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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP25-539-000, CP25-539-001]

Rockies Express Pipeline LLC, Cheyenne Connector, LLC, East Cheyenne Gas Storage, LLC; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Critical Energy Reliability Link Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Critical Energy Reliability Link Project, proposed by Rockies Express Pipeline LLC (REX) in the above-referenced docket.[1] REX requests authorization to construct certain natural gas pipeline facilities in order to provide up to 100,000 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) of firm natural gas transportation service and 50,000 Dth/d of no-notice service to Colorado Springs Utilities in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration of your comments on the proposal prior to making a decision on the project, it is important that the Commission receive your comments **on or before 5:00 pm Eastern Time on November 2, 2026.** Instructions for filing comments are provided on pages 3-4.

FERC is the lead federal agency for authorizing interstate natural gas transmission facilities under the Natural Gas Act of 1938 (NGA) and the lead federal agency for preparation of the EA. The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the Critical Energy Reliability Link Project in accordance with the requirements of the

[1] For tracking purposes under the National Environmental Policy Act, the unique identification number for documents relating to this environmental review is EAXX-019-20-000-1765365565.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)[2] and the Commission's implementing regulations.[3] The principal purposes of the EA are to: identify and assess the potential effects on the natural and human environment; describe and evaluate reasonable alternatives; identify and recommend mitigation measures; and facilitate public involvement in the environmental review process. The EA concludes that approval of the proposed project would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following project facilities, in Weld, Adams, Arapahoe, Elbert, and El Paso counties, Colorado:

- approximately 153.8 miles of new 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (Lateral);
- approximately 7.0 miles of new 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (Horizon Spur);
- approximately 1.6 miles of 24-inch natural gas pipeline (Williams Creek Spur),
- a new 6,300-horsepower electric motor-driven compressor station (LaSalle Compressor Station [CS]);
- approximately 0.3 mile of new 24-inch-diameter natural gas interconnect piping (Cheyenne Connector Interconnect Piping);

[2] National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (Public Law [Pub. L.] 91-190. 42 U.S. Code 4321–4347, as amended by Pub. L. 94-52, July 3, 1975; Pub. L. 94-83, August 9, 1975; Pub. L. 97-258, §4(b), September 13, 1982; Pub. L. 118-5, June 3, 2023; Pub. L. 119-21, July 4, 2025).

[3] Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 380.

- three interconnect facilities (Cheyenne Connector Interconnect Site, Lateral/Horizon Spur Interconnect Site, and Lateral/Williams Creek Spur Interconnect Site);
- associated meter stations (the LaSalle Meter Station [MS], Clear Springs MS, Horizon MS, and Williams Creek MS); and
- appurtenant facilities.

In addition, REX proposes to acquire capacity, via a lease agreement, on the Cheyenne Connector Pipeline (Cheyenne Connector Lease) and in East Cheyenne's gas storage facilities (East Cheyenne Lease), and approval of other related service, rate, and tariff changes. Cheyenne Connector, LLC and East Cheyenne Gas Storage, LLC propose to abandon by lease 250,000 Dth/d of existing unsubscribed transportation capacity to REX, pursuant to the Cheyenne Connector Lease; and abandon by lease 1,500,000 dekatherms of existing unsubscribed storage capacity to REX, pursuant to the East Cheyenne Lease.

The Commission mailed a copy of the *Notice of Availability* of the EA to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; Native American tribes; environmental and public interest groups; potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups; and libraries and media outlets in the project area. The EA is only available in electronic format. It may be viewed and downloaded from the FERC's website (www.ferc.gov), on the natural gas environmental documents page (https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environment/environmental-documents). In addition, the EA may be accessed by using the eLibrary link on the FERC's website. Click on the eLibrary link (https://elibrary.ferc.gov/ eLibrary/search), select "General Search" and enter the docket

number in the “Docket Number” field, excluding the last three digits (i.e., CP25-539). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

The EA is not a decision document. It presents Commission staff’s independent analysis of the environmental issues for the Commission to consider when addressing the merits of all issues in this proceeding. Under section 7(c) of the NGA, the Commission determines whether interstate natural gas transportation facilities are in the public convenience and necessity and, if so, grants a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate them. Section 7(b) of the NGA specifies that no natural gas company shall abandon any portion of its facilities subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction without the Commission first finding that the abandonment will not negatively affect the present or future public convenience and necessity. The Commission bases its decisions on both economic issues, including need, and environmental effects.

Your comments should focus on the EA’s disclosure and discussion of potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental effects. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to file your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208-3676 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature on the Commission’s website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to FERC Online.

This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can also file your comments electronically using the eFiling feature on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to FERC Online. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on "eRegister." You must select the type of filing you are making. If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select "Comment on a Filing"; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the Commission. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP25-539) on your letter. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

Filing environmental comments will not give you intervenor status, but you do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered. Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing or judicial review of the Commission's decision. At this point in this proceeding, the timeframe for filing timely intervention requests has expired. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene out-of-time pursuant to Rule 214(b)(3) and (d) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214(b)(3) and (d)) and show good cause why the time limitation

should be waived. Motions to intervene are more fully described at https://www.ferc.gov/how-intervene.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov. Additional information about the project is available from the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview to register for eSubscription.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: October 2, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

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