

1 APPEARANCES:

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5 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. SWEARINGEN: Good evening. My name
3 is Dave Swearingen.

4 I'm an Environmental Project Manager
5 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or
6 FERC. With me tonight is J. H. Rumpt with TRC, an
7 environmental consulting firm that will be
8 assisting us in our environmental analysis in the,
9 the back.

10 U.S. Bureau of Land Management is a
11 cooperating agency for the preparation of the
12 Environmental Impact States, which I'll refer to as
13 an EIS, and Tom Hurshman from the BLM is here with
14 us, and also Patricia Hamilton.

15 And any other BLM people?

16 (Whereupon, no response was had.)

17 MR. SWEARINGEN: On behalf of the FERC,
18 I want to welcome all of you here tonight. Let the
19 Record show that the Rock Springs scoping meeting
20 began at 7:35 p.m. on April twenty-fourth, 2006.

21 The purpose of this meeting is to give
22 you the opportunity to provide environmental
23 comments, specifically on Questar Overthrust's
24 proposed project. Overthrust entered into the FERC
25 pre-filing process on March twenty-ninth, 2006,

1 through which we are beginning to review of the
2 facilities that we refer to as the Wamsutter
3 Expansion Project.

4 The FERC has determined that the
5 facilities proposed by Overthrust are necessary
6 supporting components of the overall Rockies
7 Express Pipeline Project, and should be evaluated
8 in the EIS currently under preparation for Rockies
9 Express EIS.

10 So, the environmental analysis for the
11 Overthrust Project will have been in the Rockies
12 Express EIS. The main facilities Overthrust are
13 considering are about 77 miles of 36-inch-diameter
14 pipeline and two new compressor stations in Lincoln
15 and Sweetwater Counties, Wyoming.

16 Some of this crosses BLM land, which is
17 why the BLM is acting as a cooperating agency. In
18 a little while I'll ask a representative from
19 Questar to take the floor to present a more
20 detailed project description.

21 He will be able to answer some of your
22 questions regarding the project, and will be
23 available for you to catch him in the back of the
24 room after the formal meeting is closed of. Right
25 now I'm going to talk a little bit about the

1 scoping process and public involvement in FERC
2 projects in general.

3 The main FERC docket number for the
4 Wamsutter Expansion Project is PF06-19-000. The
5 "PF" means that we are in the pre-filing stage of
6 the process.

7 Once Overthrust files a formal
8 application with the FERC, a new docket number will
9 be assigned. The National Environmental Policy Act
10 requires that the Commission take into
11 consideration the environmental impacts associated
12 with new natural gas facilities.

13 "Scoping" is a general term for
14 soliciting input from the public before the
15 environmental analysis is conducted. The idea is
16 to get information from the public, as well as
17 agencies and other groups, so that we can
18 incorporate issues of concern into our review.

19 For this project, the official scoping
20 period ends on May 5. However, the end of the
21 scoping period is not the end of public
22 involvement.

23 There will be additional points along
24 the process for public input. Scoping is just the
25 first step.

1 Our scoping process for the Overthrust
2 project started earlier this month when we issued
3 our Notice of Intent, or NOI, to prepare an
4 Environmental Impact Statement. We have extra
5 copies of the NOI at the table in the back if you
6 need one, and you can put your name on our Mailing
7 List if you are not already on it.

8 The first step in the process of
9 preparing an EIS is to determine which
10 environmental resource issues are most important to
11 you. Your comments and concerns, along with all
12 the other people and agencies who have been asked
13 to participate in this process, will be used to
14 focus our environmental analysis.

15 Your comments tonight, together with any
16 written comments you have already filed or intend
17 to file, will be added to the Record as comments on
18 the environmental proceeding. So, we then take
19 your comments and other information and work on our
20 independent analysis of the project's potential
21 impacts.

22 We will publish those findings in a
23 Draft EIS, which will be mailed out to all people
24 on our mailing list, and will be publicly Noticed
25 for comments. Please note that because of the size

1 of the mailing list, the mailed version of the
2 Draft EIS will be on a CD-ROM.

