Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Yellowstone Pipeline Easement Renewal Across Trust and Allotted Lands on the Flathead Indian Reservation, MT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs,

Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed easement renewal on tribal and allotted lands on the Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana, for an existing petroleum products pipeline from Billings, Montana, to Spokane and Moses Lake, Washington, is now available for public review. This notice is furnished in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, 40 CFR 1503 and 1506.9.

DATES: The public comment period closes on December 24, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be addressed to: Mr. Ernest Moran, Superintendent, Flathead Agency, Box A, Pablo, MT 59855. Copies of the FEIS are also available at this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ernest Moran at the above address, by telephone at (406) 675–7200 ext. 260, or toll-free at (800) 695–9305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Yellowstone Pipe Line Company (YPL) had a lease agreement with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation (CSKT) for an easement from April 21, 1975, to April 21, 1995, across trust lands. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which acts as the federal trustee for the lands, approved the lease. The YPL wishes to renew the lease in order to continue using the pipeline through the year 2016. The FEIS describes the proposed action, alternatives and affected environment, and evaluates potential impacts.

The Proposed Action, is the renewal of YPL's existing easement across trust lands, with added pipeline safety improvements. The action would allow the YPL to continue serving the needs of military and civilian consumers in the greater Spokane area for petroleum products. The 10-inch pipeline currently supplies approximately 34 percent of all consumer gasoline and diesel fuel to the Spokane market, 100 percent of the military jet fuel to the Fairchild Air Force Base, and 100 percent of the commercial jet fuel to the Grant County Airport, which supports the Boeing Aircraft and the Japan Air Lines pilot test programs.

The FEIS includes two alternatives, No Action and a Modified Existing Route Alternative. The No Action alternative would not renew the easement. Petroleum products would thus have to be transported to the Spokane markets by means which cost more and pose more risk to the environment than would the upgrading and use of the existing pipeline.

The Modified Existing Route Alternative has safety improvements similar to those for the Proposed Action, but re-routes the pipeline around areas where it may be unusually vulnerable to rupture from natural hazards, and where the concentration of people and resources that a pipeline rupture would adversely affect is unusually high. The BIA has designated this as the Preferred Alternative.

The BIA has afforded the public the opportunity to participate in the preparation of this FEIS. The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on September 15, 1994. Seven scoping meetings followed between September 29, 1994, and November 21, 1994, in Pablo, Arlee, Frenchtown, St. Ignacious, Missoula and Hot Springs, Montana, and Spokane, Washington.

While the Draft EIS was being prepared, four open houses and four workshops were held during the week of February 20, 1995. These focused on the alternative-route-screening analysis and the work plans for the EIS studies. Information on these topics was also mailed to interested individuals via newsletter, and distributed to information centers in the vicinity of the study area. In addition, the EIS study team made presentations to both the CSKT Tribal Council and Cultural Committees.

The Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register on April 26, 1995, with a 60 day public comment period ending on June 24, 1995. During this period, five open house meetings were held to inform the public about the Draft EIS alternatives, study methods and results and to provide additional opportunity for public comment.

Dated: November 7, 1995.

Ada E. Deer,

Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs. [FR Doc. 95–28612 Filed 11–22–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4310–02–P

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-050-1220-00]

Emergency Closure of Public Lands; Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,

Interior.

ACTION: Closure order.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that effective November 20, 1995 certain public lands along Fremont County Road 3 (Temple Canyon Road), Fremont County, Colorado, are closed to all vehicle access and travel. Authority for this action is found in 43 CFR 8341.2 and 43 CFR 8364.1 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. This closure affects about 15 acres of public land located 3 miles southwest of Canon City, Colorado. The closure is in response to concerns of public health and safety on public land and adjacent private land, illegal dumping, and resource degradation.

DATES: This closure is effective November 20, 1995 and shall remain in effect unless revised, revoked or amended.

ADDRESSES: Details of the closure and a map of the affected area can be obtained from the Area Manager, Royal Gorge Resource Area, 3170 East Main Street, Canon City, CO 81212.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Area Manager at the above address, or call (719) 275–0631.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public lands affected by this closure are located at:

6th Principal Meridian

T. 19 S., R. 70 W., Section 7: SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, that portion lying west of Fremont County Road 3 (Temple Canyon Road).

This closure does not apply to emergency, law enforcement, and federal or other government vehicles while being used for official or emergency purposes, or to any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized or otherwise officially approved by BLM. A copy of this Federal Register notice and a map showing the closed area is posted in the Canon City District Office. Violation of this order is punishable by fine and/or imprisonment as defined in 18 USC 3571.

Donnie R. Sparks,

District Manager.

 $[FR\ Doc.\ 95\text{--}28668\ Filed\ 11\text{--}22\text{--}95;\ 8\text{:}45\ am]$

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