

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-LaSal  
National Forest

Price Ranger District  
599 West Price River Dr.  
Price, Utah 84501

RECEIVED  
JAN 22 1990

Reply to: 2720

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Date: January 17, 1990

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AFith  
J. Baza  
P.G. Littig  
L. Braxton*

Dr. Dianne R. Nielson, Director  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
Department of Natural Resources  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Dianne:

The Manti-LaSal National Forest is currently assessing a proposal by Questar Pipeline Company to reroute a 4.25 mile of their Mainline #41 gas transmission pipeline near Scofield, Utah. Three alternative routes on National Forest, State, and private lands, are being studied at this time.

Dames and Moore, a third party consulting firm is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under Forest Service direction, for the project. They have prepared a newsletter describing the current status of the project. To keep you informed, I am transmitting a copy of this document to you.

The Draft EIS is scheduled for completion with public review in mid-February. Please use the enclosed request form and return it by 2/2/90, if you would care to receive a copy. Public involvement is a very important part of our assessment process and I encourage you to review and comment on the Draft EIS.

If you know of others who may wish a copy of the Draft EIS or this newsletter, please let us know. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Walt Nowak at the above address or by calling (801) 637-2817. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Ira W. Hatch*

IRA W. HATCH  
District Ranger

Enclosure

# PIPELINE RELOCATION PROJECT AT SKYLINE MINE PROJECT UPDATE

January 1990

This second newsletter is to inform you of the status of Questar Pipeline Company's (Questar Pipeline) Main Line No. 41 Reroute Project. Questar Pipeline proposes to relocate a section of natural-gas-transmission pipeline located on the Manti-La Sal National Forest to avoid potential subsidence-caused damage from underground coal-mining activities at the Skyline Mine. The project area is located north of Electric Lake in Sanpete, Carbon, and Emery counties (refer to attached map). Construction of the pipeline is scheduled to begin in the Summer of 1990 and be completed in the Fall of 1990. The Forest Service serves as the lead Federal agency, in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management, to assure that the requirements of applicable Federal regulations are satisfied.

## BACKGROUND

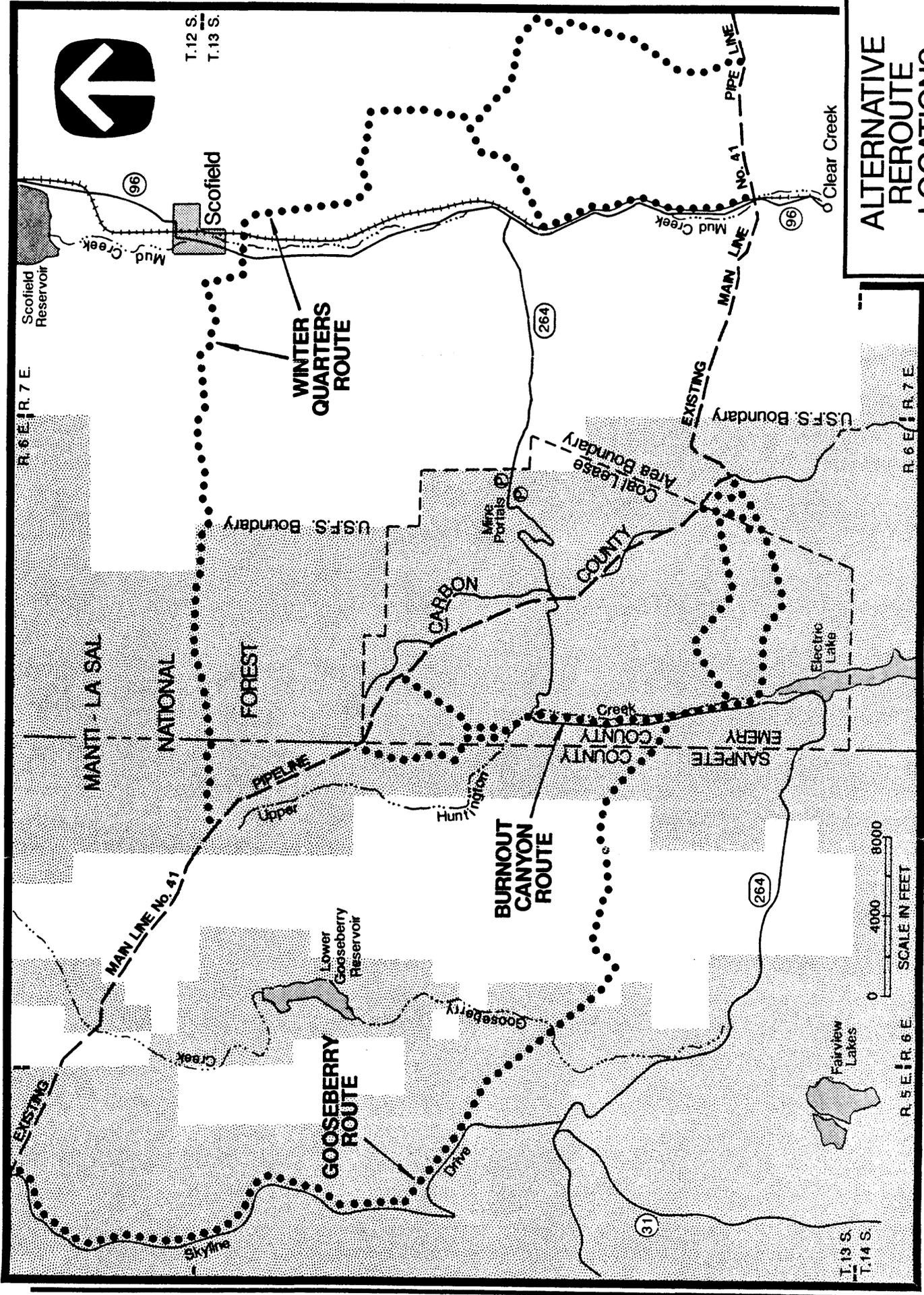
Questar Pipeline's southern natural-gas-transmission system extends from northwestern Colorado and through northeastern Utah to an interconnection at Payson, Utah. A substantial portion of the natural-gas supply for the Wasatch Front is transported within this southern system making proper operation of the system crucial. Since no "redundant" supply system exists, failure during periods of high demand would result in the disruption of service to Mountain Fuel Supply's 70,000 residential and commercial customers in the region consisting of Utah Valley south to St. George. A portion of Questar Pipeline's Main Line No. 41, an 18-inch-diameter, buried pipeline comprising the western segment of the southern gas-transmission system, currently traverses directly above the Skyline Mine on public land that is part of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The pipeline has been operated and maintained in that location since 1953.