3 That means that unless you tell us
4 otherwise, the Draft EIS that you will find in your
5 mailbox will be on a CD-ROM. If you prefer to have
6 a hard copy mailed to you, you must indicate that
7 choice on the return mailer attached to the NOI.

8 Or, you can fill it out and hand it in
9 at the sign-in table before you leave. During the
10 EIS comment period, we will hold public meetings
11 for additional comments on the Draft EIS.

12 We will then continue our analysis and
13 incorporate public comments into the Final EIS,
14 which will also be mailed to all interested
15 parties. Now I want to differentiate between the
16 roles of the FERC Commission and of the FERC
17 Environmental Staff.

18 The Commission is responsible for making
19 a determination on whether to issue a Certificate
20 of Public Convenience and Necessity to Questar
21 Overthrust. The EIS prepared for, the EIS prepared
22 by the FERC Environmental Staff does not make that
23 decision.

24 In general, an EIS describes the project
25 facilities and associated environmental impact,

1 alternatives to the project, mitigation to avoid or
2 reduce impacts, and our conclusions and
3 recommendations. So, the EIS is used to advise the
4 Commission and to disclose to the public the
5 environmental impact of constructing and operating
6 the proposed project.

7 The Commission will consider the
8 environmental information from the EIS, public
9 comments, as well as a host of nonenvironmental
10 issues such as engineering, markets, rates,
11 finances, tariffs, and design and cost, in making
12 an informed decision on whether or not to approve
13 the project. Only after taking the environmental
14 and nonenvironmental factors into consideration
15 will the Commission make its final decision on
16 whether or not to approve the project.

17 Are there any questions about the
18 scoping process or the FERC role in this
19 proceeding?

20 (Whereupon, no response was had.)

21 MR. SWEARINGEN: Okay, that's my
22 overview on FERC's role. Next on the Agenda is a
23 project overview by Questar, and Jerry Gross from
24 Questar will be making that presentation.

25 MR. GROSS: Again, I'm Jerry Gross with

1 Questar Pipeline Company, which most of you know.
2 And appreciate you coming out.

3 I'm with Questar Pipeline Company,
4 representing Questar Overthrust Pipeline Company,
5 which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Questar
6 Pipeline. And Mr. Swearingen has invited us to
7 briefly describe the project for you folks.

8 And maybe, again, some of, of it's known
9 to you. It's approximately 77 miles of
10 36-inch-diameter pipe going from its terminus near
11 Kanda, just west of Rock Springs, Wyoming, over to
12 Wamsutter, or the Wamsutter area in Sweetwater
13 County, Wyoming.

14 Along with the pipeline there's also two
15 new compressor stations proposed. The first one
16 will be at Robison Creek in Lincoln County,
17 Wyoming, with approximately 26,000 horsepower of, I
18 guess -- I'm not sure how that abbreviation goes,
19 ISO.

20 I think that's at sea level. Okay.

21 And the other compressor station is at
22 Kanda, is at Kanda, again, just outside Rock
23 Springs, with 15,000 horsepower ISO. Along with
24 that there will be a repeat point and metering
25 facilities at the interconnect, with a couple of

1 processing points in Opal, Lincoln County, Wyoming.

2 Also will involve new delivery point
3 facilities at the Wamsutter interconnects with
4 Integra. I think it's Rockies Express.

5 And the overall capacity of the pipeline
6 will be 750,000 decatherms per day. We're
7 projecting an in-service date of January 31, 2007.

8 And in terms of continuing with that,
9 the project route pretty much follows existing
10 pipeline corridors, and parallels closely the
11 Wyoming interstate system. We are hoping to begin
12 construction by May 1 of 2007.

13 And, again, as already referenced,
14 Overthrust is using a pre-file process, and the
15 Docket Number is PF06 dash-19 dash -000.

16 Here's a map. It's probably not as good
17 a map as you have on the back wall here, but it
18 briefly shows the location of the facilities.

19 Off the left you'll see the Robison
20 Creek compressor ID'd with the red icon there, and
21 the other compressors at Rock Springs, and then the
22 new 77 miles of pipeline extending from Rock
23 Springs area over to the Wamsutter area.

