Acquisition of a Hanford Site Natural Gas Pipeline and Natural Gas Utility Service Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0467)

February 9, 2012
Public Scoping Meeting
Pasco, Washington
Public Scoping Agenda

- Introduction
- DOE presentation – proposed EIS scope
- Questions/clarification on presentation
- Public comments on proposed EIS scope
- Closing
Public Scoping Meeting Participants

• Karen Flynn – DOE-RL Assistant Manager for Mission Support
• Doug Chapin – DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document Manager for EIS
• Chris Smith – DOE Federal Project Director
• Barry Lawson – Independent Facilitator
• You – DOE wants to hear your input on the scope of this EIS
Start of the NEPA Process

• Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on January 23, 2012 to start EIS scoping process


• Cascade Natural Gas has been retained to support the preparation of the EIS and to begin the permitting process
Background

- Steam is used for many operations in 200 Area
- 242-A Evaporator boilers currently use diesel fuel
- Waste Treatment Plant boilers are designed to use diesel fuel
Combined consumption/generation
  - ~35,000 gallons of diesel fuel per day
    - 6 tanker trucks/day
  - ~3 million tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (facility lifecycle)
Benefits of Potential Conversion to Natural Gas

• Expected to reduce lifecycle operating costs by over $800M
• Reduce lifecycle GHG emissions by ~1 million tons
• Eliminate ~6 diesel tanker trucks/day
• Increase operational reliability by having dual-fired boilers (natural gas + diesel)
Proposed Action

- DOE proposes to make natural gas available to facilities located on the Central Plateau of its Hanford Site (WTP and 242-A Evaporator)
- Cascade Natural Gas would own, construct, operate, and maintain the pipeline
Proposed Natural Gas Utility Services

- New pipeline would connect to an existing natural gas pipeline near the Pasco Airport
- Preliminary conceptual route would:
  - Cross ~8.5 miles of non-DOE land to the Columbia River
  - Cross ~20 miles of DOE property from the River crossing northwest to the 200 Area
Horizontal Directional Drilling

- Horizontal directional drilling under the Columbia River
  - Would penetrate the ground surface several hundred feet away from the riverbanks
  - Pipeline would be 50-100 feet below the lowest depth of the river bottom
  - Minimizes environmental disturbance at the crossing location
  - Proven, state-of-the-art construction method
Proposed Natural Gas Utility Services

• Small above-ground facilities at selected locations
• Engineering feasibility study underway
  – Range of pipe diameters being evaluated (12 – 20 inches)
  – Alternative pipeline routing alignments
  – Contact potentially affected landowners
• Retrofit of 200 Area boilers
• DOE would provide an easement to Cascade on DOE property for construction, operations, and maintenance of the pipeline
NEPA PROCESS

Schedule

- NOI - January 23, 2012
- Public scoping meeting – tonight
- Draft EIS – Spring 2013 (planned)
- Final EIS – Fall 2013 (planned)
- Record of Decision – > 30 days after Final EIS
How to Submit EIS Scoping Comments

• Oral or written comments at tonight’s meeting

• Written comments mailed to:
  Douglas Chapin
  NEPA Document Manager
  U.S. Department of Energy
  Richland Operations Office
  P.O. Box 550, MSIN A5-11
  Richland, Washington 99352

• Email address: naturalgaseis@rl.gov