

Buckeye Xpress Pipeline Replacement Project Key Messages

Why would the Forest Service allow a pipeline across the national forest?

As a federal land management agency with a multiple-use mission, the Forest Service authorizes different uses on National Forest System lands. These uses often include recreation, wildlife habitat, and sources of consumable materials, such as timber, minerals and oil and gas. As part of the agency mission, the Forest Service supports federal policies emphasizing energy infrastructure, jobs, economic growth and our agency's efforts to provide for multiple uses of national forest system lands.

Will the Buckeye Xpress Project allow the placement of a new pipeline?

The project as proposed would authorize the construction and placement of a new 36-inch high pressure natural gas pipeline primarily within an existing gas pipeline corridor. A decision is pending regarding the removal or decommissioning in place of an existing 20-inch pipeline proposed for deactivation as part of this project.

This project is termed as a pipeline replacement – which pipeline is being replaced?

The Columbia Gas Transmission LLC Pipeline R-System contains three existing pipelines that cross the Ironton District of the WNF. A 20-inch pipeline (R 501) is proposed for decommissioning due to the specific pipe design used and the length of time it has been in service. This line is proposed to be decommissioned and replaced with a new, 36-inch pipeline (R 801), which will provide continued safe and reliable service to existing and anticipated future customers. Replacement of the R-501 type pipe is required for compliance with United States Department of Transportation (“USDOT”) regulations that prohibit wrinkle bends on steel pipe operating at a pressure that produces a hoop stress of 30 percent or more of specified minimum yield strength.

What will be done with the pipeline that is no longer being used within the Wayne National Forest?

Columbia Gas Transmission must complete the construction of the new, replacement pipeline before decommissioning the older pipeline in order to maintain continuous service. The company has proposed to abandon the older line in place after it has been taken offline and complete a decommissioning process following industry standards. The Forest Service is considering alternatives for the pipeline to be decommissioned that include both removal and leaving portions in place where removal could result in greater environmental impacts. Certain portions of the line may be left in place due to being collocated with other lines or to reduce resource impacts. Any pipelines removed will be removed from the property and the lands restored.

What are easement rights and how can Columbia Gas hold them on public lands?

When the United States acquires land, the title to the land may be subject to existing private rights or outstanding rights, held by a third party. Easement rights can pertain to public roads, utilities, or surface

use easements. Easements are a deeded right that provides the holder of the easement certain rights of use of the property. The landowner is subject to the rights of the easement holder as cited in their easement deed. State and Federal laws provide protection for the landowner and many times the landowner can negotiate with the easement holder to provide additional protections to the surface resources or uses on the land.

Because an easement is a preexisting right, the Forest Service does not have decision authority under the National Environmental Policy Act to authorize, regulate, or permit activities specified in the easement deed.

Columbia Gas Transmission LLC (Columbia Gas) holds private rights for the installation, development, and maintenance of pipelines on portions of the property involved in this project. When the Forest Service acquired the property, these easement rights preexisted the ownership of the United States, therefore the holder of the easement has an outstanding right to use and occupy the public land.

How much of the project is covered by Columbia's easement rights?

Approximately 12.6 miles (about 245 acres) of the project route crosses the Wayne National Forest Ironton Ranger District in Gallia and Lawrence Counties, Ohio. For most of this route (8.5 miles or about 157 acres) Columbia holds existing easement rights, meaning the Forest Service does not have decision authority under the National Environmental Policy Act. The Forest Service does, however, hold decision authority for the remaining 4.1 miles (about 88 acres) of the route, and is considering the issuance of a special use permit to authorize the project construction activities, occupancy, operation, and maintenance of the pipeline on National Forest System lands of the Wayne National Forest for up to 30 years.

What is the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and how does it relate to the Forest Service?

A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission would grant Columbia Gas the authority to operate on private lands. Columbia would also need a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service to operate on the Wayne National Forest.

If the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission does not issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, the Forest Service would not issue a Special Use Permit and the Buckeye Xpress Project would not continue.

Why is the Forest Service using the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Environmental Assessment to make decisions on the Wayne National Forest?

Council on Environmental Quality regulations allow federal agencies to complete one Environmental Assessment to support all federal decisions for a project. This alleviates costly, duplicative efforts and ensures consistency across the entire project. For the Buckeye Xpress Project proposal, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead federal agency and the Forest Service is a cooperating agency.

What is the Forest Service's role as a cooperating agency?

The Forest Service reviews public comments sent to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and assists with the environmental review process. The Forest Service follows all laws, regulations, and policies to issue permits for natural gas pipelines.

The Forest Service will use the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Environmental Assessment when considering whether to authorize Columbia to proceed with its proposed project on the Wayne National Forest.

