



October 9, 2020

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Attention: Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary

Re: El Paso Natural Gas Company, L.L.C.;
Docket No. CP20-483-000
Carlsbad South Project
Weekly Environmental Inspector Report No. 6

Commissioners:

El Paso Natural Gas Company, L.L.C. ("EPNG") is hereby filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Commission") in Docket No. CP20-483-000, its weekly status report related to the Carlsbad South Project ("Project").

Description of Proceeding

On June 19, 2020, EPNG filed a prior notice request pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.208(b), and 157.210 of the Commission's regulations under the Natural Gas Act for authorization to construct an approximate 17.1-mile sixteen-inch (16") outside diameter ("O.D.") loop line of its existing sixteen-inch (16") O.D. Line No. 3191 in Eddy County, New Mexico as well as to undertake minor appurtenant facility modifications at an existing compressor station at Lea County, New Mexico. This project is referred to as the Carlsbad South Project. At the conclusion of the notice period for the Carlsbad South Project on August 24, 2020, the project was deemed approved.

Submittal of Status Report

In compliance with Section 157.208(c)(10) of the Natural Gas Act, EPNG is providing Environmental Inspector Report No. 6 for the period of September 28, 2020 through October 4, 2020.

Filing Information

EPNG is e-Filing this letter and report with the Commission's Secretary in accordance with the Commission's Order No. 703, *Filing Via the Internet*, guidelines issued on November 15, 2007 in Docket No. RM07-16-000.

Respectfully submitted,

EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.

By _____ /s/
Francisco Tarin
Director, Regulatory

Enclosures

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that I have this day caused a copy of the foregoing documents to be served upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Commission's Secretary in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of Section 385.2010 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado as of this 9th day of October 2020.

/s/

Francisco Tarin

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Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903
(719) 667-7517

EPNG's Weekly Environmental Inspector Report No. 6		
Docket No. CP20-483-000		
Project Name:	Carlsbad South Project	
County/State:	Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico	Date: 10/09/2020
Reporting Period:	09/28/2020 – 10/04/2020	
Environmental Inspectors:	Raymond Patton, Mark Cosby, Danny Day, Adam Eddy, Mike Connors	
1. SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY FOR INSPECTION PERIOD:		
<p><u>Line No. 31113:</u> Fencing and grading activities continues. Erosion control devices (ECDs) installed along ROW. Ditching of pipeline trench continued. HDD drilling continued. Inspection of vehicles, equipment, grading crew, and fencing crews occurred on a daily basis. Additional Environmental Inspectors were added to help inspect spread.</p> <p><u>Eunice Compressor Station Modifications:</u> Eunice Compressor Station modifications work continued.</p> <p><u>Ancillary Facilities:</u> No updates during this reporting period.</p>		
2. RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES:		
<p>During this reporting period, two-hundred and fifty-three (253) people received environmental training. A total of five-hundred and eighty-four (584) people have received the training. Twelve (12) water trucks are operating on ROW and access roads due to dry condition creating dust.</p> <p>The karst monitor identified a void (K13) within the ROW that became apparent when a hammer hoe penetrated into the void. The karst specialist's investigation indicates that the feature is not the direct result of a karst but is being caused by cracking of the bedrock that is occurring due to additional stress from subsidence occurring in a playa lake located to the northeast of the Project. Work has been stopped in the area, a geotechnical engineer and karst specialist will be on-site to develop mitigation.</p>		
3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS/ISSUES AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN:		
<p>Due to dry conditions, dust was becoming a problem in the areas where ditching and heavy vehicle traffic is occurring. The water truck schedule has increased on the Project.</p> <p>On September 28, 2020 an abandoned water line was struck at Station No. 897+45. Approximately 1,000 gallons of water were released but contained in the trench. Samples were taken and evaluated for BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene). All contaminant parameters were below lab detection limits. The concrete water line was unmarked and had not been identified as part of the 811 related surveys or pre-construction sweeps. The affected landowner stated that the line had been inactive since the late 1970's or early 1980's and was in disrepair. The owner asked that the line be completely severed, capped and a riser placed on each side of the intersection.</p> <p><u>Inadvertent Releases</u> In the weekly environmental inspector report no. 5, EPNG reported a September 28th inadvertent release which occurred in the ROW at Station Number 104+78. After reviewing the incident, EPNG determined that the inadvertent release was caused by the HDD bore coming in close proximity to an existing test bore hole</p>		

that forced pressurized drilling fluids to the surface. In order to avoid the test bore hole (and three other test bore holes located along the same line), EPNG and its drilling contractor opted to move the HDD fifteen (15) feet west to prevent further returns. Drilling resumed on October 5, 2020.

