



October 16, 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. 7

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. 7 for the period of October 5, 2020 through October 11, 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 16th day of October 2020.

 /s/

Francisco Tarin

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Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903
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EPNG's Weekly Environmental Inspector Report No. 7		
Docket No. CP20-483-000		
Project Name:	Carlsbad South Project	
County/State:	Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico	Date: 10/16/2020
Reporting Period:	10/05/2020 – 10/11/2020	
Environmental Inspectors:	Raymond Patton, Mark Cosby, Danny Day, Adam Eddy, Mike Connors	
<p>1. SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY FOR INSPECTION PERIOD:</p> <p><u>Line No. 31113:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grading and trenching activities continued. • Pipe string and trenching has been completed. • Erosion control devices (ECDs) continue to be installed, inspected and maintained along ROW. • Backfilling has started. • HDD operations at the Black River and Black River Village Road are continuing. EPNG notes that the initial pilot hole was completed on October 10, 2020 and bore hole reaming commenced. <p><u>Eunice Compressor Station Modifications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete foundations were completed for control valve piping. • The tie-ins into the existing system were completed. <p><u>Ancillary Facilities:</u></p> <p>No updates during this reporting period.</p> <p>2. RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>During this reporting period, ninety-four (94) people received environmental training. A total of six-hundred seventy-eight (678) people have received the training.</p> <p><u>Karst (K13) Feature Identified on ROW:</u></p> <p>On October 9, 2020, EPNG met onsite with a geo-engineer to address the karst feature identified at Station 304+00. The feature was determined to not be as extensive. The geo-engineer will provide EPNG with a report on construction recommendations related to this feature.</p> <p><u>Suspected October 8, 2020 Inadvertent Return:</u></p> <p>In last week's weekly environmental inspector report (Report No. 6), EPNG reported a suspected inadvertent return that occurred on October 8, 2020 during HDD operations at the Black River. Specifically, an EPNG environmental monitor observed water discoloration on the Black River approximately 1.5 - 2 miles downstream of the drill location. In response, EPNG suspended HDD operations and deployed equipment to contain material in the river. Additionally, EPNG collected water and soil samples and sent those samples out for independent laboratory testing.</p> <p>Upon further investigation of the incident, EPNG discovered that on the same day as the suspected inadvertent return, irrigation canals in the vicinity of the HDD released water into the Black River that may have affected water clarity in the river. Additionally, the results of the laboratory analysis of the water and soil samples taken on October 8, 2020, determined that drilling fluid components were not present in the river water and that the sediments in the water were naturally occurring and native to the area. As such, EPNG concluded that an inadvertent return related to the HDD did not occur on October 8, 2020.</p>		

Inadvertent Return:

On October 13, 2020, an inadvertent return was identified at Station 103+85 approximately 65 feet west of the permanent ROW. Up to 400 gallons of fluid was observed in an area located between the Carlsbad Irrigation District (CID) South Canal and the south bank of the Black River. The return was contained and no fluids reached the Black River. However, EPNG estimates that up to 10 gallons reached the CID irrigation canal. Affected landowner notifications were made and environmental personnel accessed the area for clean-up of drilling fluids. The area was promptly cleaned up. Agency notifications were made regarding this inadvertent return.

Once HDD reaming operations were restarted later that day, a small amount (1-2 gallons) of drilling fluid came to the surface. As HDD reaming operations passed the location of the inadvertent return, no additional inadvertent returns were observed. EPNG has staged additional crews in this area and along the Black River to monitor for fluids as the HDD operations continue.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS/ISSUES AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN:

Water trucks continuing to operate at an increased rate due to dust from dry conditions.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ISSUES/RESOLUTIONS:

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

5. ISSUES AND CONCERNS IDENTIFIED BY LANDOWNERS:

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

6. WORK PLANNED FOR THE FOLLOWING REPORTING PERIOD:

Trenching, welding and lowering in will continue. Backfilling of the control valve piping will be completed at the Eunice Compressor Station as well the completion of the electrical and instrumentation of the valve. Restoration of the Eunice Compressor Station site is scheduled to begin. The HDD of the Black River is anticipated to be completed during this reporting period.

Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station Number 39+00
Direction of Photo: North
Description: Trenching under foreign lines.
Date: 10/05/2020



Location: Station Number 146+00
Direction of Photo: South
Description: Black River Village Road pilot hole.
Date: 10/05/2020



Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station Number 742+00
Direction of Photo: Northwest
Description: Silt fence and strung pipe on ROW.
Date: 10/07/2020



Location: Station Number 90+00
Direction of Photo: North
Description: Water truck spraying backfill material ahead of dozer.
Date: 10/07/2020



Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station Number 693+00
Direction of Photo: Southwest
Description. Pipe padding with sandbags.
Date: 10/10/2020



Location: Station Number 852+00
Direction of Photo: South
Description: Topsoil stabilized with hay.
Date: 10/10/2020



Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station Number 662+00
Direction of Photo: 622+00
Description: Pipe ready for lowering-in.
Date: 10/10/2020



Location: Station Number 103+85
Direction of Photo: South
Description: Inadvertent return at the Carlsbad Irrigation District south canal.
Date: 10/13/2020



Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station Number 103+85
Direction of Photo: West
Description: Inadvertent return with silt fence containment installed being cleaned up.
Date: 10/13/2020



Location: Station Number 103+85
Direction of Photo: West
Description: Inadvertent return cleaned up.
Date: 10/13/2020



Carlsbad South Project

Location: Station
Number 477+00
Direction of Photo:
Southeast
Description: HDD
equipment in
secondary
containment
Date: 10/10/2020

