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All of these alternatives are explained and evaluated in the Draft EIS.

**QUESTAR, WILLIAMS, KERN
RIVER PIPELINE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT
FEBRUARY 2001 UPDATE**

Project Overview

During the spring of 1999, the Williams Pipeline Company submitted an application to transport a variety of petroleum products from Northwestern New Mexico, through Western Colorado, and Utah using a network of existing and proposed underground pipelines. The Williams proposal includes conversion of an existing line from Bloomfield, New Mexico to Crescent Junction, Utah. A new line will be built from Crescent Junction to North Salt Lake, Utah. Simultaneously, Questar Pipeline Company (Questar) proposed to increase its system capacity by installing a new natural gas pipeline from Price to Payson, Utah and to build a pipeline to connect to an existing line in Lehi, Utah. Kern River Gas Transmission Company has also proposed to transport natural gas from field near Price, Utah to its existing pipeline facilities West of Nephi, Utah. The proposed alignments will require Amendments to the Forest Plans for the Uinta and Manti-LaSal National Forests.

Environmental Impact Statement

On April 28, 1999, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest (USFS) issued a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. Scoping meetings to identify issues were held in the spring of 1999 and 2000. Scoping meetings helped the BLM and Forest Service to identify the primary issues of concern over the pipeline routes. These issues have guided the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The primary issues identified include:

- Impacts to soils, aquatic and wildlife resources, drinking water supplies, and human health and safety from pipeline leaks and failures that cause the accidental release of petroleum products into the environment.
- Impacts to natural resources and human health and safety from pipeline leaks and failures that result in the accidental release of natural gas into the environment.
- Impacts to the character of Forest Service inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas.

Alternatives

Each proposed pipeline has an alignment, which is proposed by the applicant (proposed action). A number of alternative routes are also being explored in the EIS in an effort to minimize the environmental impact of the projects. They include:

- No Action
- Scofield Bypass Alternative
- Questar Southern Route
- Gooseberry Creek and Existing Utility Corridor Variations
- Existing Utility Corridor at Haystack Ridge

Opportunities for Comment

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled to be released the first week in March, 2001. Once the draft is published and mailed, there is a public comment period of 45 days. It is important that private citizens, representatives of industry, property owners and municipal/county and state governments participate in the review of the Draft EIS. Comments are important in the preparation of the final Environmental Document. The document will be used to make decisions on the proposed actions and to decide whether or not to amend Forest Plans.

You will receive an executive summary of the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will be available for review on the Project Website: www.qwk-eis.org. The executive summary will give a concise summary of the major issues, alternatives and environmental impacts. In addition, it will include maps of the proposed action and alternatives. The draft EIS will be a very comprehensive document with maps, tables and figures. It will describe in detail the major issues and environmental impacts and is expected to be approximately 300 pages in length.

As noted, you will receive the executive summary, however if you would like a hard copy of the document or a CD please return the attached postcard so that we receive it no later than February 20, 2001.

Opportunities for public comment will include:

- Public Information Sessions to be held in late March as follows:
 - March 14, 7 PM, Family Fitness Center
5415 West 3100 South, WestValley
City, Utah
 - March 19, 7 PM, Senior Citizens Center
450 East 100 North, Moab, Utah
 - March 20, 7 PM, Doubletree Inn
501 Camino Del Rio, Durango,
Colorado
 - March 20, 7 PM, Anasazi Heritage Center
27501 Highway 184, Dolores,
Colorado
 - March 21, 7 PM, Farmington Civic Center
200 West Arrington, Farmington,
New Mexico
 - March 27, 7 PM, Juab County High School
802 North 650 East, Nephi, Utah
 - March 28, 7 PM, Payson City Hall
439 West Utah Ave, Payson, Utah
 - March 29, 7 PM, Association of
Governments & Small Business
Development Center
375 South Carbon Ave, Price, Utah
- Send Written Comments to:
LaVerne Steah, Project Manager
BLM, Utah State Office
PO Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155
- Posted online at www.qwk-eis.org