



Federal Energy
Regulatory
Commission

Office of Pipeline Regulation
Washington, DC 20426

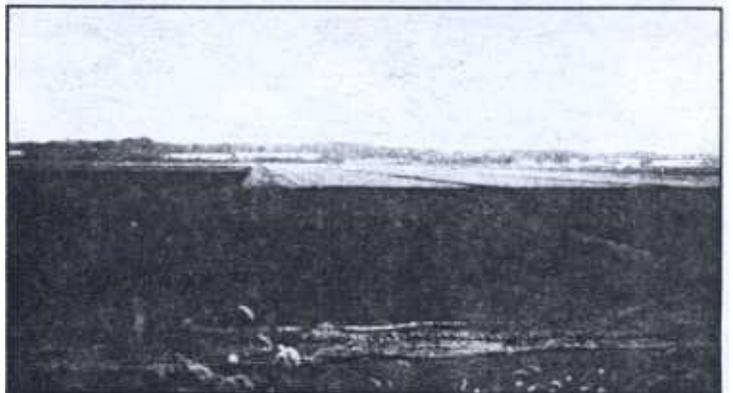
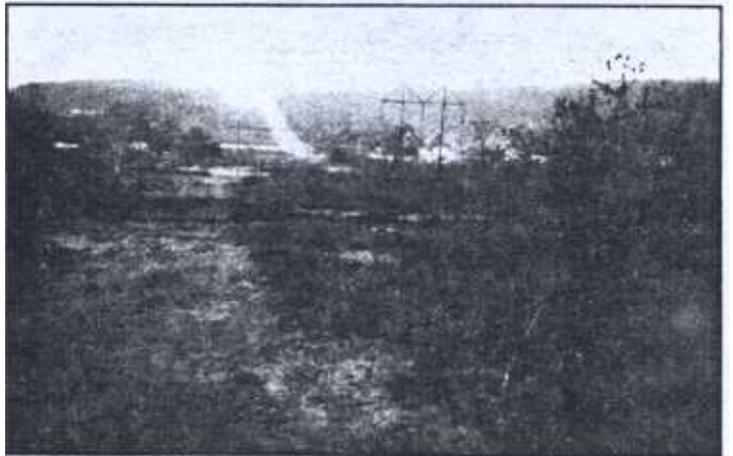
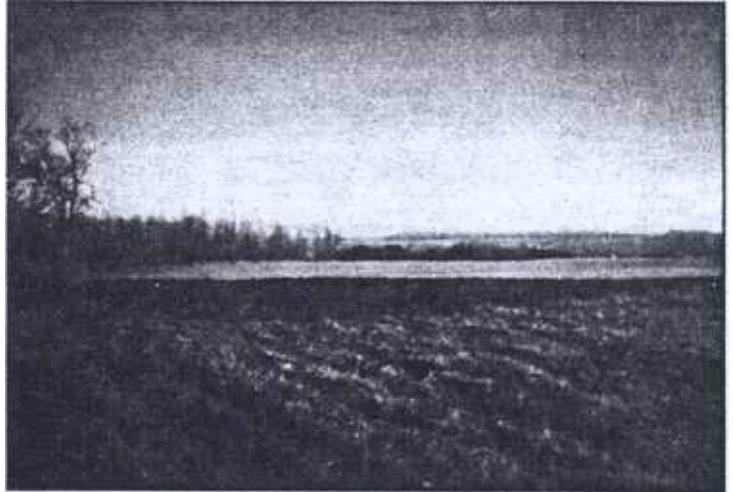
April 1999

MILLENNIUM PIPELINE PROJECT

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

FERC/EIS-0123D

Millennium Pipeline Company L.P.
Docket No. CP98-150-000
Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation
Docket No. CP98-151-000



In Reply Refer To:
OPR/DEER/ERC II
Millennium Pipeline Company, L.P.
Docket No. CP98-150-000
Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation
Docket No. CP98-151-000

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared this draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Millennium Pipeline Company, L.P. (Millennium) and Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) in the above-referenced dockets. The application and other supplemental filings in this docket are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions.

The DEIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed projects, with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact. The DEIS also evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system alternatives.

The DEIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities in New York and Pennsylvania:

Millennium

373.5 miles of 36-inch-diameter mainline;
43.8 miles of 24-inch-diameter mainline;
3 measurement facilities; and
associated pipelines facilities, including mainline and block valves, pig launchers and receivers, remote blowdown valves, and remote cathodic protection rectifier beds.

