

News Release

Upper Colorado Region

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Corridors Recommended for Aquatrain Pipeline

Possible corridors for a 1,400-mile-long, multipurpose pipeline system - called Aquatrain - are examined in a February 1984 report released today by the Bureau of Reclamation.

"The Aquatrain Corridor Study Report describes alternative paths from Wyoming to the Pacific Coast which would allow the pipeline to serve numerous sources and markets for saline water, coal, and possibly other commodities," said Reclamation's Upper Colorado Regional Director Clifford Barrett.

Aquatrain, a unique cooperative effort between the Federal Government and private industry, has the dual objectives of reducing Colorado River salinity and providing an economically competitive method of transporting western coal. As now envisioned, Aquatrain could carry a slurry of coal or a high-grade coal product in a liquid carbon dioxide transport medium. Saline water would be transported in separate lines.

The report recommends certain corridors for further study and discusses others which were considered but eliminated as not meeting project needs. Descriptions are included for studied corridors as well as plans and concerns regarding physical resources, natural resources, and land use. Each corridor is shown on maps included in the report.

In the process of identifying potential corridors for Aquatrain, formally designated corridors and existing rights-of-way were used to the maximum extent. Corridor widths ranging from several hundred feet to 10

Aquatrain, cont.

miles were studied, allowing avoidance of sensitive areas when actual pipeline routes are selected at a later date.

Through further studies and responses received from public "scoping" meetings, to be held throughout the project area, preferred corridors and alternatives will be developed in the 1984 to 1986 time frame. In addition, new corridors may be identified and studied as the Aquatrain concept progresses through the planning and preconstruction phases. The environmental scoping meeting is the formal process by which the public can help identify significant issues related to a proposed action.

The Aquatrain Corridor Study Report was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management for Reclamation, the lead Federal agency in the project. The Forest Service also participated extensively in the study of corridors in National Forests. Under terms of interagency agreements, BLM and the Forest Service also will assist Reclamation in preparing an environmental impact statement and in acquiring rights-of-way on federally administered land.

In this cooperative Federal Government/private industry effort, Reclamation represents the public interest and is responsible for environmental analysis, corridor selection, and obtaining Federal permits. Aquatrain, Inc., of Boulder, Colo., is the private industry partner in the \$2 to 3 billion project. The firm has agreed to develop new technologies associated with the pipeline and to obtain financing for construction, as well as a majority of operation and maintenance costs. The Colorado River Salinity Control Forum (representing Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming) is also concerned about the salinity of Colorado River water, and is encouraging the Bureau of Reclamation to find beneficial uses for the saline water, such as Aquatrain.

Copies of the Aquatrain Corridor Study Report may be obtained by writing Michael Clinton, Project Manager, Saline Water Transport and Use Office, Bureau of Reclamation, ERC-190, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225.

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