NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC (NEXUS) reached a critical milestone today as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) issued a timely Final Environmental Impact Statement (“FEIS”) for the project. The issuance of the FEIS is another timely, major project milestone that keeps NEXUS on track to receive its Certificate in the first quarter of 2017.

The FEIS is FERC Environmental Staff’s evaluation of all environmental impacts of the project’s construction and operation, if FERC approves the project’s pending Certificate Application. The FEIS was prepared by FERC staff and its independent expert consultants, taking into consideration the information NEXUS has provided in its Certificate Application and supplemental filings, as well as input from landowners, communities, key stakeholders and environmental permitting agencies.

NEXUS has been evaluating proposed routes, design and construction methods and potential impacts on community members and the environment since August 2014.  More than 2 years of discussions, surveys, studies, permitting and planning, has developed a balanced plan for the route, construction techniques, and measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts. Overall, FERC has responded to concerns raised by stakeholders and found that the NEXUS project will not have a significant adverse effect on local communities.

The FEIS notes that while construction will temporarily affect the environment, the environmental impacts would be less than significant in light of the project’s proposed mitigation and other mitigation measures recommended by FERC Environmental Staff.

* FERC evaluated 15 major route alternatives to the proposed pipeline route, which included three versions of the City of Green Route Alternative, and found NEXUS’s proposed route acceptable.
* During project planning, NEXUS incorporated many route alternatives and variations into its original route. In total, NEXUS adopted a total of 239 route changes totaling about 231 miles (91 percent of the pipeline route) for various reasons, including landowner requests, avoidance of sensitive resources, or engineering considerations.

In addition, the FEIS addresses stakeholders and states that NEXUS will not have a significant adverse impact on local communities or the socioeconomics of the area.

* FERC did not find any evidence that property values would diminish as a result of a pipeline.
* With regard to the Waterville compressor station, FERC concluded that the station would not result in any significant impact to air quality, the site would provide adequate visual screening from public view, and would result in noise levels that are in compliance with FERC standards.
* FERC notes that construction of NEXUS would benefit both state and local economies via workforce, local purchases and construction related materials, and taxes.

NEXUS will allow for the ongoing conversion from coal to clean burning natural gas for electric generation which has been announced by a number of Midwest utilities. It will also support projected economic growth in Ohio and Michigan.

Now that the FEIS has been issued, the project anticipates that FERC will decide on the project’s Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in the first quarter of 2017.

*For more information about the project, please see the attached executive summary which FERC issued today.*

*Additional information on the NEXUS Gas Transmission Project:*

* The NEXUS project will have a significant positive economic impact on communities, businesses and workers in the area.
* In its first five years of operation, NEXUS will generate an estimated cumulative tax revenue of $412 million dollars, of which approximately $125 million will go directly to local school districts in Ohio and Michigan.
* In addition to benefitting schools along the route, the increase in tax revenue will also allow counties to make important investments in other key priority areas of local government such as roads and public safety.
* According to economic studies performed by Michigan State University and Economic & Policy Resources, the construction phase of the project will generate 6,800 jobs, more than $650 million in wages, and $830 million in total economic activity.
* Like any large-scale infrastructure project, NEXUS will purchase a significant amount of goods and services from local businesses across the region.
* Follow links below for estimated tax studies *prepared by Public Finance Resources, Inc., (June 2016)*
  + [Estimated Ohio Property Tax Revenue for NEXUS Gas Transmission Pipeline](http://www.nexusgastransmission.com/sites/default/files/Estimated%20Ohio%20Property%20Tax%20Reveue_OH_FINAL.PDF)
  + [Estimated Michigan Property Tax Revenue for NEXUS Gas Transmission Pipeline](http://www.nexusgastransmission.com/sites/default/files/Estimated%20Michigan%20Property%20Tax%20Revenue_MI_FINAL.PDF)

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