The DEIS also assesses the potential environmental effects of abandonment of these facilities by Columbia:

Abandonment by conveyance to Millennium

6.7 miles of 24-inch diameter pipeline in Rockland County that would be used for the new mainline system between mileposts (MPs) 376.4 and 383.3;
20.1 miles of laterals and 28 metering and regulation stations in New York and Pennsylvania, and one compressor station in Pennsylvania; and

Abandonment in place or by removal:

222 miles of Line A-5 in New York.

The purpose of the proposed project would be to transport natural gas from Canada to markets in the eastern United States, including New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Comment Procedures and Public Meetings

Any person wishing to comment on the DEIS may do so. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and are properly recorded:

Send two copies of your comments to:

David Boergers, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426;

Reference Docket No. CP98-150-000 et al.; and

Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 7, 1999.

In addition to written comments, we will hold six public meetings in the project area to receive comments on the DEIS. All meetings will begin at 7:00 pm, and are scheduled as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 17, 1999	Goshen High School Scottstown Avenue Goshen, NY (914) 294-2433
May 18, 1999	Mark Twain Junior High School 160 Woodlawn Avenue Yonkers, NY (914)376-8540
May 18, 1999	Chautauqua Lake Central High School 2 Academy Street Mayville, NY (716)753-9305
May 19, 1999	Horseheads High School 401 Fletcher Street Horseheads, NY (607)739-5601
May 20, 1999	Binghamton High School 31 Main Street Binghamton, NY (607)762-8200

May 20, 1999

Wellsville Elementary School
50-98 School Street
Wellsville, NY
(716)593-5504

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend and present oral comments on the environmental impact described in the DEIS. Transcripts of the meetings will be prepared.

After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the DEIS as necessary, a final EIS will be published and distributed by the staff. The final EIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments received on the DEIS.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commenter a party to the proceeding. Any person may file a motion to intervene on the basis of the Commission Staff's DEIS (see 18 CFR 380.106 and 385.214). **You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.**

All intervenors, agencies, elected officials, local governments, special interest groups, libraries, media, and anyone providing written comments on the DEIS will receive a copy of the final EIS. **If you do not wish to comment on the DEIS but wish to receive a copy of the final EIS, you must write to the Secretary of the Commission indicating this request. Individuals who do not indicate their desire to receive the final EIS will only receive the Executive Summary.**

The DEIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for public inspection at:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch
888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 208-1371

A limited number of copies are available from the Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch identified above. In addition, the DEIS has been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies; public interest groups; individuals who requested a copy of the DEIS; affected landowners; libraries; newspapers; and parties to this proceeding.

Additional information about the proposed projects is available from Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222. Access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission with regard to this docket, such as orders and notices, is also available on the FERC website using the "CIPS" link. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David Boergers
Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the **Millennium Pipeline Project** has been prepared by the staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Millennium Pipeline Company, L.P. (Millennium) proposes to construct and operate an interstate natural gas pipeline and associated aboveground facilities under Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act and Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 157. Millennium's proposed 424.0-mile-long mainline would extend from an interconnection in Lake Erie at the Canada/United States (U.S.) border, through southern New York to Mount Vernon, New York. The purpose of Millennium's proposed facilities would be to transport U.S. and Canadian gas to growth markets in the eastern U.S., including Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. In a related application, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) proposes to abandon the majority of its Line A-5 mainline system and to convey to Millennium certain Line A-5 pipeline lateral facilities that would become part of the new Millennium pipeline system.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Millennium Pipeline Project would transport up to 700,000 decatherms per day (dth/d) and provide firm transportation services for ten shippers for natural gas service beginning on November 1, 2000. In addition, Millennium would transport 14,000 dth/d for customers on Columbia's existing Line A-5 pipeline. This would require construction and operation of a new interstate transmission system. Millennium's project consists of the construction and operation of:

- 373.5 miles of 36-inch-diameter mainline;
- 43.8 miles of 24-inch-diameter mainline;
- 3 measurement facilities; and
- associated pipelines facilities, including mainline and block valves, pig launchers and receivers, remote blowdown valves, and remote cathodic protection rectifier beds.

Millennium would acquire from Columbia:

- 6.7 miles of 24-inch diameter pipeline in Rockland County that would be used for the new mainline system; and
- 20.1 miles of laterals and 28 metering and regulation stations in New York and Pennsylvania, and one compressor station in Pennsylvania.

