

Frequently Asked Questions

Ruby Pipeline Project: Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

BACKGROUND

What is the Ruby Pipeline Project?

The Ruby Pipeline Project is a 42-inch diameter, 678 mile interstate natural gas pipeline that crosses 368 miles of Federal land beginning near Opal, Wyoming, extending through northern Utah and northern Nevada, and terminating near Malin, Oregon. The project, built by Ruby Pipeline, LLC (Ruby), also includes a 3-mile lateral pipeline, 4 compressor stations, 4 meter stations, and other related above ground facilities.

The Ruby Pipeline Project was initiated in March 2008, and in January 2010, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and eight Cooperating Agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the pipeline.

The Final EIS concluded that the construction and operation of the Ruby Pipeline Project would result in some adverse environmental impacts. Most of these adverse impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the implementation of mitigation measures and agency agreements.

The Ruby Pipeline Project was approved for construction by the FERC on April 5, 2010, and the Right-of-Way (ROW) Grant and Plan of Development were approved by a Record of Decision (ROD) issued by the BLM on July 12, 2010. BLM issued multiple Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for each pipeline segment after Ruby demonstrated that all conditions and stipulations had been met.

The pipeline went into service on July 28, 2011. The FERC and BLM will continue to closely monitor and evaluate restoration progress along the entire pipeline ROW for several years.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

What is the Ruby Pipeline Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement For?

As directed by the US Ninth District Court of Appeals (Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. U.S. Bureau of Land Mgmt., et al., Case No. 10-72356 [consolidated]), the BLM is preparing a SEIS for the Ruby Pipeline Project to provide a cumulative effects section that more thoroughly meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. This decision also remanded the July 12, 2010 ROW Grant. The SEIS specifically includes supplemental information about the original and present condition of the sagebrush steppe habitat and analyzes related cumulative impacts of the Ruby Pipeline Project based on the supplemental information. The SEIS will serve as the foundation for the BLM's decision on whether to amend the BLM ROW grant and, if so, to determine under what terms and conditions it would be granted. The BLM Nevada State Office has been designated as the lead BLM office for the Ruby project.

What is a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement?

A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement may be prepared if there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts. In this case, the BLM is preparing a Supplemental EIS specifically to collect additional information relevant to environmental concerns (cumulative loss of sagebrush steppe habitat). The environmental impact of the Ruby Project was first analyzed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in an Environmental Impact Statement published on April 5, 2010. The EIS formed the basis of BLM's decision to approve construction of the pipeline and provide a right of way grant to Ruby Pipeline, LLC.

What are cumulative impacts?

Council on Environmental Quality regulations define cumulative effects as “... the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such actions” (40 CFR 1508.7).

How can I comment on the Draft Supplemental Impact Statement?

Written comments may be submitted in the following ways:

Email: blmruby@blm.gov

Mail: Ruby SEIS, C/o Bureau of Land Management Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, Utah, 84501

ePlanning NEPA Register: <http://on.doi.gov/10QtaTb>

All comments will be reviewed; however, only substantive will be addressed as part of the decision making process. Comments received during the comment period ending **August 19, 2013** will be reviewed and addressed; comments received after the comment period will be considered to the extent feasible.

What are substantive comments?

The BLM fully considers those comments that are considered to be “substantive.” According to the BLM’s guidance (Handbook H-1790-1), substantive comments address one or more of the following:

- the accuracy of information in the EIS;
- the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis;
- new information relevant to the analysis;
- reasonable alternatives additional to those analyzed in the EIS; and/or
- changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives.

To be most helpful, comments on the Draft SEIS should be as specific as possible, mentioning particular pages, sections, or chapters.

Where can I see a copy of the Draft Supplemental Impact Statement?

- Online, the Draft SEIS may be viewed at the BLM Ruby website: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/info/nepa/ruby_pipeline_project.html
- On the ePlanning NEPA Register: <http://on.doi.gov/10QtaTb>
- Hard copies are also available at the following BLM District and Field Offices:

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Kemmerer Field Office
312 Highway 189 N
Kemmerer, Wyoming

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Salt Lake Field Office
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, Utah

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Elko District Office
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Winnemucca District Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, Nevada

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Lakeview District Office
1301 S. G Street
Lakeview, Oregon

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Klamath Falls Office
2795 Anderson Avenue,
Bldg. #25
Klamath Falls, Oregon

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Surprise Field Office
602 Cressler Street
Cedarville, California

- Hard copies will also be available for public viewing at libraries and other federal offices, see the BLM Ruby Project website (address above) for a list of these locations.
- The BLM has a limited number of digital copies of the Draft SEIS on CD; you may request a CD of the Draft SEIS through the BLM Ruby email and mail addresses below. Please be sure your request includes the address you want the CD sent to.

RUBY PIPELINE PROJECT

How did this project get approved?

