

The OPS Project Review Team carefully reviewed Phillips's proposed excavation risk management activities and concluded that superior protection would be provided for the pipeline systems during the demonstration project. The Phillips Excavation Risk Assessment Process goes beyond the existing regulations in providing additional assurance of safety. OPS has concluded that the enhanced risk control activities will reduce the likelihood of pipeline accidents and leaks, especially those resulting from third party damage. Should a leak or rupture occur, the enhanced communication efforts should improve the responsiveness of company and local officials to an event, and diminish the consequences of any such leak or rupture. In summary, based on expected reductions in both the likelihood and consequences of leaks and ruptures, OPS has concluded that the proposed risk control activities will clearly reduce safety and environmental risks.

F. Environmental Justice Considerations

In accordance with Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations), OPS has considered the effects of the demonstration project on minority and low-income populations. As explained above, OPS believes this project will provide superior safety and environmental protection along the demonstration project lines. The pipeline segments proposed for the project are routed mostly through rural, sparsely populated areas, but include about 15 miles of pipeline which runs through industrial and developing residential areas. A mixture of income levels resides along the segments.

The risk control activities provide greater protection than mere compliance with existing regulations. Because the proposed risk management activities will be applied uniformly along the lines, residents and communities near the lines will be afforded greater protection, regardless of the residents' income level or minority status. Therefore, the proposed project does not have any disproportionately high or adverse health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations along the demonstration segments.

G. Information Made Available to States, Local Governments, (and) Individuals

OPS has recently (in January and February 1998) made the following documents publicly available, and incorporates them by reference into this environmental assessment:

(1) "Demonstration Project Prospectus: Phillips Pipe Line Company", June, 1998, available by contacting Elizabeth M. Callsen at 202-366-4572. Includes maps of the demonstration segments. Purpose is to reach the public, local officials, and other stakeholders, and to solicit their input about the proposed project. Mailed to over 500 individuals, including Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) and other local safety officials, Regional Response Teams (RRT) representing other federal agencies, state pipeline safety officials, conference attendees, and members of public interest groups.

(2) "Phillips Pipe Line Company—Application for DOT-OPS Risk Management Demonstration Program", available in Docket No. RSPA-98-3982 at the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202)366-5046.

(3) "OPS Project Review Team Evaluation of Phillips Demonstration Project".

(4) Notice of Intent to approve project (published concurrently with this environmental assessment).

OPS has previously provided information to the public about the Phillips project, and has requested public comment, using many different sources. OPS aired several electronic broadcasts reporting on demonstration project proposals, including Phillips's proposal. An earlier **Federal Register** notice (62 FR 53052; October 10, 1997) informed the public that Phillips was interested in participating in the Demonstration Program, provided general information about technical issues and risk control alternatives to be explored, and identified the geographic areas the demonstration project would traverse.

Since August 1997, OPS has used an Internet-accessible data system called the Pipeline Risk Management Information System (PRIMIS) at <http://www.cyclac.com/opsdemo> to collect, update, and exchange information about all demonstration project candidates, including Phillips.

At a November 19, 1997, public meeting OPS hosted in Houston, TX, Phillips officials presented a summary of the proposed demonstration project and answered questions from meeting attendees. (Portions of this meeting were broadcast on December 4, 1997, and on March 26, 1998. This broadcast is available on demand via the OPS website at <http://ops.dot.gov/tmvid.htm>.) No issues or concerns about Phillips's proposal have been raised.

H. Listing of the Agencies and Persons Consulted, Including Any Consultants

Persons/Agencies Directly Involved in Project Evaluation

Stacey Gerard, OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation
 James C. Thomas (retired), OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation
 Linda Daugherty, OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation
 Carl Griffiths, OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation
 Anne Marie Joseph, OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation
 Rod Seeley, OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation
 Bruce Hansen, OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation
 Elizabeth Callsen, OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation
 Mary McDaniel, Gas Services Division, Railroad Commission of Texas
 Jim vonHerrmann, Cycla Corporation (consultant)
 Robert Brown, Cycla Corporation (consultant)
 Herb Wilhite, Cycla Corporation (consultant)

Persons/Agencies Receiving Briefings/Project Prospectus/Requests for Comment

Regional Response Team (RRT), Region 6, representing the Environmental Protection

Agency; the Coast Guard; the U.S. Departments of Interior, Commerce, Justice, Transportation, Agriculture, Defense, State, Energy, Labor; Health and Human Services; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; the General Services Administration; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (RRT Co-Chairs: Charles Gazda, EPA Region 6 and Cdr. Ed Stanton, Coast Guard 8th District).

I. Conclusion

Based on the above-described analysis of the proposed demonstration project, OPS has determined that there are no significant impacts associated with this action.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-97-2426; Notice 2]

Pipeline Safety: National Pipeline Mapping System

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Public workshops.

SUMMARY: RSPA invites natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline operators, liquefied natural gas facility operations managers, mapping specialists, federal and state government agencies, and the public, to attend one of four public workshops on the national pipeline mapping system (NPMS). This digital mapping system, when complete, will show the location and selected attributes of the major natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines and liquefied natural gas facilities in the United States. At each of the workshops we will provide: An overview of the NPMS; details on the types of information OPS is requesting for the NPMS; facts about how we will use this information; technical specifications for submitting attribute data, geospatial data, and metadata; information about the national and state repository system; and advice on how to convert paper maps to digital data, should you want to convert.