Construction of the Millennium Pipeline Project would affect a total of about 6,352.3 acres of land and water, and would require a 32.9-mile-long United States crossing of Lake Erie (93.6 miles total) and a 2.2-mile-long crossing of the Hudson River in the Haverstraw Bay area. In addition to Lake Erie and Hudson River crossings, the pipeline would cross 486 waterbodies, of which 18 are greater than 100 feet wide at the crossing location (excluding Lake Erie and the Hudson River). Millennium proposes to directionally drill the Lake Erie landfall and the Chenango and Ramapo Rivers. About 421.1 acres of wetlands, including 54.0 acres of forested wetlands, would be disturbed by construction activities. A total of 217 residences would be within 50 feet of the construction work area. Of these, 81 are in Westchester County where the pipeline would be placed within the streets of Yonkers and Mount Vernon.

Six federally listed endangered and threatened species could potentially occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. These include the federally endangered shortnose sturgeon, dwarf wedge mussel, and

peregrine falcon and the federally threatened bald eagle, bog turtle, and northern wild monkshood. We (the Commission staff) have determined that the proposed project is not likely to adversely effect the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and bog turtle, but is likely to affect the shortnose sturgeon, dwarf wedge mussel, and northern wild monkshood. We also believe that a "take," as defined under section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), may occur to the shortnose sturgeon if the project is constructed as proposed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have not completed their review of the project. We have recommended that Millennium complete necessary consultations and required surveys. We have also asked the FWS and NMFS to open formal consultation, to consider this DEIS as our Biological Assessment for the proposed project, and to issue a Biological Opinion with Conservational Recommendations and Incidental Take Statements, as appropriate.

Millennium has completed cultural resource surveys in Lake Erie and the Hudson River, and about 93 percent of the land segment of the route. No further testing is planned for the Lake Erie crossing. Further testing is planned for 15 sonar targets found in the Hudson River. Of the surveyed sites, Millennium identified 38 non-structural and structural sites for identification level surveys, and 44 non-structural and structural sites for further testing to determine eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Eight properties were previously determined eligible for listing in, or are already listed in, the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, Millennium has yet to complete deep testing of 20 areas and further testing of 13 areas at stream and river crossings.

Millennium has initiated consultation with the New York State Department of State for a determination of consistency with the state's coastal zone management plans. However, it has no initiated consultations with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for a determination of consistency with the Pennsylvania portion of Lake Erie.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

We reviewed the No Action Alternative, which would involve not building, or deferring construction of the proposed facilities. In reaching its final decision, the Commission will review both the environmental and non-environmental record in deciding whether to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

We evaluated a range of alternatives involving the use of other pipeline systems, as well as major route alternatives and minor route variations. The system alternatives included use of both existing and proposed pipeline systems. While we identified no one system alternative that would entirely replace the proposed project, we did identify a system alternative that would avoid the Lake Erie crossing and are specifically requesting comments from TransCanada Pipeline Ltd., Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation, and Millennium regarding the feasibility of expansion of these systems.

We also evaluated major route alternatives that included alternate routes around Lake Erie and across the Hudson River, as well as an alternate route along State Route 17. Although we recommended none of these alternatives, we are requesting comments from Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin) and Millennium on the feasibility of using the existing Algonquin pipelines to transport Millennium's proposed volumes across the Hudson River.

Finally, we evaluated minor route variations to minimize or reduce environmental impact on specific, localized resources. Of these, we identified one variation that could minimize impact on one landowner's property. Although we evaluated two route variations in the City of Yonkers, we believe that construction of the proposed route would result in the least long-term environmental impact.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND AREAS OF CONCERN

On February 27, 1998, the FERC issued a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Millennium Pipeline Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues (NOI). The NOI was sent to about 2,237 individuals and organizations, including Federal, state, county, and local agencies; state and local conservation organizations; elected officials (U.S. representatives and senators, state governors, and local and state representatives); local newspapers and libraries; potential right-of-way grantors; and other individuals. Public scoping meetings to provide the general public with an opportunity to learn more about the project and to comment on environmental issues to be addressed in the DEIS were held in North East, Pennsylvania (March 16, 1998); and in Wellsville (March 17, 1998), Binghamton (March 18, 1998), Yonkers (March 24, 1998), and Port Jervis, New York (March 25, 1998).

