



**Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC**

**Requirement J-1 – Project Description Narrative**

**Regional Energy Access Expansion Project –  
Regional Energy Lateral and Existing Compressor Station 515**

**April 2021**  
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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**1.0 GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

1.1 REGIONAL ENERGY LATERAL

1.2 EXISTING COMPRESSOR STATION 515

**2.0 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED**

**3.0 WATER DEPENDENCY**

**4.0 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**5.0 REFERENCES**

## **1. General Project Description**

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco), indirectly owned by the Williams Companies, Inc. (Williams) is seeking authorization from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations, to construct, own, operate, and maintain the proposed Project facilities associated with the Regional Energy Access Expansion Project (Project). The Project is an expansion of Transco's existing natural gas transmission system that will enable Transco to provide an incremental 829,400 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) of year-round firm transportation capacity from the Marcellus Shale production area in northeastern Pennsylvania (PA) to multiple delivery points along Transco's Leidy Line in PA, Transco's mainline at the Station 210 Zone 6 Pooling Point in Mercer County, New Jersey (NJ) and multiple delivery points in Transco's Zone 6 in NJ, PA, and Maryland. Subject to FERC's certification of the Project and receipt of the necessary permits and authorizations, Transco anticipates construction of the Project to start in second quarter 2023 to meet a proposed in-service date in fourth quarter 2024.

### **1.1 Regional Energy Lateral**

The Regional Energy Lateral component of the Project will consist of approximately 22.2 miles of 30-inch diameter pipeline, partially co-located with existing Transco Leidy Line-A, in Buck, Bear Creek, Plains, Jenkins, Kingston and Dallas Townships, and Laflin, Wyoming, and West Wyoming Boroughs, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The Regional Energy Lateral begins at existing Compressor Station 515 in Buck Township and continues westward to its terminus at Transco's existing Hildebrandt Interconnect in Dallas Township.

Transco will be installing four mainline valves with appurtenant equipment, as a means to isolate gas flows along the Regional Energy Lateral. The mainline valve sites at each pipeline terminus (MLV515RA10 at Station 515 and MLV515RA40 at the Hildebrandt Interconnect) will also have pig traps (industry term for manifolds that launch or receive in-line inspection tools). The other two valve sites are proposed along the pipeline route (MLV515RA20 at Milepost 7.5 and MLV515RA30 at Milepost 14.8).

Modifications at three existing pipeline interconnects are proposed to tie-in the proposed pipeline to the existing facilities. The Carverton Tie-In is located at Milepost 16.8. The Lower Demunds Tie-In is located at Milepost 22.3 and also includes a +/- 400-ft segment of 20-in pipeline and conduit to connect to the existing facility. The Hildebrandt Tie-In is located at the Regional Energy Lateral pipeline terminus and includes MLV515RA40.

Two contractor yards are proposed for the Project and are located adjacent to the pipeline. CY-LU-001 is located at Milepost 15.3 and CY-LU-002 is located at Milepost 10.5.

Cathodic protection equipment will be installed along the pipeline route. Deep anode ground beds are proposed at Mileposts 7.5 and 19.8, and one remote anode ground bed is proposed at Milepost 15.3.

Unavoidable impacts to wetlands, streams and floodways are necessary to construct the proposed Regional Energy Lateral. Dry open-cut construction methodology will be utilized at all resource crossings but four. The Susquehanna River will be crossed using direct pipe. Three streams and adjacent resources will be conventionally bored. Disturbed wetland, streams and floodways will be returned to pre-construction grade and contour upon completion of construction, except for those areas identified within the permit application that have site specific restoration measures

## **1.2 Existing Compressor Station 515**

The existing Compressor Station 515 component of the Project is located at the eastern terminus of the Regional Energy Lateral in Buck Township, Luzerne County. Proposed at this facility is the addition of two gas-fired turbine driven compressor units with 63,742 nominal HP at ISO conditions and modification of three existing compressors to support the Project and to accommodate the abandonment and replacement of approximately 17,000 HP from five existing gas-fired reciprocating engine driven compressors and increase the certificated station compression by 46,742 HP. One Mainline Valve will be installed at this facility (MLV515RA10).

Unavoidable impacts to wetlands are necessary to construct the proposed modifications at Compressor Station 515. The wetland impacts will be temporary and will be returned to pre-construction grade and contour upon completion of construction.

## **2. Project Purpose and Need**

Transco proposes to construct and operate the Project facilities to provide an incremental 829,400 Dth/d of year-round firm transportation capacity from the Marcellus Shale production areas in northeastern PA to Transco's mainline at the Station 210 Zone 6 Pooling Point in Mercer County, NJ, and multiple delivery points along Transco's mainline and Marcus Hook and Trenton Woodbury Laterals in NJ, PA, and MD. To subscribe the proposed firm transportation capacity under the Project, Transco conducted an open seasons for the Project capacity in 2020 and 2021. As a result of those offerings, Transco is proposing to construct facilities to provide 829,400 Dth/d

of firm transportation capacity by fourth quarter 2024. Transco has executed long-term, binding precedent agreements for all of the capacity with eight shippers, which together combine for a commitment of firm capacity of 829,400 Dth/d. These agreements are included in the Certificate Application. Placing the Project facilities in service by fourth quarter 2024 is required to meet the firm transportation service requirements of the Project shippers. As detailed in the Certificate Application, the Project does not rely on subsidization from existing customers.

The Project will provide Transco's customers and the markets they serve with greatly enhanced access to Marcellus Shale supply, therefore, further diversifying fuel supply access. Currently, access to the Marcellus Shale production area is constrained on peak days by limited pipeline take-away capacity. By increasing gas supply access along Transco's existing Leidy Line, the Project will support overall reliability and diversification of energy infrastructure in the Northeast. Moreover, the Project will benefit the public by promoting competitive markets and enhancing the security of natural gas supplies to major delivery points serving the Northeast. As detailed in the Certificate Application, the Project will not adversely affect service to Transco's existing customers, or other pipelines and their captive customers, and supports diversification of supply in the Northeast.

