



Public Works and Development

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BRYAN D. WEIMER, PWLF
Director

Board of County Commissioner's Summary Report

Date: September 22, 2020

To: Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners

Through: Kathleen Hammer, Planning Division

Through: Chuck Haskins, PE
Engineering Services Division, Manager

From: Sue Liu, PE
Engineering Services Division

Case name: ASI20-001 & LE20-001 Southeast Metro Natural Gas Project

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to communicate the Engineering Services Staff findings, comments, and recommendations regarding the land use application(s) identified above.

Scope/Location:

Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo), dba Xcel Energy, is proposing to construct, operate, and maintain approximately 5.2 miles of 20-inch diameter steel natural gas transmission pipeline between an existing regulator station, (RS) F917 near the intersection of East Caley Avenue and South Troy Circle in the City of Centennial, and an existing valve set, near South Yosemite Avenue and East Hampden Avenue in the City and County of Denver. This section of pipeline is an integral portion of the 20-inch diameter gas transmission pipeline system that provides natural gas to the southeastern Denver metropolitan area. This pipeline would traverse land managed or owned by the City and County of Denver, City of Aurora, unincorporated Arapahoe County, City of Greenwood Village, City of Centennial, Colorado Parks and Wildlife – Cherry Creek State Park, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE has jurisdiction over real estate matters in Cherry Creek State Park. The total length of the proposed pipeline in unincorporated Arapahoe County is approximately 4 miles.

Engineering Services Staff has reviewed the land use application(s) and has the following findings and comments:

1. This development lies within the Cherry Creek Watershed and within the boundaries of the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority (CCBWQA) as well as the Mile High Flood District (MHFD).

2. All utility easements for the pipeline are required and must be in place prior to the construction. All executed utility easements must be submitted to the County for files.
3. The County requires the official assessment by the US Army Corps of Engineers be provided to the County.
4. Construction activities that disturb one acre or more are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to obtain a Construction Stormwater Permit.
5. The variance request to use the construction control measures (CMs) - the Big Reds, Ecopan, compacted earthen was granted by the project inspector and the engineering staff. Per the County inspectors' experience, these CMs all work well as alternative measures and usually work better than traditional methods for the pipeline project.
6. The variance request to follow the Regulation No. 72 – Cherry Creek Reservoir Control Regulation requirement in lieu of the County Stormwater Management Manual (SMM) is granted by the County Technical Review Committee (TRC) on July 1, 2020. The County SMM, Section 14.3.2 permits exclusions to control measure (CM) Requirements for projects within the Cherry Creek Basin for land disturbances less than one acre, not part of a common plan of development or sale. The SMM's requirement is more stringent than the County's MS4 permit and Regulation No. 72 – Cherry Creek Reservoir Control Regulation, which allows for an exemption of the post construction CM for underground utilities regardless of disturbance or imperviousness.

Engineering Services Staff is recommending the land use application favorably subject to the following conditions:

1. The applicant agrees to address the Division of Engineering Services' findings, comments, and concerns as identified within the staff's report.
2. The applicant agrees to address CCBWQA's comments.
3. The applicant agrees to work with MHFD to resolve their comments.