, schedules, and various environmental reports. This information details the various studies and analyses that have been conducted to determine what effect construction and operation could potentially have on the environment and community.

The environmental reports include an analysis of route alternatives, as well as an analysis of potential impacts to water resources, vegetation and wildlife, cultural resources, socioeconomics, soils, geology and land use.

When the Certificate Application is filed and a Certificate Proceeding (CP) docket number is assigned, a copy of the application will be made available for viewing at local public libraries, as well as via FERC's website by referencing the project's docket number.

# **Environmental Evaluation**

FERC will prepare an environmental evaluation using information included in Constitution Pipeline's Certificate Application, supplemental information that may be provided by Constitution upon request, information assembled by FERC staff, as well as information provided by state and federal agencies and the public. The evaluation will describe the proposed project and alternatives, as well as identify existing environmental conditions and potential impacts from the project.

The evaluation also will indicate what mitigation measures, construction procedures, and routing could be included in the project to eliminate or reduce impacts FERC's environmental document will be mailed to federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; affected landowners; other interested parties and newspapers. FERC will establish a public comment period to provide ample time for the public to review the evaluation. Once the comment period ends, FERC will address any comments in the final Order.

If FERC determines that the project is environmentally acceptable – and is satisfied the project is in the public interest – it will issue an Order granting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. FERC issues this document to signify that approval has been granted to build and operate the pipeline.

Comments received on the environmental evaluation are typically addressed by FERC in this document. The certificate will detail the conditions of the approval, including the final route FERC has authorized, and construction and mitigation measures Constitution Pipeline must follow.

# **Comments to FERC**

When providing comments to the FERC, you should reference Docket Number PF12-9 or the CP docket number assigned when the certificate application is filed.

Comments may be filed via the Internet on the FERC's website – www.ferc.gov. To do so, click on the Quick Comment link. The FERC website also contains additional information about getting involved in the regulatory process under the Citizens tab.

You may send written comments to the FERC at:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A Washington, DC 20426

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