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# FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

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## NEWS RELEASE

### NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Tamara Young-Allen  
(202) 208-0680

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2002  
Docket Nos. CP01-361-000 and  
CP01-405-000

### **COMMISSION APPROVES PIPELINES ON WEST COAST, ADDING TO REGION'S ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission today approved two natural gas pipeline proposals that will bring much needed natural gas to western energy markets. And will add to the region's energy infrastructure without damaging the environment.

Chairman Pat Wood, III commented, "Today's actions represent vital investments in the future energy infrastructure of the West, giving West Coast residents needed supplies of natural gas. The approval of this infrastructure is part of the Commission's cohesive approach to meeting the region's and the nation's energy needs while providing environmental safeguards."

Northwest Pipeline Corporation received a certificate to construct and operate natural gas pipeline facilities in Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties, Washington, while Kern River Gas Transmission Company won approval to build a lateral pipeline northeast of Los Angeles. Cost of construction for the Northwest pipeline is estimated at \$75.2 million. The Kern River facility is expected to cost \$28.9 million.

The proposal by Northwest will provide natural gas transportation service to a 650 MW electric power generation plant under construction in Grays Harbor. Kern River's lateral pipeline will transport natural gas to a 720 MW electric power plant under construction near Victorville, California.

The Commission noted that the environmental impacts of these projects would be minimal. Each certificate contains conditions to mitigate environmental concerns.