



Energy Transportation

Client

Southern Trails Pipeline Company

Location

New Mexico, Arizona, and
California, USA

Environmental Support of Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline

Project Highlights

- Environmental Permitting
- Coordination and review on Third Party EIS
- 800-mile pipeline study area crossing federal, state, and Native American lands
- Threatened and endangered species and sensitive habitats

Project Description

CH2M HILL prepared multidisciplinary environmental reports for a proposed natural gas pipeline extending approximately 800 miles from Bloomfield, New Mexico to Long Beach, California.



The project involved the conversion of the existing 800 mile pipeline from a crude oil line to natural gas, and included discrete areas on the existing pipeline requiring extension, reroute, repair, or construction in New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, and California. The environmental reports were prepared according to FERC guidelines and described existing conditions, potential impacts, and mitigation measures associated with pipeline construction and operation for the areas on the pipeline requiring construction or extension.

Cultural and biological resources, wetlands, and waters of the United States were delineated using aerial photography and field investigations at the proposed project components occurring along the existing pipeline. Field studies and public involvement included interface with Navajo and Hopi regulators and citizens.

Southern Trails Pipeline Company subsequently retained CH2M HILL to provide ongoing environmental support services for the pipeline, and review of the third party prepared EIR/EIS.

The project also includes the operation of seven compressor stations (the former crude oil operation required operation of 13 pump and meter stations). Six of the seven compressor stations included in the project will be sited at existing pump station sites associated with ARCO's former operation of the pipeline for delivery of crude oil. The newly sited compressor station will occupy about 1.7 acres. The conversion project includes minor construction of some additional appurtenant facilities, such as metering stations, and block valves, most of which will be built within the existing right-of-way. Construction associated with metering stations will be limited to 30 feet by 50 feet. The construction area for block valves will be confined to discrete areas that are approximately 20 feet by 30 feet in size. Additionally, several minor pipeline replacements of 5 feet to 10 feet will be made to replace valves, fittings, and other required features.

The primary objective of the Southern Trails Pipeline project is to provide natural gas to growing Southern California markets. The pipeline also



provides a conduit for natural gas from the San Juan Basin in New Mexico, and the Paradox Basin in Utah and Colorado to the southwestern United States. The Southern Trails Pipeline will have a capacity of 80 to 90 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf) on the eastern section of the pipeline, roughly New Mexico to Arizona, and 120 mmcf on the western section, in California. Eastern section markets include potential interconnects with Southwest Gas Company, Mojave Pipeline Company, Southern California Gas Company, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, and potential end use markets located along the pipeline in Arizona. Potential western section markets include a wide variety of end use facilities located in the area of Long Beach, California.