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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407-014-004-065516; O2509-014-004-125222.1; LLAZ920000]

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Western Gateway Pipeline Project in Cochise, Graham, Maricopa, and Pinal counties in Arizona; Chaves, Curry, Doña Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Otero, and Roosevelt counties in New Mexico; and Hutchinson, Carson, Potter, Oldham, Deaf Smith, Parmer, Hudspeth, and El Paso counties in Texas

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) of 1920, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Arizona State Director intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider the effects of the construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of a new 20-inch-diameter liquid petroleum product pipeline from Borger, Texas, to El Paso, Texas, and a 24-inch diameter pipeline from El Paso, Texas, to Buckeye, Arizona, and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues, and is providing the criteria for public review.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. The BLM requests that the public submit comments concerning the scope of the analysis, potential alternatives, and identification of relevant information and studies by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]. To afford the BLM the opportunity to consider comments and address them in the EIS, please

ensure your comments are received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. Comments received outside this window will not be considered.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Western Gateway Pipeline Project (Project) by any of the following methods:

- Project Website: https://eplanning.blm.gov/project-home/?id=95c62a3a-75be-f111-aaae-001dd8029bbb
- Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, ATTN: Western Gateway Pipeline Project, One North Central Avenue Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined online on the BLM National NEPA Register at the link above; the BLM Arizona State Office, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004; and the BLM New Mexico State Office, 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Celina Martinez, BLM Project Manager, telephone (800) 432-9914; address One North Central Avenue, Suite 800 Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4427; or visit the project website listed above. Contact Ms. Martinez to have your name added to our mailing list. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Ms. Martinez. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM Arizona State Director intends to prepare an EIS to consider the effects of the Project, announces the beginning of the scoping process, and seeks public input on issues. The

BLM is evaluating whether to grant a right-of-way (ROW) for the Project which consists of a new build 20-inch diameter pipeline from Borger, Texas, to El Paso, Texas, and a 24-inch diameter pipeline from El Paso, Texas, to Buckeye, Arizona, to transport refined liquid petroleum products (i.e., gasoline, diesel, jet fuel). The Project would be developed by Phillips 66 across approximately 887 miles of Federal, state, county, and private lands between Borger, Texas, and Buckeye, Arizona. The Project would also include pipeline-related facilities, such as, but not limited to, access roads, pump stations, mainline valve stations, and breakout facilities.

If approved, the new construction would tie into Kinder Morgan's existing Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline, L.P. from Colton, California, to Buckeye, Arizona, which would be reversed to enable east-to-west product flows. The Project would also tie into the Gold Pipeline, operated by Phillips 66, which runs from Borger, Texas, to St. Louis, Missouri. This section of pipeline would also be reversed for an east-to-west product flow. The Project, along with the connections to the existing Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline and the Gold Pipeline, would result in a total 1,300-mile pipeline system that would transport refined liquid petroleum products from Illinois refineries to California. The Project's proposed construction activities would occur only along the 887-mile portion of the route from Borger, Texas, to Buckeye, Arizona.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose for BLM's action is to respond to Phillips 66's ROW application filed with the BLM on February 11, 2026, under the MLA. Phillips 66's goal is to obtain authorization across Federal lands to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a refined petroleum pipeline, access roads, and related facilities in Arizona and New Mexico.

The BLM is the lead Federal agency responsible for issuing the ROW grant and associated temporary use permits (TUPs) for the Western Gateway Pipeline Project under

Section 28 of the MLA of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185). Because the proposed petroleum pipeline would cross lands administered by two or more Federal agencies, the BLM serves as the designated lead Federal agency for authorization of the pipeline ROW. Issuance of a ROW or TUP by the BLM will occur with the concurrence of each respective land-managing agency whose lands are crossed by the Project.

The need for the Project comes from the Federal responsibilities under Section 28 of the MLA of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185), 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 2880 as amended, Title V of the FLPMA, 43 CFR part 2800, as amended, and other applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies.

Preliminary Proposed Action and Alternatives

BLM is currently considering one alternative (proposed action) and the no action alternative. Additional alternatives may be identified by cooperators, Federal agencies, tribes, state and local agencies, and the public during the scoping process or by the BLM during its NEPA review.

Under the Proposed Action, the BLM would issue a 30-year ROW grant and any necessary temporary use permits for the construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of a 20-inch, or 24-inch diameter refined liquid petroleum product pipeline on Federal lands, consistent with BLM's jurisdiction as lead Federal agency under Section 28 of the MLA. Other Federal land-managing agencies whose lands are crossed by the Project would provide concurrence to the BLM for issuance of these authorizations.

The proposed project consists of a total of 887 miles of pipeline. Approximately 170 miles of underground pipeline would be constructed and operated on BLM-administered land that includes approximately 31 miles administered by the Carlsbad Field Office, 16 miles administered by the Roswell Field Office, 101 miles administered by the Las Cruces District Office in New Mexico, 9 miles administered by the Safford

Field Office, 4 miles administered by the Tucson Field Office, and 9 miles administered by the Lower Sonoran Field Office in Arizona. The proposed action would result in the construction and operation of underground pipeline crossing approximately 16 miles of Department of War land in Texas (Fort Bliss), 0.3 mile of Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) land in Arizona (Central Arizona Project Canal), and 0.25 mile of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) land in Arizona (Gila River Waterfowl Management Area). It would also cross the Rio Grande, under the jurisdiction of the International Boundary and Water Commission. In addition, the proposed action would result in the construction and operation of underground pipeline crossing approximately 228 miles of state and county lands and 472 miles of private lands. In addition to the new pipelines, the proposed action would involve the construction of other ancillary facilities required to be authorized by the appropriate federal agency with jurisdiction for non-pipeline project elements such as electric powerlines.

