



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**PITTSBURGH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**WILLIAM S. MOORHEAD FEDERAL BUILDING**  
**1000 LIBERTY AVENUE**  
**PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-4186**

Public Affairs Office

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**SRC Pipeline Project**  
**Trumbull County, Ohio**  
**Pipeline Easement for Halcon Midstream Services**  
**September 2012**

The United States, acting by and through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, is proposing to grant a pipeline easement for construction and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline to Halcon Midstream Services, LLC. This project will serve as a gathering system for the transport of natural gas to market via an interconnect with an existing transmission pipeline. The proposed crossing is located beneath the surface of the Shenango Wildlife Area and Pymatuning Creek in the vicinity of Orangeville in Vernon Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.

Halcon is proposing to construct an overall project consisting of approximately 3.1 miles of 16-inch natural gas pipeline beginning at Halcon's Brugler Well Pad in Trumbull County, Ohio, and terminating at a proposed natural gas gathering system in Mercer County, PA, with a 2,867-foot section crossing U.S. Government property installed via a horizontal directional drill (HDD) method. The HDD bore entry and exit locations are both outside the boundary of the U.S. Government property, with no surface disturbance and the minimum depth of the boring at least 25 feet below the streambed of Pymatuning Creek.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, GAI Consultants, Inc. was retained by Halcon to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a portion of the project in Ohio that crosses the Shenango River Lake property. The Pittsburgh District has requested that an EA be prepared for this portion of the project. The EA identified and evaluated alternatives to the project to determine whether one would be preferable to the proposed action. These alternatives included the proposed action, no-action, other installation method, and routing around Federal land.

The proposed action alternative takes a direct, perpendicular route beneath the Shenango Wildlife Area and Pymatuning Creek via HDD. It limits surface disturbances to boring entry and exits points located off Federal land and has the least amount of environmental impacts.

The no-action alternative was not found to be feasible as it did not satisfy the purpose of providing the additional infrastructure and incremental capacity necessary to transport additional natural gas from Marcellus Shale gas production.

The second alternative, proposed due to private landowner constraints on adjacent boundaries, was a combination of trenching and HDD across federal land. This alternative was considered unfeasible due to the environmental impacts caused by extensive clearing and surface disturbance along a 50-foot by 1,700-foot corridor along the proposed right-of-way, in addition to associated clearances on federal land for staging areas, line-of-site, and a meter station.

The third alternative, routing around Federal land, proposed traversing the northern boundary of Federal property. This alternative was deemed unfeasible because the route crossed at least 50 streams, three ponds and impacted more than 1.2 acres of wetlands. In addition, the routing would interfere with existing transportation infrastructure, including 17 roads and three railroad rights-of-way. Construction would entail laying 25.4 miles of pipeline, of which the majority would be installed by conventional route clearing and trenching methods that would pose significant environmental impacts over a wide area.

Potential impacts were addressed with regard to floodplains, vegetation, fish and wildlife, water quality, air quality, wetlands, endangered species, cultural resources, regulated hazardous contaminants, transportation, noise, aesthetics, wild and scenic rivers, land use, and socio-economic resources. Coordination was made with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Historic Preservation Office, and the Delaware Nation Cultural Preservation Office. Due to the method utilized for the project, no environmental or cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project will be significantly impacted. The project will comply with all applicable environmental laws and Halcon has obtained all necessary permits and approvals.

After having carefully evaluated and balanced all beneficial and detrimental aspects of the action proposed in the SRC Pipeline Project Environmental Assessment, including all regulatory agency input, the Corps has reasonably concluded that the proposed project would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and is in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 1508.13. Consequently, the preparation of an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act for this action is not warranted. The public interest will be best served by the implementation of the proposed action. Further, the proposed work is in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

A draft of this document is being circulated for a 30-day review and comment period, starting September 10, 2013, to concerned agencies, organizations and the interested public. Questions and comments should be directed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District Public Affairs Office at (412) 395-7500/01/02.

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) precedes the Corps of Engineers' final decision on the proposed action. A copy of this FONSI will be placed on the District's website (<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil>).