

# BLM releases draft EIS on gas pipeline

The Bureau of Land Management has released for public review and comment the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Questar, Williams, Kern Pipeline Projects. The EIS addresses three separate pipeline proposals. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the United States Forest Service are participating in the QWK EIS as cooperating agencies. Amendments to the National Forest Management Plans for the Uinta, Manti-LaSal and San Juan National Forests are also considered in the EIS.

Three proponents (Williams Pipeline Company, Questar Pipeline Company and Kern River Gas Transmission Company) filed right-of-way applications with the BLM in 1998 and 1999 to construct and operate petroleum products and natural gas pipelines and ancillary facilities on federal lands in the states of New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah.

Williams Pipeline Company proposes to utilize an existing 10-inch pipeline from Bloomfield, New Mexico to Crescent Junction, Utah and to construct a new pipeline from Crescent Junction to the refineries of North Salt Lake. Existing pipelines would be converted from their current use - liquefied natural gases - to refined petroleum product.

From Crescent Junction, Utah, Williams proposes to construct a new 12 inch pipeline to Price, Utah, from which point the Williams project will follow one of the proposed alternatives and gas lines across the Manti-LaSal and Uinta National Forests to the Wasatch Front in Utah.

Questar Pipeline proposes to install a new 75 mile, 24-inch diameter natural gas loop (parallel) pipeline. The pipeline would cross portions of Carbon, Emery, Sanpete and Utah counties. In most places, the pipeline would be installed parallel to and within 25 feet of Questar's existing pipeline from Price to Payson. Beyond Payson, a new pipeline would continue due west through Goshen Valley south of Utah Lake, and terminate at a proposed interconnect with the existing Kern River pipeline near Elberta, Utah. In addition to the pipeline, Questar proposes to increase compression at its existing Oak Springs Compressor Station west of Price; and build a meter station, eight block valves and five delivery taps for the communities of Goshen, Genola and Elberta.

Kern River Pipeline proposes to construct an 82-mile, 20-inch diameter pipeline to transport natural gas from Price to an interconnect with the existing Kern River Pipeline System west of Nephi. Kern River proposes to follow approximately 38 miles of Questar's existing gas pipeline to Indianola.

Kern River then would build a new route from Indianola to west of Nephi.

To operate the pipeline, Kern River would construct a compressor station, a check meter station and mainline block valves.

BLM and USFS officials stated that they are committed to public involvement and coordination throughout the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of

Continued on PAGE 2A.

