

Scoping Notice

Southwestern Energy Natural Gas Pipeline Project Proposal

The Big Piney Ranger District on the Ozark-St Francis National Forests is considering a request for a special use permit from Southwestern Energy Company (SEECO) for construction of a natural gas pipeline 24 inches in diameter or less steel pipe in Township 10 North, Range 16 West, Section 20, & 29 in Van Buren County, Arkansas crossing. The construction project area would be 3,528 feet long by 30 feet wide for a total 2.4 acres. After construction the permit width would be maintained at the same distance and 20 feet wide for a total area of 1.6 acres. The purpose and need of this proposal is to transport natural gas from wells located on private land across National Forest Land to a collection facility on private land.

This notice requests project-specific information and comments regarding the activities in this project proposal. I am particularly interested in identifying any extraordinary circumstances that may exist in the project area and/or any activity that when implemented would negatively affect the environment and/or its inhabitants.

This proposal fits the following category: Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than 5 contiguous acres of land (36 CFR 220.6 (e) (3)). If no extraordinary circumstances are discovered during analysis of the area, this project would be categorically excluded from an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA).

Even though this project is not appealable (36 CFR 215.12 (f)), I would like to address your specific concerns. Be sure your comments are post-marked or received within 30 days beginning the day after publication of this notice in Russellville's The Courier. You may mail your comment(s) to: Timothy E. Jones, District Ranger, Big Piney Ranger District, 12,000 SR 27, Hector, AR 72843 refer to: Southwestern Energy natural gas pipeline project proposal. Verbal or hand-delivered written comments must be received during our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri. Comments may be mailed electronically to our office, in a common digital format, at: comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bay-ou@fs.fed.us.

Additional information including maps may be obtained by contacting Mike Mulford at the Big Piney Ranger District office in Jasper, AR (phone # 870-446-5122 x5136) or by visiting the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests' website at the following website address: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/osfnf/landmanagement/planning/?cid+stel-prd521222>

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