

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:  
OEP/DG2E/Gas 4  
WBI Energy Transmission, Inc.  
Wahpeton Expansion Project  
Docket No. PF21-4-000

September 27, 2021

VIA Electronic Mail

Lori Myerchin  
Director, Regulatory Affairs and Transportation Services  
WBI Energy Transmission, Inc.  
Lori.Myerchin@WBIEnergy.com

**Re: Approval of Pre-Filing Request**

Dear Ms. Myerchin:

Thank you for your letter, filed September 22, 2021, requesting use of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) pre-filing review process for WBI Energy Transmission, Inc.'s (WBI Energy) planned Wahpeton Expansion Project. We believe that beginning the Commission's review of this proposal prior to the receipt of your application will greatly improve our ability to identify issues early and address them in our environmental document.

As stated in your letter, WBI Energy plans to construct approximately 60 miles of 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline from WBI Energy's existing Mapleton Compressor Station near Mapleton, North Dakota to a new delivery station near Wahpeton, North Dakota. Additionally, WBI Energy would construction an additional delivery station at Kindred, North Dakota, and make minor modifications at the Mapleton Compressor Station. The project would supply an additional 20.6 million cubic feet of natural gas per day to Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and provide new natural gas service to Kindred, North Dakota.

Your letter also stated that WBI Energy intends to file an application no later than May 2022. When WBI Energy files its application with the Commission, we will evaluate the progress made during the pre-filing process, based in part on your success in resolving the issues raised during scoping. Once we determine that your application is ready for processing, we will establish a schedule for completion of the environmental document and for the issuance of all other federal authorizations.

Your letter indicated that WBI Energy intends to fund a third-party environmental contractor to assist our staff in preparing the National Environmental Policy Act document for the project. Prior to soliciting any third-party contractors, please follow our Handbook for Using Third-Party Contractors to Prepare Environmental Documents found at <https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environment/third-party-contractors>. We will complete the third-party selection process once all required information has been received.

Once WBI Energy files its application, your project may qualify as a covered project under Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). We encourage you to review the information regarding FAST-41 on our website, [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Energy Projects' Environmental Project Manager for your project, David Hanobic at (202) 502-8312.

Sincerely,

for  
Terry L. Turpin  
Director  
Office of Energy Projects