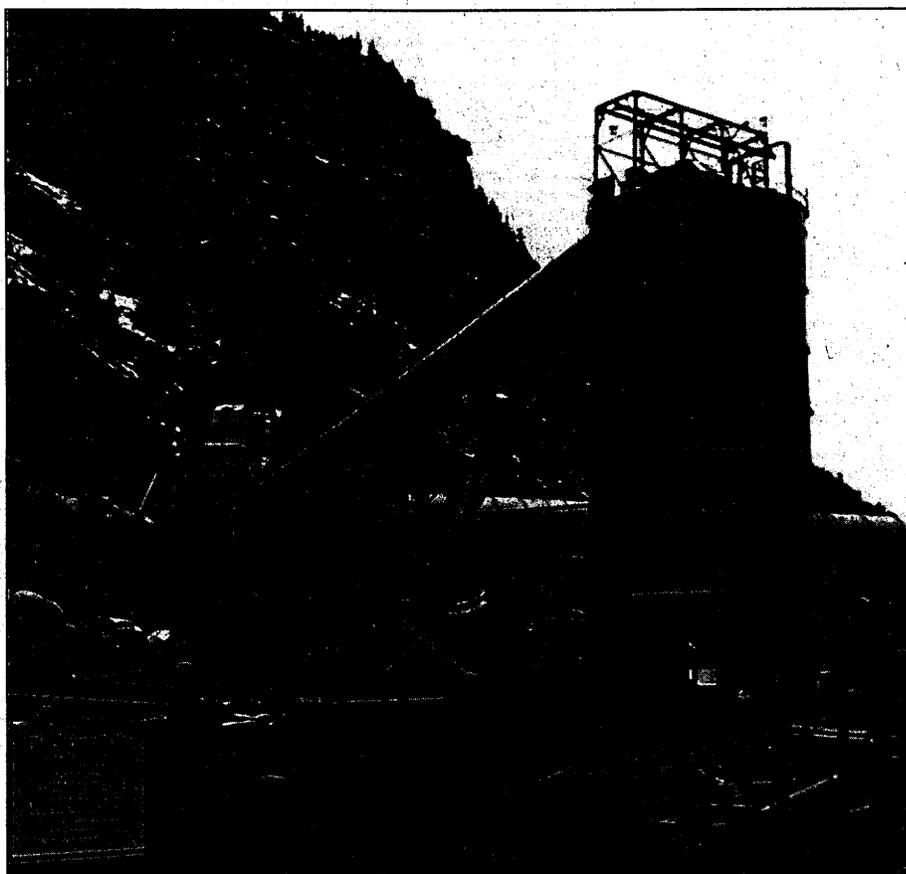


Photo by James L. Davis

Mining at Trail Mountain ended last week.

# End of the Trail

## Mine closes with last employees seeking transfers, early retirement, or taking advantage of severance pay

Trail Mountain Mine saw the end of its final shift last week as the mine closed and its employees were faced with the prospect of moving on.

Approximately 164 remaining employees of the mine were effected by the closure, according to Dave Eskelsen, spokesman for Utah Power. Many of those employees will transfer to the Cottonwood prep plant or Deer Creek Mine.

"Many employees are eligible for severance pay, early retirement or both. We don't know the exact number of employees who will take advantage of this offer," Eskelsen said.

The fallout from the mine's closure while harsh, is not as harsh as was first expected, according to Eskelsen.

"We originally announced that 200 people would lose their jobs, but that number will be significantly less than announced," he said.

The closure of the mine will not only have an immediate impact on the employees there, but for the truck drivers who transported the coal as well. Western Coal Carriers' 37 employees face the fact that their trucks are now idle and work will have to be found elsewhere. Thirteen of the truck drivers were laid off last week, according to a spokesperson at Western Coal Carriers. Three other drivers retired. The remaining employees will stay on hand until approximately March 23, removing the last of the coal as clean up at the mine is accomplished.

For the coal truck drivers the prospects of finding employment elsewhere is a harsh one. The average number of years with the company is 32.

With operations at Trail Mountain at an end, the closure process will begin. Equipment removal and closing the portal will take a number of months. "Closing the portal and other procedures should be done by June. A small crew will stay on to take care of this," Eskelsen said.

"Coal for the Hunter Plant will continue to come from Deer Creek Mine and Utah Power maintains a contract with Sufco. We will continue to purchase from other mines," Eskelsen said.

# County builds base of support to reintroduce San Rafael Bill

By JAMES L. DAVIS  
Editor, Emery County Progress

The Emery County Public Lands Council and county commissioners continue their efforts to build a coalition of support for the San Rafael Bill prior to its introduction to the House of Representatives.

County commissioners Drew Sitterud and Dan Johnson, as well as Keith Thompson

The San Rafael Bill was pulled late last year when county officials felt it had been amended to the point that it was no longer the bill Emery County residents had agreed to.

With a new year and a new administration the lands council has been looking to strip away the unfriendly amendments to the bill while keeping the coalition of support intact in the legislature.

CE  
E  
For see cou  
The Resou  
Divisik  
Lands  
The memb  
issues  
lands i  
tion.  
Men  
ests re  
ng an  
"Adv  
vide vi  
policy  
action  
Forest  
input i  
sted i  
ply."  
Adv  
pointe  
terms  
Inte  
dillon  
Spring  
stry, I  
5324.  
App  
sendir  
graphi  
Forestr  
tion Ji  
Templ  
Utah,  
Wor  
offe  
The surah  
Worki  
tage of  
The  
offere  
Sing  
ing ac  
option  
For  
emplo  
1,748

