



Project Scoping

August 2009

Williams Northwest Pipeline Maintenance at Arches National Park

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect (EA/AEF) to analyze the effects of issuing a special use permit to perform pipeline maintenance within Arches National Park. The NPS is soliciting comments from the public to help identify issues associated with this project and develop alternative resource protection approaches that will be evaluated in the EA/AEF.

Williams Northwest Pipeline passes through Arches. The buried natural gas pipeline crosses 7.5 miles of park land. The current permit for the maintenance of the pipeline expires in December 2009. An EA/AEF will be prepared to address the impact that the pipeline maintenance may have on the natural and cultural resources of the park. The EA/AEF document will analyze foreseeable maintenance needs over the next 5-years and will identify mitigation actions necessary to prevent impacts to park resources.

Proposed maintenance activities by Williams include erosion control measures should washouts or drainage problems impact the pipelines facilities. These measures generally can be repaired by hand with access by light duty vehicles but it is possible some heavy equipment would be needed. Annual leak survey and annual Close Interval Survey are conducted as part of the integrity management program. These surveys involve one or two pipeline personnel walking the pipeline.

Sincerely,
Kate Cannon, Superintendent

Overview of Process

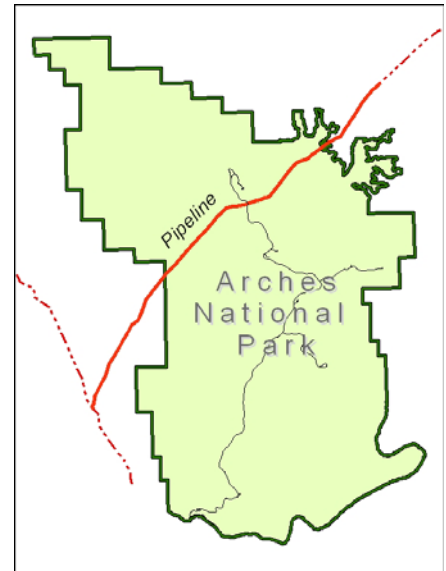
Project milestones include:

- Public scoping period (closes September 18, 2009)
- Preparation of EA/AEF
- Public review of EA/AEF
- Analysis of public comment
- Preparation of decision document
- Announcement of decision

Resources and Concerns

Initial internal project scoping identified the following resources and other concerns for consideration in the EA/AEF:

Archeological resources	Vegetation
Soil and geology	Non-Native Species
Floodplains/wetlands	Wilderness
Visitor Use and Experience	Health and safety
Cultural resources	Air and water quality
Wildlife	Species of special concern
Paleontological resources	Soundscapes



Pipeline location through ARCH.

What does the scoping period mean? Scoping is done in the initial phase of a project to seek input from a variety of sources. The input is used to identify issues, areas requiring additional study, and topics that will be analyzed in the EA/AEF process. This is an opportunity for you to provide us with your suggestions, comments and concerns regarding the maintenance of the pipeline at Arches National Park.

Is scoping my only opportunity to comment on the project? No, once the EA/AEF is developed, the document will be made available for public review for a 30-day period.

Alternatives

An internal scoping process has developed the following preliminary alternatives:

- Alternative 1: No Action –Continue current management of pipeline. No evaluation of impacts on park resources regarding anticipated pipeline maintenance. Evaluation only done on a case by case basis.
- Alternative 2 – Consider anticipated pipeline maintenance needs and evaluate the impacts of this maintenance on park resources to develop mitigation measures.

Please let us know by SEPTEMBER 18, 2009 :

1. Do you have any ideas to share about issues/concerns, or are there any issues/concerns about the project that you think we should consider?
2. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered?
3. Do you have another comments and suggestions for us to consider in the environmental assessment?

If you wish to comment on the scoping brochure or on any other issues associated with the project, you may submit your comments by the below methods.

The scoping brochure and an electronic form to submit comments on the internet can be found at the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/arch>.

You may submit written comments to:

Superintendent, Southeast Utah Group
2282 W. Resource Blvd
Moab, UT 84532.

If you wish to receive a copy of the environmental assessment (EA) when available, please check one of the lines below and include your address, then seal and mail this form.

Please add/ retain my name on your mailing list:

- ☐ I prefer to have a copy of the EA on CD-ROM.
☐ I will download my own copy of the EA from the NPS PEPC website.
☐ I will go to park headquarters or the library and read the copy on file.
☐ I don't want a copy of the EA, but please keep me on your mailing list.
☐ I would like to receive a printed copy of the EA.

Place
Stamp
Here

**National Park Service
Southeast Utah Group
Attn: Williams Northwest Pipeline Maintenance Scoping
2282 W. Resource Blvd
Moab, UT 84325**