A review of the Annual Energy Outlook 2021 (Energy Information Administration 2021) reference case indicates that natural gas consumption will rise from 33.43 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) in 2020 to 39.75 Tcf in 2040 and will continue to grow to 42.79 Tcf in 2050. Therefore, Transco's proposal is consistent with expected market demand and the needs expressed in Transco's binding precedent agreements that have been executed for this additional capacity. As such, the Project is also fully consistent with the Commission's Statement of Policy on the Certification of New Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities.

As detailed in the Certificate Application, Transco is taking the necessary steps to minimize adverse impacts on landowners and surrounding communities. Transco has minimized potential environmental impacts by collocating the proposed pipelines with existing ROWs to the extent practicable; in total, approximately 78% of the proposed pipelines will be collocated with existing and/or certificated ROWs. Transco already has obtained one hundred percent of the survey permissions needed for the proposed Project and will work diligently with landowners to enter into agreements for acquisition of rights of way.

**Table 1.1-1  
 Transco’s Customers and Transportation Capacity Subscribed to the Project**

Shipper	Transportation Contract Quantity
PECO Energy Company	100,000 Dth/d
Elizabethtown Gas Company	30,000 Dth/d
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company	40,000 Dth/d
South Jersey Gas Company	25,000 Dth/d
PSEG Power, LLC	60,000 Dth/d
South Jersey Resources Group, LLC	71,400 Dth/d
New Jersey Natural Gas Company	353,000 Dth/d
Williams Energy Resources	150,000 Dth/d
Key: Dth/d = dekatherms per day	

### 3. Water Dependency

Based on the Project purpose and need presented above, the Regional Energy Lateral and Existing Compressor Station 515 Projects were sited, to the extent practicable, to avoid and minimize impacts to surrounding resources. Wetland and watercourse delineations for the Project area were conducted in 2020 (Requirement L-3, Module 2, Appendix S2-1). During the delineation, three hundred and eight wetlands (with multiple Cowardin classifications) and one hundred and thirteen streams were identified and delineated within the investigation area for these Project components.

Pursuant to 25 Pa. Code § 105.18(a)(2) PADEP determines on a case by case basis whether linear infrastructure projects are water dependent based upon whether wetland, stream and floodway crossings are unavoidable. Due to the linear nature of this 22.3-mile Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulated interstate pipeline project, the route unavoidably crosses wetlands, streams and floodways; therefore, PADEP would be justified in determining pursuant to its regulations that the Project is water dependent. In total, these Project components will cross/impact seventy-six streams and associated floodways (thirteen floodway only) and one hundred and eight wetlands. Dry open-cut construction methodology will be utilized for all but four pipeline resource crossings. Wetland, stream, and floodway Impacts associated with the Project are provided in the PADEP Aquatic Resource Impact Table provided in Requirement J-2 of this application, and are also depicted on Chapter 105 Impact Plans provided in Requirement H.

#### **4. Public Health, Safety, and the Environment**

To minimize incidents, interstate natural gas pipeline facilities are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT's) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Standard 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 192 (49 CFR Part 192). These federal safety standards, together with pipeline-integrity management programs and recent advances in pipeline manufacture, construction, and inspection techniques, minimize the potential for pipeline failure. These measures include improved public awareness initiatives, such as the "811" call system, "Call Before You Dig," and other One Call programs intended to reduce third-party damage to underground utilities, including buried high-pressure natural gas pipelines.

Transco will follow standard operating procedures and regulations during installation of the Project. Safety is a common concern with respect to natural gas pipeline projects and associated compressor facilities. While the Commission has oversight in ensuring that aboveground facilities are safely constructed and installed, once the natural gas is flowing in the new facilities, the USDOT assumes oversight responsibility during the operational life of the pipeline and supporting appurtenances. The USDOT is also responsible for setting the federal safety standards for natural gas.

Transco will comply with, and in most cases exceed, the requirements of the USDOT, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and other applicable regulations, standards, and guidelines for safety. This will include compliance with applicable design standards and codes, construction provisions as mandated, and operation procedures and standards, such as the Pennsylvania, One Call system.

The Regional Energy Lateral and Existing Compressor Station 515 have been designed to minimize environmental impacts to the greatest extent practicable. Due to the linear nature of the Project and location of resources adjacent to the existing facility, unavoidable impacts, mostly temporary in nature, to wetlands and waterbodies are proposed. The majority of wetland and stream crossings are located immediately adjacent to and within an existing right-of-way due to the Project being co-located to existing Transco pipelines or other utilities. A summary table outlining the wetland, stream and floodway impacts associated with the Project are provided in the PA DEP Aquatic Resource Impact Table provided in Requirement J-2 of this application, and are also depicted on Chapter 105 Impact Plans provided in Requirement H.

During construction, impacts to wetland areas will be minimized to the extent possible by employing the wetland construction procedures specified in the Project's Environmental Construction Plan (ECP) and within the approved Erosion and Sediment Control plans. The Project's ECP is modeled after the Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC) guidance and meets industry standards.



## **5. References**

Cowardin LM, Carter V, Golet FC, LaRoe ET. 1979. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Pub. FWS/OBS-79/31, Washington, DC.

FERC Online eLibrary.

[https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/file\\_list.asp?accession\\_num=20190731-5049](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20190731-5049)

The Pennsylvania Code. Title 25 Environmental Protection, Chapter 105. Water Quality Standards. (PACODE) Available online at

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