The Skyline Mine is operated by Utah Fuel Company (Utah Fuel), a wholly owned subsidiary of Coastal States Energy Company, that holds the leases for the coal reserves in the area of the pipeline. And, in accordance with Forest Service requirements, Utah Fuel must protect, restore, or replace existing Forest Service-permitted surface uses of the lease area to provide for the continuance of current land uses whose utility may be lost or damaged as a result of underground mining activities.

There is an estimated 15 million tons of recoverable coal reserves below the pipeline. If Utah Fuel limits the extraction of the coal in order to protect the pipeline from subsidence, only one-third, or 5 million tons, of the coal could be mined; leaving a valuable resource unmined, impacting Utah Fuel's mining operation, and royalties (government and local revenues) would not be realized. If Utah Fuel extracts the coal as proposed (i.e., all 15 million tons), the mining activities would result in subsidence (approximately 30 feet) of the ground's surface and cause substantial damage to the pipeline. Questar Pipeline considered the possibility of installing a "redundant" pipeline, unanchored above ground in the existing right-of-way to serve as an auxiliary pipeline in the event of failure of Main Line No. 41. This system would require installation of a stress-monitoring system along the existing and redundant pipeline, substantial costs for maintenance and repair, and the affected portion of the existing pipeline would have to be replaced completely, one-to-three times during the course of the mining activities.

Because the coal industry and the Bureau of Land Management are mandated to maximize the recovery of mineable coal and Questar Pipeline cannot risk jeopardizing the reliability of its

# ALTERNATIVE REROUTE LOCATIONS



# PIPELINE RELOCATION PROJECT

## REQUEST FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Copies of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Main Line No. 41 Reroute Project will be available for review at the Manti-La Sal National Forest Office at:

599 West Price River Drive  
Price, Utah  
(801) 637-2817

However, if you would like to receive a copy of the draft Environmental Impact Statement to review, please so indicate below. For your name and address to be placed on the mailing list in sufficient time, it is important that this form be returned to us completed by February 2, 1990.

Do you wish to receive a copy of the draft environmental impact statement for this project?

Yes       No

Name DR. DIANNE P. NIELSON, DIRECTOR  
Organization UTAH DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & MINING  
Address 3 TRIAD CENTER, SUITE 350  
355 W. NORTH TEMPLE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84180-1203