The long-term corridor for the pipeline would typically be 30 feet wide with an additional 60-foot-wide temporary construction corridor for a combined width of 90 feet, resulting in impacts to approximately 2,033 acres of Federal lands, 2,496 acres of state and county lands, and 5,149 acres of private/unknown lands where the surface owner has not been determined, for a total of 9,768 acres. Temporary and long-term workspaces for facilities outside of the pipeline corridor would affect approximately 1,189 acres on Federal lands, 1,364 acres on state and county lands, and 2,971 acres on private/unknown lands, for a total of 5,523 acres. However, the specific locations and dimensions of the pipeline corridor and additional workspaces would be further established based on site-specific construction requirements, resource avoidance measures, or other location-specific considerations.

Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would deny the ROW application and the Project would not be constructed on Federal lands. Under this alternative, the Project would not be constructed, and existing land uses on the Project site would continue.

The BLM welcomes comments on all preliminary alternatives as well as suggestions for additional alternatives. The BLM also welcomes comments providing relevant information, studies, or analyses with respect to the proposed action.

Summary of Expected Impacts

The EIS will analyze environmental effects sufficient to support the BLM's ROW and TUP decisions and the concurrences required from other Federal land-managing agencies. The BLM's decision will be the primary Federal authorization for the pipeline across all Federal lands.

The EIS will evaluate potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives, and the reasonably foreseeable effects on resources and issues such as caves and karst; playas; native plants; national historic or scenic trails; and sensitive, rare, threatened and endangered species, such as the lesser prairie-chicken, Sonoran Desert tortoise, southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, dunes sagebrush lizard, and cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl. Additionally, the EIS will evaluate potential environmental effects on air quality, noise, geology, agriculture, water resources (including aquatic resources, water quality, groundwater, water supplies and wells, and floodplains), biological resources (including vegetation; noxious weeds and invasive plants; raptors, eagles, and migratory birds), cultural resources, paleontological resources, visual resources, special land use designations, recreation, transportation, public health and safety, and socioeconomics.

Permits and Authorizations Anticipated at This Time

- ROW grant and TUP: BLM;
- Section 404 of Clean Water Act: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

- Endangered Species Act (ESA): USFWS;
- Section 401 permit: Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ), New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ);
- Outgrant (for crossing waters in the Northern International Boundary zone): International Boundary and Water Commission
- Air quality permits: TCEQ, NMED, and ADEQ;
- General national pollutant discharge elimination system permit: TCEQ, NMED, and ADEQ;
- U.S. and State Highway utility encroachment permit: Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT);
- Interstate permitting: TxDOT, NMDOT, ADOT, and Federal Highway Administration; and,
- All other state and county required permits (e.g., road use, load, zoning, conditional use, crossing/encroachment, noxious weed management)

Further details of these permitting requirements may be found in the Plan of Development for the Project, will be available on the ePlanning Project page (see ADDRESSES).

Schedule for the Decision-Making Process

The BLM may provide additional opportunities for public participation consistent with the NEPA process. The Final EIS is anticipated to be released in February 2028, with a Record of Decision in May 2028.

Public Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping period. The BLM will hold up to three virtual scoping meetings on Zoom. The specific dates of these scoping meetings will be announced in advance through postcards, letters to interested parties, and the ePlanning Project page (see ADDRESSES).

Responsible Official

The BLM Arizona State Director is the deciding official for this project. The other affected Federal agencies would issue separate decisions for lands under their jurisdiction based on the analysis contained in the EIS.

Nature of Decision to Be Made

The BLM will use the analysis in the EIS to inform its decision about whether to grant, grant with conditions, or deny the application for a ROW on Federal lands. If the BLM issues a ROW, the BLM decision maker may include terms, conditions, and stipulations determined to be in the public interest, which may include modifying the proposed use or changing the location or route of the proposed facilities. The BLM's resource management goals, objectives, opportunities, and/or conflicts will be considered in the decision process for the proposed ROW application.

The USBR, USFWS, and the Department of War may use the analysis in the EIS to inform federal decision-making, as appropriate.

Additional Information

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA process to help support compliance with applicable procedural requirements under the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1536) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3), including public involvement requirements of Section 106. The information about historic and cultural resources and threatened and endangered species within the area potentially affected by the proposed project will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts on such resources.

In July 2026, the BLM invited 31 Indian tribal nations to participate in government-to-government consultation in accordance with Executive Order 13175, BLM Manual Section 1780, and other Departmental policies. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for government-to-government consultation during the NEPA process. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration.

Federal, state, and local agencies, along with Indian tribal nations, and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed Project that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment that BLM withhold your personal identifying information from public review, BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4336a(c), 30 U.S.C. 185, 43 CFR part 2800,)

Raymond Suazo,

BLM Arizona State Director.

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