DATES AND LOCATIONS: Four workshops will be held:

- July 14-15—Adam's Mark Hotels and Resorts, Houston, TX, 2900 Briarpark Drive at Westheimer, (800) 436-2326;
- September 1-2—Hotel Arlington Heights, Arlington Heights, IL, 75 W. Algonquin Road, (847) 364-7600;

- September 23–24—ANA Hotel, San Francisco, CA, 50 Third Street, (415) 974-6400;
- October 28–29—Washington Plaza Hotel, Washington DC, 10 Thomas Circle, (202) 842-1300.

All workshops will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Specifics on registration and hotel accommodation information are available on the OPS Homepage—<http://ops.dot.gov> or may be obtained by calling Janice Morgan, (202) 366-2392.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) is working with other federal and state agencies and the pipeline industry to create a national pipeline mapping system. The NPMS will be a digital mapping data base. This system, when complete, will show the location and selected attributes of the major natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines, and liquefied natural gas facilities in the United States. This would include information on interstate and intrastate natural gas transmission pipelines and hazardous liquid transmission lines. This would not include information on gas service lines, gas distribution lines, gathering lines, flow lines, or spur lines.

OPS will add additional data layers to the system, including layers to describe population densities, areas unusually sensitive to environmental damage, natural disaster probability and high-consequence areas, hydrography, and transportation networks. OPS will use the system to depict pipelines in relation to the public and the environment, and to work with other government agencies and industry during an incident.

The NPMS will provide federal and state governments and the pipeline industry with information on pipeline locations and their proximity to safety sensitive areas. For example, these include places where people live and work, community drinking water supplies, and national parks and historical areas.

The NPMS will consist of multiple state repositories and a single national repository. The repositories will follow one mapping data standard to digitize, convert, and process the data.

DOT strongly urges all natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline and liquefied natural gas facility operators to attend one of these meetings and to voluntarily provide mapping data for inclusion in the national pipeline mapping system. OPS will begin requesting pipeline operators to submit digital data early in 1999. OPS

will accept paper data following collection of mapping data that has already been digitized.

Two Joint Government-Industry Pipeline Mapping Quality Action Teams (MQAT) have worked to create the national pipeline mapping system digital pipeline location and attribute layer. The teams are sponsored by OPS, the American Petroleum Institute, the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, and the American Gas Association. Represented on the teams are OPS, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the states of Texas, Louisiana, California, New York, and Minnesota, and the natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline industry.

The first team, MQAT I, analyzed various mapping alternatives and determined a cost-effective strategy for creating a reasonably accurate depiction (plus or minus 500 feet, for a corridor width of 1,000 feet) of transmission pipelines and liquefied natural gas facilities in the U.S. The findings of MQAT I are described in a report titled: "Strategies for Creating a National Pipeline Mapping System".

MQAT II implemented the strategies outlined by the first team. MQAT II developed the national pipeline mapping data standards that will be used to create the digital pipeline layer in the national pipeline mapping system. These include standards for electronic data submissions, paper map submissions, and metadata (data on the data). The team has also developed standards that will be used by the pipeline mapping repository receiving the pipeline information. Both standards were pilot tested by state agencies, industry, and others to test the exchange of data that met the standards. A copy of the standards can be viewed and downloaded from the OPS Internet web site. The Internet web site is <http://ops.dot.gov>. The standards can also be obtained by calling (202) 366-4561.

OPS has established a multi-phase approach to create the NPMS. This approach will allow industry and government to efficiently upgrade information in a manner that works with other business needs.

OPS strongly urges all natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline operators and liquefied natural gas facility operators to provide mapping data. With federal and state agencies and operators all contributing, we can save time and money. To be successful, we need your help. Please attend one of four public workshops to learn how you can participate.

Issued in Washington, DC on June 25, 1998.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33612 (Sub-No. 1)]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Exemption.

SUMMARY: The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10502, exempts the trackage rights described in STB Finance Docket No. 33612¹ to permit the trackage rights to expire on July 31, 1998, in accordance with the agreement of the parties.²

DATES: This exemption is effective on July 31, 1998. Petitions to reopen must be filed by July 21, 1998.

ADDRESSES: An original and 10 copies of all pleadings referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33612 (Sub-No. 1) must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of all pleadings must be served on petitioners' representatives (1) Yolanda M. Grimes, Esq., The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, P. O. Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039, and (2) Joseph D. Anthofer, Esq., Union Pacific Railroad Company, 1416 Dodge Street, #830, Omaha, NE 68179.

¹ On June 4, 1998, BNSF filed a notice of exemption under the Board's class exemption procedures at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). The notice covered the agreement by UP to grant temporary overhead trackage rights to BNSF between Dallas, TX, in the vicinity of UP's milepost 214.6 (Dallas Subdivision) and Tower 55, Fort Worth, TX, in the vicinity of UP's milepost 245.5 (Dallas Subdivision), a distance of approximately 30.9 miles. See *The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33612 (STB served June 22, 1998). The trackage rights operations under the exemption became effective on June 11, 1998, 7 days after the verified notice was filed, and were scheduled to be consummated on June 15, 1998.

² Trackage rights normally remain in effect unless discontinuance authority or approval of a new agreement is sought. See *Millford-Bennington Railroad Company, Inc.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Boston and Maine Corporation and Springfield Terminal Railway Company*, Finance Docket No. 32103 (ICC served Sept. 3, 1993).