24 Does that look okay up there? Can you
25 see it pretty good?

1 A SPECTATOR: Um-hum.

2 MR. GROSS: And here's just a
3 diagrammatic rendering of it to make it a little
4 bit easier to see how that will work and how the
5 gas will flow from the Opal area down through the
6 existing facilities and to the new. So, some
7 background.

8 Marketing and open seasons was held from
9 October twenty-fifth through November 17 of 2005,
10 to solicit interest in the project. Overthrust has
11 entered into two new firm Agreements for 750,000
12 decatherms of capacity with terms of 20 years and
13 twelve years.

14 Overall, the initial assessment of the
15 land use, about 44 percent of the route is on BLM
16 land, and about 54 percent is on private. And the
17 State of Wyoming represents about two percent of
18 that usage.

19 And to give people flavor for the
20 timeline, --

21 And, Mr. Swearingen, maybe you've seen a
22 similar diagram, or kind of a timeline to get a
23 flavor of what we're shooting for, goals. But we
24 started the pre-filing process, and what we're
25 hoping to do, is since the initial consultation,

1 shooting for receiving a Certificate somewhere
2 around in March of 2007, with the goal of
3 ultimately beginning construction -- I'm -- yeah,
4 in May of 2007.

5 And, again, our target in-service date
6 is December 31, 2007. And that concludes the slide
7 show presentation, and if there are any questions,
8 we have people here from our Right-of-Way
9 Department, Todd Cassidy (phonetic) and Dave
10 Inglesby.

11 We also have people representing our
12 environmental, Environmental Engineering area, Mark
13 Stewart (phonetic), and also our construction, with
14 Luke Davis. And I know you guys have many
15 questions here.

16 Thank you. Give it back to Dave.

17 MR. SWEARINGEN: Thank you, Jerry.

18 Okay, just, a quick clarification. At
19 one point Jerry had mentioned that Questar was
20 hoping to be in service by January thirty-first,
21 2007, and that was --

22 MR. GROSS: December.

23 MR. SWEARINGEN: Yeah. Just -- Correct.
24 So, just for the Record, make sure that the
25 requested in-service, or anticipated in-service

1 would be December thirty-first of 2007.

2 Like Jerry said, after, after the
3 meeting here is adjourned, Questar representatives
4 will be available for you to speak with them
5 individually if you need to.

6 Okay, now we move into the part of the
7 meeting where we will hear comments from audience
8 members. Comments can be presented tight, they can
9 be presented electronically, or sent into the FERC
10 as, as written submissions.

11 It doesn't matter how you get the
12 comments to me. They're all treated with the equal
13 weight, regardless of, of the, the way that they of
14 submitted.

15 So, is there anybody here tonight
16 available to, that wishes to make any comments?

17 (Whereupon, no response was had.)

18 MR. SWEARINGEN: Okay. If not, the
19 formal part of this meeting will close.

20 Anyone wishing to purchase a copy of the
21 Transcript in less than ten days should make those
22 arrangements with the transcriber. The Transcript
23 will be available on the FERC web site after that
24 at no charge.

25 Within our web site is a listening

1 called "e-Library." The web site is www.FERC,
2 F-E-R-C, dot-gov.

3 You click on "e-Library," and then you
4 type in the docket number, again which is P-,
5 PF06-19-000. You can use e-Library to gain access
6 to everything on the Record concerning this
7 project, as well as all the filings and information
8 submitted by Overthrust.

9 If you are interested in the overall
10 Rockies Express Pipeline Project, that docket
11 number is PF-06-3-000.

12 On behalf of the Federal Energy
13 Regulatory Commission, I want to thank you all for
14 coming here tonight. Let the Record show that the
15 meeting concluded at 7:47 p.m.

16 Thank you.

17 (Whereupon, at 7:49 p.m. MT, the above
18 Hearing was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, D. I. Bunn, a Registered Professional Reporter, Certified Conference Reporter, and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony was duly taken and reduced to writing before me at the place and time therein mentioned. I further certify that I am neither related to any of the parties by blood or marriage, nor do I have any interest in the outcome of the above matter.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, at Rock Springs, Wyoming, USA, this 24th day of April, 2006.

E-signature: D. I. Bunn

Notary Public

My Commission expires January 5, 2007.