Issues raised during the public scoping period included pipeline reliability and public safety; earthquakes and faults; effects on "Rock City" formations; effects on old existing gas and oil pipelines that would be crossed; effects on soils and agricultural land, including drain tiles and the "black dirt" area in Orange County; effects on water quality and the use of open-cut construction techniques to cross waterbodies; effects on the Old Croton and Catskill aqueducts; effects of construction across Lake Erie and the potential for damage to the pipeline from ice scour; effects of construction across the Hudson River and Haverstraw Bay; effects on fish and wildlife, including endangered and threatened species and the Mongaup Wildlife Management Area; effects on wetlands, including wetlands regulated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; effects of construction within the Consolidated Edison Corporation powerline right-of-way and potential impact to the power supplies to New York City in the event of a pipeline emergency; effects on residential properties; effects on recreation and public interest areas, including the Appalachian Trail and Harriman State Park; effects on cultural resources sites and historic structures; and use of alternative pipeline systems or routes.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

We conclude that, with the use of Millennium's proposed mitigation and adoption of our recommended mitigation measures, construction and operation of the proposed facilities would have limited adverse environmental impacts. These impacts will be most significant during the construction period. As part of our analysis, we have developed specific mitigation measures that we believe to be appropriate and reasonable for construction and operation of the proposed facilities. We believe that these measures would substantially reduce the environmental impact and have concluded that if this project is constructed and operated in accordance with these mitigation measures, it would be an environmentally acceptable action. The primary reasons for our decision are:

about 90 percent of the percent of the onshore pipeline route would be adjacent to or overlap existing rights-of-way, such as other pipelines or powerlines;

the new pipeline system would replace most of Columbia's aging Line A-5 mainline with facilities designed, operated, and maintained in accordance with current standards;

Millennium would implement the construction and restoration procedures identified in its project-specific Environmental Construction Standards, which incorporate the FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures;

an environmental inspection and mitigation monitoring program would ensure compliance with all the mitigation measures that are required by a FERC Certificate or other permit;

compliance with ESA would be completed before Millennium would be allowed to begin construction;

compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act would be completed before Millennium would be allowed to begin construction in any given area; and

compliance with the Federal coastal zone management programs in New York and Pennsylvania would be completed before Millennium would be allowed to begin construction.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Algonquin	Algonquin Gas Transmission Company
ANR	ANR Pipeline Company
AT	Appalachian National Scenic Trail
BA	Biological Assessment
Bcf/d	billion cubic feet per day
BO	Biological Opinion
CAS	construction alignment sheets
CEAA	Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
Certificate	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNG	CNG Transmission Corporation
COE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Columbia	Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation
Consumers	Consumers Energy Company
Commission	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
ConEd	Consolidated Edison Corporation
Crossroads	Crossroads Pipeline Company
CNG	CNG Transmission System
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CWA	Clean Water Act
DEIS	draft environmental impact statement
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
dth/d	decatherms per day
East Ohio Gas	East Ohio Gas Company
ECS	Millennium's Environmental Construction Standards
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEIS	final environmental impact statement
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
hp	horsepower
	Interstate
IBM	International Business Machines
Independence	Independence Pipeline Company
Iroquois	Iroquois Gas Transmission System
LPEP	Land Preservation and Enhancement Program
MGS	Michigan Gas Storage Company
Millennium	Millennium Pipeline Company, L.P.
mg/l	milligrams per liter
MMcf/d	million cubic feet per day
MP	milepost
National Fuel	National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation
NEB	Canadian National Energy Board
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGA	Natural Gas Act

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS (cont'd)

NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NOI	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Millennium Pipeline Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues
North East	North East Heat & Light
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRI	Nationwide Rivers Inventory
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NYNHP	New York Natural Heritage Program
NYCDEP	New York City Department of Environmental Protection
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSEG	New York State Electric and Gas
NYSDA&M	State of New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
NYSDOT	New York State Department of Transportation
OPR	Office of Pipeline Regulation
PCB	polychlorinated bi-phenols
PD	Preliminary Determination on Non-Environmental Issues
PDEIS	preliminary draft environmental impact statement
PEM	pallustrine emergent
PFO	pallustrine forested
Plan	Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan
POW	pallustrine open water
Procedures	Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures
PSS	pallustrine scrub-shrub
Secretary	Secretary of the Commission
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SPCC Plan	Spill Prevention, Containment, and Control Plan
St. Clair	St. Clair Pipelines Ltd.
SVOC	semi-volatile organic compounds
T	trout
Tennessee	Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company
Texas Eastern	Texas Eastern Transmission System
TOGS	Technical and Operational Guidance Series
TransCanada	TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.
Transco	Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TS	trout spawning
TSS	total suspended solids
U.S.	United States
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
Vector	Vector Pipeline L.P.
WMA	wildlife management area