Proposed TGP Orion Pipeline Project & Resources Impacted At-A-Glance

FERC Docket Number: CP 16-4

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C (TGP), a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan Inc, filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for its proposed Orion Project on October 9, 2015. The proposed $143 million project would consist of the installation of 13 miles of additional high pressure pipe adjacent to and connecting with the existing TGP high pressure 300 Line in Pike and Wayne counties, Pennsylvania. TGP is also proposing changes to an existing compressor in Pike County, Pennsylvania (Compressor 323). The proposed Orion Project would transport up to 135,000 dekatherms per day of natural gas. The Orion Project’s full capacity is subject to agreements with three shippers. TGP asserts that the Orion Project is anticipated to begin January 2017, with a June 2018 in-service planned. Kinder Morgan owns an interest in or operates approximately 84,000 miles of pipelines and 165 terminals.

Recent TGP Pipeline Cuts in Vicinity & Expansions: In 2010, TGP’s 300 Line project cut across 127 miles. The 300 Line was placed into service November 1, 2011. In 2012, TGP’s Northeast Upgrade Project (NEUP) cut across an additional 40 miles of land and was placed into service November 1, 2013. The proposed Orion 13 mile pipeline would run adjacent sections of the 2010 TGP 300 Line in Pike and Wayne Counties and connect to TGP’s NEUP pipeline installed and in service in 2013 that is located to the east.

TGP’s Proposed Orion Pipeline Project Location – 12.91 miles of New Pipeline

Counties Impacted: Wayne and Pike Counties, PA
Townships Impacted: Berlin, Lackawaxen, and Palmyra Townships

Loop 322 – 8.23 miles of 36-inch pipeline starting in Wayne County, east of Honesdale, and crossing into Pike County before it ties to Compressor station 323 located near Teedyuskung Lake.

Loop 323 – 4.68 miles of 36-inch pipeline from Compressor station 323 cutting across Pike County until it terminates near Rte 590, south of Lackawaxen.

TGP asserts the ROW, pipe yards, access roads and other infrastructure will disturb 248.12 acres of land including a 110 foot construction ROW. The proposed loops of the Orion Pipeline would be typically offset 25 feet from the existing 300 Line along the southern edge of the existing permanent ROW. Between MP 6.6 and 8.0, Loop 322 would shift to the northern edge of the Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL) electrical transmission line ROW.
Maximum Allowable Pressure (MAOP) of the Pipeline: 1,170 pounds-per-square-inch-gage (psig)

Wetland Cuts
Loops 322 and Loop 323 and pipe line would cut across 47 wetlands totaling 16.87 acres of damage to these wetlands. At least 19 of these wetlands to be cut include forested wetlands totaling over 11 acres of damage to these habitats.

Stream Cuts
Twenty six streams would be cut by the pipeline route or its access roads – all of the streams are designated as High Quality streams or draining into High Quality streams. Many of these streams have native and reproducing trout populations, including Tinkwig Creek, Indian Orchard Brook, and West Falls Creek and its tributaries which are being considered by the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PAFBC) for Wild Trout designation. The pipeline would cut across the Lackawaxen River which is over 250 feet wide in length. Delaware Riverkeeper Network and 24 co-petitioners submitted a petition to upgrade all streams of Pike and Wayne County to Exceptional Value in 2011 as these tributaries flow into Special Protection Waters of the Delaware River which serves as drinking water to over 17 million people. The Orion project is located approximately 1.5 miles from the Delaware River, a Wild and Scenic River.

Drinking and Surface Water Supplies
At least three surface water withdrawals are located within three miles of the proposed pipeline cuts including a withdrawal on the Lackawaxen River and an unnamed pond and Aqua PA’s Fawn Lake public water supply.

Private Water Wells
There are at least 10 private water wells located within 150 feet of the pipeline route and work areas.

Forest Cuts
Approximately 2 miles of forests would be cut for this pipeline encompassing 50 acres of direct forest loss. These estimates do not include impacts to adjacent forests.

Steep Slopes
Over 2,126 feet of steep slopes (greater than 28 degrees) would be cut by the pipeline which could lead to increased erosion and sedimentation to nearby waterbodies.

Core Habitats
Core habitat areas are habitats that contain both state and federal plant and animal species of concern, exemplary natural communities, or exceptional native diversity and can absorb very little disturbance without substantial impact. Loop 323 would cut across Bethel Swamp, Pipeline Bog, Little Teedyuskung Lake, and Lackawaxen River which are listed as Core habitats by PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

You can get more information and keep up to date by e-subscribing to the FERC Docket Number for this pipeline at www.ferc.gov. The Docket No is: CP 16-4. Learn more about gas pipelines and this specific project at www.delawareriverkeeper.org.