The FERC is responsible for authorizing interstate natural gas transmission facilities under the Natural Gas Act and was the lead Federal agency for the preparation of the Final EIS released in January 2010 in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. BLM had the primary responsibility for issuing the ROW Grant and Temporary Use Permit (TUP) for the pipeline across all Federal lands pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. On April 5th, 2010 the FERC issued its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Ruby Pipeline Project authorizing construction and operation of the pipeline.

On July 12, 2010 the BLM signed a ROD and ROW Grant for the Ruby Pipeline Project. The BLM Nevada State Director, as the designated Federal official, signed the ROD and authorized the ROW for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the pipeline and associated facilities across lands under jurisdiction of the BLM, the US Forest Service, the US Bureau of Reclamation, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the four states involved in the pipeline project.

The public had an opportunity to participate in the development of the Ruby Pipeline Project EIS during public scoping meetings held during April and October of 2008 and during Draft EIS public meetings held during July of 2009. The public was also invited to submit comments in writing and via electronic means. The Final EIS was distributed to all interested members of the public and government agencies for review.

Where can I see a copy of the Final EIS and BLM's ROD?

The Final EIS is currently available to all interested parties. To view an electronic copy, log on to the FERC's Internet web site at: <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/eis/2010/01-08-10.asp>.

A copy of the ROD is available at affected federal, state and local government agency offices. It is also available on the Internet at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/info/nepa/ruby_pipeline_project.html. The ROD includes the Decision, as well as stipulations, mitigations to resources, Ruby's Plan of Development, agreement documents, permits, and rental calculations.

The Final EIS and the ROD have also been placed in the public files of the BLM and U.S. Forest Service and are available for public inspection at the following agency locations.

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Kemmerer Field Office
312 Highway 189 N
Kemmerer, Wyoming

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Elko District Office
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Winnemucca District Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, Nevada

U.S. Forest Service
Fremont-Winema National
Forests
1301 S. G Street
Lakeview, Oregon

U.S. Forest Service
Intermountain Regional
Office
324 25th Street
Ogden, Utah

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Utah State Office
440 West 200 South, Suite
500
Salt Lake City, Utah

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Surprise Field Office
602 Cressler Street
Cedarville, California

U.S. Forest Service
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
National Forest
Ogden Ranger District
507 25th Street, Ogden, Utah

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Salt Lake Field Office
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, Utah

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Oregon State Office
333 SW First Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Bureau of Reclamation
Klamath Basin Area Office
6600 Washburn Way
Klamath Falls, Oregon

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Klamath Falls Office
2795 Anderson Avenue,
Bldg. #25
Klamath Falls, Oregon

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Lakeview District Office
1301 S. G Street
Lakeview, Oregon

U.S. Bureau of Land
Management
Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, Nevada

What changes have been made to the ROD since the July 12, 2010 publication?

The ROW Grant and TUP for the Ruby Pipeline Route have been amended four times. The first amendment (December 10, 2010) includes the Summit Lake Route Variance in Humboldt County, Nevada, and accepts the final Winter Construction Plan as Appendix V of Ruby's Plan of Development (POD). The second amendment (dated February 24, 2011) is for the Klamath County Reroute in Oregon. The third amendment (dated December 7, 2011) approves four above ground cathode sites and 15 roads to mainline valves. The fourth decision (dated July 27, 2012) amends the ROW Grant to include documents that reflect the final pipeline as built and the approval and inclusion of the Long Term Monitoring Plan in the POD.

In order for an amendment to be granted, the BLM conducted a formal review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that compared the impacts analyzed in the Final EIS with the impacts that would result from proposed changes in routes and other changes from the original authorization. Because the impacts of the changes were similar to the FEIS analysis, BLM met its NEPA compliance responsibilities and was able to approve the amendments.

What do the signs mean along the ROW?

Signs have been posted by Ruby so that the chances of successful restoration of the disturbance associated with constructing the pipeline can occur. Ruby has recontoured the ROW to blend into the surrounding terrain, installed erosion control devices, and has revegetated the ROW, temporary work spaces, and roads with a permanent plant cover consisting of native shrubs, grasses, and forbs with an emphasis on greater sage grouse and big game habitat. Use of Off Highway Vehicles in restored areas would be very destructive to ongoing restoration efforts. BLM and Ruby will be monitoring the restoration for the next five years and beyond.

Who can I contact for more information?

Questions about the BLM ROW Grant, TUP, and NTP processes for the Ruby Pipeline Project should be directed to Mark A. Mackiewicz, PMP, Senior National Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management at 435-636-3616 or 125 South 600 West, Price, UT 84501.

If you have questions about the FERC's EIS process or its process for issuing a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, please contact Dave Swearingen at 202-502-6173 or david.swearingen@ferc.gov. You may also call the FERC's Office of External Affairs at 866-208-FERC (3372) or visit the project web site at: <http://www.ferc.gov>.

If you have questions about construction, location, employment, or any other details about the project, visit Ruby Pipeline's website www.kindermorgan.com/business/gas_pipelines/west/Ruby/.

For pipeline leaks, call Ruby Pipeline, LLC at 877-712-2288.