

The Kern River Gas Transmission Company requests for special permit renewals and the proposed modifications to the special permit conditions are available for review and public comment in the respective dockets. We invite interested persons to review and submit comments on the special permit renewal requests in the dockets. Please include any comments on potential safety and environmental impacts that may result if the renewals of the special permits are granted.

Before issuing a decision on the special permit renewal requests, PHMSA will evaluate all comments received on or before the comment closing date. Comments received after the closing date will be evaluated, if it is possible to do so without incurring additional expense or delay. PHMSA will consider each relevant comment we receive in making our decision to grant or deny these requests.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 10, 2019, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

**Alan K. Mayberry,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 2019-26895 Filed 12-12-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-60-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket No. PHMSA-2019-0174]

#### Pipeline Safety: Request for Special Permit; Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP

**AGENCY:** Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA); DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** PHMSA is publishing this notice to solicit public comments on a request for a special permit from Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP. The special permit request seeks relief from compliance with certain requirements in the Federal pipeline safety regulations. At the conclusion of the 30-day comment period, PHMSA will review the comments received from this notice as part of its evaluation to grant or deny the special permit request.

**DATES:** Submit any comments regarding this special permit request by January 13, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should reference the docket number for the specific special permit request and may be submitted in the following ways:

- *E-Gov website:* <http://www.Regulations.gov>. This site allows

the public to enter comments on any **Federal Register** notice issued by any agency.

- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.
- *Mail:* Docket Management System: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

- *Hand Delivery:* Docket Management System: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**Instructions:** You should identify the docket number for the special permit request you are commenting on at the beginning of your comments. If you submit your comments by mail, please submit two (2) copies. To receive confirmation that PHMSA has received your comments, please include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Internet users may submit comments at <http://www.Regulations.gov>.

**Note:** There is a privacy statement published on <http://www.Regulations.gov>. Comments, including any personal information provided, are posted without changes or edits to <http://www.Regulations.gov>.

**Confidential Business Information:** Confidential Business Information (CBI) is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this notice contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this notice, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Pursuant to 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 190.343, you may ask PHMSA to give confidential treatment to information you give to the agency by taking the following steps: (1) Mark each page of the original document submission containing CBI as "Confidential"; (2) send PHMSA, along with the original document, a second copy of the original document with the CBI deleted; and (3) explain why the information you are submitting is CBI. Unless you are notified otherwise, PHMSA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public docket of this notice. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Kay McIver, DOT, PHMSA PHP-

80, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Any commentary PHMSA receives that is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this matter.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

**General:** Ms. Kay McIver by telephone at 202-366-0113, or by email at [kay.mciver@dot.gov](mailto:kay.mciver@dot.gov).

**Technical:** Mr. Joshua Johnson by telephone at 816-329-3825, or by email at [joshua.johnson@dot.gov](mailto:joshua.johnson@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** PHMSA received a special permit request from Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP (GSPC), a subsidiary of Boardwalk Pipeline Partners, LP, to deviate from 49 CFR 192.625(b) to apply alternative risk control measures to the length of the Index 129-72 Pipeline in lieu of odorization. The Federal pipeline safety regulations in 49 CFR 192.625(b) requires a gas transmission pipeline to be odorized when 50 percent of the downstream mileage is in a Class 3 or a Class 4 location. The proposed special permit would allow the Index 129-72 Pipeline to operate without odorization. The GSPC Index 129-72 Pipeline is a 30-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline, 1.31 miles in length, and is located in Fort Bend County, Texas. The maximum allowable operating pressure for the Index 129-72 Pipeline is 1,100 pounds per square inch gauge. GSPC would like to be able to flow gas bi-directionally between the Katy Storage Facility and the mainline Index 129 Pipeline. The direction of gas flow at any given time will be determined based on whether GSPC's customers are transporting gas into or out of the Katy Storage Facility.

The request, proposed special permit with conditions, and Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the GSPC Index 129-72 Pipeline are available for review and public comments in the Docket No. PHMSA-2019-0174. We invite interested persons to review and submit comments on the special permit request and DEA in the docket. Please include any comments on potential safety and environmental impacts that may result, if the special permit is granted.

Before issuing a decision on the special permit request, PHMSA will evaluate all comments received on or before the comment closing date. Comments received after the closing date will be evaluated, if it is possible to do so without incurring additional expense or delay. PHMSA will consider each relevant comment we receive in making our decision to grant or deny this request.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 9, 2019, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Alan K. Mayberry,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 2019-26886 Filed 12-12-19; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary of Transportation

#### Notice of Funding Opportunity for Letters of Interest for the RRIF Express Pilot Program Under the Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing Program

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of funding opportunity.

