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News:

Progress continues on gas pipeline that will carry Marcellus Shale deposits

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Progress continues to move slowly on a new pipeline that will travel through several townships in Potter County and carry the gas produced by the Marcellus Shale deposits.

"This has been in the works for sometime now, upwards of two years," said Potter County Commissioner Paul Heimel on Wednesday. "It confirms the early reports that the Marcellus Shale natural gas business is going to be huge; the Marcellus is one of the major reasons that Tennessee gas is building this pipeline."

The 300 Line Expansion Project will link with an existing compressor station in Pennsylvania and add seven looping segments of line, totaling approximately 128 miles, two new compressor stations and upgrades to seven existing compressor stations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and will add roughly 55,000 horsepower and increase delivery capacity in the region significantly (350,000 dekatherms).

The new pipeline will follow an existing pipeline where possible so as to minimize economic impact. In Potter County, the route is set to travel through Hector, Ulysses, Allegany and Hebron townships. In Hebron Township, a currently existing compressor station will be one of the four receiving expansion and upgrades during the project.

The process has involved several steps to this point. In 2008 and 2009, two open seasons were held for the project, and a binding Precedent Agreement has already been signed with the counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The project will add two compressor stations shipper for the full project. Nine open house meetings were held and upgrade four current stations while adding seven looping sections of pipeline.

Also at this point, El Paso Corp. has been requesting easements from landowners in the areas that will be affected by the project.

"We had a speaker from Pennsylvania General Energy at our task force meeting this month who was informing our task force that there is not going to be rapid overnight development," noted Heimel. "There is going to be a gradual increase, in drilling and production will probably not begin in earnest for a couple of years."

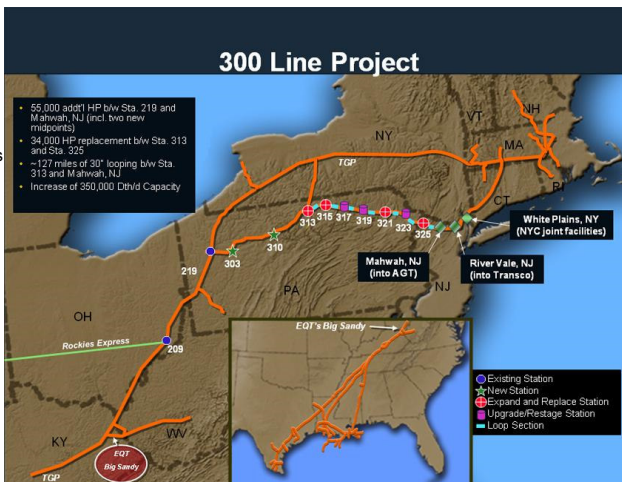
"The industries are on parallel tracks in a way, the energy company is preparing to do drilling and produce and Tennessee Gas is preparing to transport and store."

Construction may begin in the second half of this year, with the line expected to provide service by November of 2011.

"It is pretty exciting. The fact that Pennsylvania currently imports about 75 percent of its gas and is projected to be a net exporter of gas within a decade — that is mind-boggling," Heimel said. "Our industry representatives that we're speaking with say they don't think the demand will meet supply, which is a real oddity in the energy marketplace."

Heimel also noted there are two long-term developments that may occur as a result of the gas production from Marcellus Shale: electrical generator facility fueled by gas and the retrofitting of current manufacturing of motor vehicles that run on liquified natural gas.

"Those are very huge long-term developments that are going to take some time," Heimel noted. "This all speaks to the enormous dimensions of the gas industry."



Graphic from www.elpaso.com/tgp300lineproject

This map shows the proposed 300 Line Expansion Project, which will travel through six

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