At approximately 2:20 pm Central Time on October 6, 2020, an inadvertent return that reached the land surface occurred approximately 65 feet west of the permanent ROW at Station No. 103+70 in Section 7, Township 24 South, Range 28 East in Eddy County, NM.

- Approximately 3 gallons of drilling fluid spilled into an area of desert grassland located approximately 50 feet south of the irrigation canal and south of the Black River.
- Drilling activities were immediately stopped. The drilling fluid was manually contained and removed.
- The spill did not impact any sensitive resources or enter any waterbodies.
- The affected landowner was contacted and notified of the inadvertent release.
- Agency notifications (i.e., FERC, USFWS and NMGFD) were made on October 7, 2020.
- EPNG's drilling contractor initiated activities to seal the fracture. Drill mud containing Magfiber and Super Swell additives was pumped into the drill hole.

Once drilling activities resumed on October 7, 2020, a minor inadvertent release (i.e., less than a quart of drilling fluid) was observed approximately 50 feet to the west of the permanent right-of-way near Station No. 103+85. The hole sealed itself and no additional fluids were observed as HDD activities passed that location. Affected landowner notifications were made and environmental personnel accessed the area for manual clean-up of drilling fluids.

Suspected October 8, 2020 Inadvertent Return

During HDD activities on the afternoon of October 8, 2020, EPNG's HDD contractor noted a drop in drilling pressure. In response, crews were directed to monitor the riverbanks to identify the location of any potential inadvertent return. However, no inadvertent returns were observed. Later that afternoon at approximately 2:45 pm, EPNG's Environmental Inspector was informed that flows on the Black River near Higby Hole Road, which is approximately 1.5 miles downstream of the drill location, appeared discolored. At that point in time, out of an abundance of caution, EPNG immediately ceased HDD activity, dispatched a clean-up crew to the site, set up turbidity curtains, and deployed a vacuum truck to remove materials from the surface of the water. Water samples containing the floating materials were collected and sent out for independent analysis and testing. It is not yet clear whether the materials collected have any connection to EPNG's HDD activities and the incident remains under investigation.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ISSUES/RESOLUTIONS:

No compliance issues or concerns were identified during this reporting period.

5. ISSUES AND CONCERNS IDENTIFIED BY LANDOWNERS:

The landowner adjacent to Cooksey Ranch Road (Permanent Access Road (PAR 9)) raised a concern regarding the amount of dust occurring from traffic on the road. All work was shut down in this area until water trucks could be brought in to control the dust. The contractor has dedicated one water truck to this area to ensure the dust is controlled.

6. WORK PLANNED FOR THE FOLLOWING REPORTING PERIOD:

Fencing, clearing, grading activities, trenching and pipe installation will continue. HDD at the Black River will continue. Eunice Compressor Station work will continue. The modified HDDs at Roadrunner (CR774) and US Highway 285 will begin.

Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station Number 580+00
Direction of Photo: Northeast
Description: Water truck maintaining ROW.
Date: 10/02/2020



Location: Station Number 26+00
Direction of Photo: South
Description: Fugitive dust control measures at excavation near permanent access road (PAR) 1b.
Date: 10/02/2020



Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station Number 630+00
Direction of Photo: Southeast
Description: Pipe bending.
Date: 10/02/2020



Location: Station Number 650+00
Direction of Photo: Southwest
Description: Pipe stringing and trenching.
Date: 9/28/2020



Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station Number 252+00
Direction of Photo: Northwest
Description. Hoe driving stakes for silt fence.
Date: 10/01/2020



Location: Station Number 791+00 – 794+00
Direction of Photo: North
Description: Silt fence installation.
Date: 9/30/2020



Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station Number 304+00
Direction of Photo: N/A
Description: Karst (K13) feature identified on ROW.
Date: 10/02/2020



Location: Station Number 888+75
Direction of Photo: N/A
Description: Karst (K13) feature and associated bed rock crack.
Date: 10/02/2020



A



B

Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station
Number 103+70
Direction of Photo:
N/A
Description:
Inadvertent return.
Date: 10/06/2020



Location: Station
Number 103+70
Direction of Photo:
N/A
Description:
Inadvertent return
after clean-up.
Date: 10/06/2020



Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station Number 897+45
Direction of Photo: N/A
Description: Water line strike.
Date: 9/28/2020



Location: Station Number 897+45
Direction of Photo: N/A
Description: Water line strike.
Date: 9/28/2020



Carlsbad South Project

Location: Higby Hole
Road Crossing
Direction of Photo:
West
Description: Turbidity
curtain with material
contained upstream.
Date: 10/9/2020