**SUMMARY:** This notice establishes a pilot Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (“RRIF”) Express Program (“RRIF Express”) aimed at increasing access to the RRIF program by short line and regional railroads. The RRIF Express Program will be administered by the DOT’s National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau (the “Build America Bureau” or “Bureau”). The overall RRIF program finances development of railroad infrastructure, and is authorized to have up to \$35 billion in outstanding principal amounts from direct loans and loan guarantees at any one time.

The 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act<sup>1</sup> appropriated \$25 million in budget authority to the DOT to cover the cost to the Federal Government (“the Government”) of RRIF credit assistance (Credit Risk Premium (“CRP”) Assistance or “CRP Assistance”). Additionally, the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act<sup>2</sup> and the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act<sup>3</sup> provided \$1.96 million and \$350,000, respectively (of which approximately \$1 million remains available), to the DOT to fund certain expenses incurred by prospective RRIF borrowers in preparation of their applications for RRIF credit assistance (this approximately \$1 million assistance, collectively, “Cost Assistance”). Using existing authorities and these new budget authorities, the

DOT has established the RRIF Express Program.

Subject to the availability of funds, applicants accepted into the RRIF Express Program may benefit from two types of financial assistance: (a) Cost Assistance up to \$100,000 per application to pay for a portion of the Bureau’s advisor expenses borne by applicants; and (b) for those applicants that ultimately receive RRIF credit assistance, CRP Assistance up to 5% of the final RRIF loan amount to offset the CRP paid by the borrower. Any costs beyond \$100,000 and any CRP beyond 5% would be paid by the prospective RRIF borrower. These funds will be made available to benefit applicants accepted into the RRIF Express Program on a first come, first served basis until each source of funding is expended or this notice is superseded by a new Notice of Funding Opportunity. Letters of Interest will be accepted in the order received and will be allocated cost assistance based on the date of acceptance into the pilot program. CRP assistance will be allocated in the order of financial close. For more information about potential financial assistance for RRIF Express applicants, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section II. Funding of CRP and Cost Assistance.

This notice solicits Letters of Interest from prospective RRIF borrowers seeking acceptance into the RRIF Express Program, establishes eligibility criteria and describes the process that prospective borrowers must follow when submitting Letters of Interest.

**DATES:** Letters of Interest from prospective RRIF borrowers for the RRIF Express Program must be submitted during the following submission window: From January 13, 2020 to April 13, 2020.

Prospective RRIF borrowers that have previously submitted a Letter of Interest but that also seek acceptance into the RRIF Express Program should resubmit a Letter of Interest during the submission window above and follow the instructions below.

Irrespective of the above, the Bureau continues to accept Letters of Interest on a rolling basis from *any* prospective RRIF borrower interested in receiving RRIF credit assistance *only* (i.e., without participation in the RRIF Express Program).

**ADDRESSES:** Applicants to the RRIF Express Program must use the latest version of the Letter of Interest form available on the Build America Bureau website: <https://www.transportation.gov/content/build-america-bureau> (including applicants who have previously submitted Letters

of Interest and who are now seeking participation in the RRIF Express Program). Letters of Interest must be submitted to the Build America Bureau via email at: [RRIFexpress@dot.gov](mailto:RRIFexpress@dot.gov) using the following subject line: “Letter of Interest for RRIF Express Program.” Submitters should receive a confirmation email, but are advised to request a return receipt to confirm transmission. Only Letters of Interest received via email at the above email address with the subject line listed above shall be deemed properly filed.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information regarding this notice please contact William Resch via email at [william.resch@dot.gov](mailto:william.resch@dot.gov) or via telephone at 202-366-2300. A TDD is available at 202-366-3993.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** RRIF Express pilot program information, including any additional resources, terms, conditions and requirements when they become available, can be found on the Build America Bureau website at: <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/rrif-express>. For further information about the overall RRIF program in general, including details about the types of credit assistance available, eligibility requirements and the creditworthiness review process, please refer to the *Build America Bureau Credit Programs Guide* (“Programs Guide”), available on the Build America Bureau website: <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/programs-services/tifia/program-guide>.

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### I. Background

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century,<sup>4</sup> established the RRIF program, authorizing the DOT to provide credit assistance in the form of direct loans and loan guarantees to public and private applicants for eligible railroad projects. The RRIF program is a DOT program and final approval of credit assistance is reserved for the Secretary of the DOT. The 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users;<sup>5</sup> the Rail Safety Improvement

<sup>1</sup> Public Law 115-141, div. L, tit. I, H.R. 1625 at 646 (as enrolled Mar. 23, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> Public Law 114-113, div. I, tit. I, § 152, 129 Stat. 2242, 2856.

<sup>3</sup> Public Law 115-141, div. L, tit. I, H.R. 1625 at 646 (as enrolled Mar. 23, 2018).

<sup>4</sup> Public Law 105-178, 7203, 112 Stat. 107, 471.

<sup>5</sup> Public Law 109-59, 9003, 119 Stat. 1144, 1921.