
Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Longhorn Pipeline System



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**



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Special Programs
Administration



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TO INTERESTED AGENCIES, OFFICIALS, PUBLIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Research and Special Programs Administration, Office of Pipeline Safety, completed the enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) and preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) on the proposed petroleum products pipeline to be operated by Longhorn Partners Pipeline, L.P.

The purpose of this letter is to make the EA and preliminary FNSI available for agency and public review during the 30-day comment period, and notify interested parties that the EPA and DOT will hold the following meetings to receive public comments:

Houston, TX	November 9, 1999	Cook Middle School Cafeteria 9111 Wheatland Dr.
Austin, TX	November 16, 1999	James Bowie High School Theater 4103 W. Slaughter
Fredericksburg, TX	November 17, 1999	Gillespie County Agricultural Bldg. 1906 No. Llano St.
Bastrop, TX	November 18, 1999	Bastrop Opera House 711 Spring Street
El Paso, TX	November 22, 1999	Neill Auditorium University of Texas at El Paso Campus off of Rim Road

All meetings will begin at 7:00 pm.

The EPA and DOT encourage public participation in this decision-making process. Oral comments or statements will be received at the five public meetings, and written comments on the adequacy of the EA and preliminary FNSI, including the mitigation measures proposed by Longhorn, should be submitted by November 29, 1999, to EPA Region 6, Office of Planning and Coordination (6EN-XP), 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202-2733, Attn: Robert D. Lawrence.

During the public meetings and comment process on this proposed project, public input is solicited on the information contained in the EA, the alternatives examined, the Lead Agencies' preliminary view that a FNSI is appropriate, and the specific mitigation measures discussed in the EA. All comments will be carefully considered, but the Lead Agencies are particularly interested in public comment on:

- (i) whether the mitigation measures set out in the EA are adequate to support the finding of no significant impact. If not, what supplemental measures might be necessary?;
- (ii) whether even with supplemental mitigation measures, the operation of the project would result in significant impacts to the human environment. If this is found to be the case, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be issued.;
- (iii) if an EIS is necessary, on what particular potential impacts should the analysis focus.;
- and
- (iv) whether the mitigation measures set out in the EA are too onerous, and a FNSI determination should be based on a lesser set of mitigation measures.

A final decision on all issues will be made after public comment has been received and taken into consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Kelley S. Coyner
Administrator
Research and Special
Program Administration



Gregg A. Cooke
Regional Administrator
EPA Region 6

Enclosure