The Forest Service ensures the project has appropriate environmental protections in place. The Forest Service plays an important role in ensuring critical energy projects are implemented responsibly and with concern to our natural resources.

What steps are involved in the Environmental Assessment process?

On May 20, 2019, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will issue the Environmental Assessment, followed by a 30-day comment period. Submit comments, including those about the proposed construction, operation, and maintenance of the pipeline, to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will use public comments in the analysis of the proposed project. The Forest Service will assist on comments specific to National Forest System lands.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission plans to issue a Final Order around August 18, 2019. The Final Order will be used by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to inform their upcoming decision whether to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Columbia Gas.

Prior to or simultaneous to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Final Order release, the Forest Service will release a Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact determining whether to authorize the use and occupancy of National Forest System land on the Wayne National Forest to Columbia Gas for the Buckeye Xpress Project.

Issuance of the Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact begins a 45-day objection filing period, followed by a 45-day objection resolution period. Once all objections receive a written response from the Reviewing Official, a Final Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact may be issued and implemented.

Should the Final Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact approve authorization of use and occupancy on National Forest System lands to Columbia Gas, implementation of the Final Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact will be contingent upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issuing a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the pipeline to Columbia Gas. If the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission does not issue the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Columbia Gas, the Forest Service will not implement the project.

What decisions will the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Forest Service make based on the Environmental Assessment?

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will use the Environmental Assessment to decide whether to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Columbia Gas. The Forest Service will prepare a separate Decision Notice using the information and analysis in the Environmental Assessment, along with public comments provided for the Environmental Assessment.

If approved, Columbia Gas needs both a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service

How can I comment on the Environmental Assessment and where do I find out about how to appeal or object to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decision?

For information on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Environmental Assessment process please visit:

- www.ferc.gov
- www.ferc.gov/resources/processes/flow/rule-rehearing-text.asp
- www.ferc.gov/resources/processes/flow/rule-rehearing.asp

Can I appeal or object to the Forest Service decision?

Prior to or simultaneous to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Final Order release, the Forest Service will release a Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact determining whether to authorize the use and occupancy of National Forest System land on the Wayne National Forest to Columbia Gas for the Buckeye Xpress Project.

You can file an objection if you have submitted timely, specific written comments during the comment period, or if you are raising objection issues based on new information that came up after the comment period.

The Forest Service has up to 45 days after the filing period to respond to objections. A final decision will not be made until the Forest Service has responded to the objections it receives.

Will pipeline construction proceed on the Wayne National Forest during the objection period?

Construction on the Forest can only begin if the Forest Service finishes the objection process and issues a final Decision Notice, a Finding of No Significant Impact, and a Special Use Permit.

What is mitigation? How will the Forest Service ensure there are no adverse effects to resources?

Mitigation measures are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to natural and cultural resources. Our intent is to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on the Wayne National Forest.

If the agencies authorize the project, how will the Forest Service ensure slope stability during and after construction?

A Construction, Operation, and Maintenance Plan will be issued with the Special Use Permit to identify mitigation measures and monitoring activities designed to lessen the effects of the pipeline's construction and operation on slope stability.

How will water quality be protected?

A Construction, Operations, and Maintenance Plan specific to the Wayne National Forest is included within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Environmental Assessment and will be revised as appropriate in coordination with the company to align with the final project decision. The final Construction, Operations, and Maintenance Plan would be issued with the Special Use Permit to identify mitigation measures and monitoring activities designed to protect water bodies from disturbance or erosion.

How will the Forest Service protect threatened and endangered species and cultural resources?

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission consults with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to determine whether the proposed project affects any listed species or their habitat, and with State Historic Preservation Officers, as required by the National Historic Preservation Act, to determine whether the proposed project affects any cultural resources.

How much of Wayne National Forest is involved in this project?

The construction phase of the Buckeye Xpress Project would affect approximately 245 acres of the Forest. Following construction, Columbia would maintain approximately 88 acres of the Wayne National Forest for long-term use.

What is the authorized corridor width on National Forest System lands?

The construction corridor for the Buckeye Express Pipeline Project in most instances would be 125-foot-wide, with a temporary work space of 75 feet. The construction corridor would be reclaimed to a final operational corridor width of 50 feet. The pipeline would be buried under three feet of cover in most areas.

Does Columbia Gas Transmission LLC hold other Special Use Permits on Wayne National Forest?

Columbia Gas Transmission LLC, holds a Special Use Permit for existing pipe lines collocated with the project being planned. The need for a new special use permit is due to the additional 36-inch pipe proposed and the authority to issue the permit is with the Regional Forester.

Who paid for all the analysis and time the Forest Service put into the project?

The Forest Service is recovering costs associated with the project in accordance with 36 CFR Part 251.58. Columbia Gas is paying these costs under cost-recovery and other payment agreements.