



April 9, 2020

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE, Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: Request for Extension of Comment Period on Double E Pipeline, LLC  
Environmental Assessment, # CP19-495-000**

Dear Ms. Bose:

The undersigned groups respectfully request that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) extend the public comment period on the above referenced application by thirty (30) days from the date that public health officials determine that the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer a public health threat.

On February 7, 2020, FERC announced the availability of the Environmental Assessment on Double E Pipeline, LLC’s application to construct and operate an approximately 135-mile natural gas pipeline from the northern Delaware Basin in Eddy County, New Mexico to the Waha Hub in Pecos and Reeves County, Texas. The pipeline would transport 1.35 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) of natural gas. The project will eventually connect the Delaware Basin supply to the Gulf Coast and Mexico, enabling export of natural gas from the Permian Basin to the global market.<sup>1</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to office and school closures throughout the country. As a result, members of the public, as well as attorneys and support staff at organizations engaged in this project have been forced to make necessary adjustments, including alternative childcare arrangements and coordination of offsite preparation for timely filing of comments.<sup>2</sup> In many cases, this has led to insufficient time for review and comment preparation to meet the April 23 comment deadline for the Environmental Assessment. Additionally, community groups will not be able to meet to coordinate comment submission in light of state shelter-in-place orders and Center for Disease Control recommendations prohibiting gatherings of any substantial size.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, community groups are working to find alternative ways to provide

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.doublepipeline.com/>

<sup>2</sup> Several of the offices of the undersigned organizations have forced closures in addition to numerous school closures across the country impacting staff, volunteers and concerned citizens.

<sup>3</sup> Associated Press, *New Mexico to Order ‘Non-Essential Businesses’ to Close*, U.S. NEWS, <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-mexico/articles/2020-03-23/new-mexico-to-order-non-essential->

members instruction to submit comments, and an extension on the comment deadline would provide necessary time for comment submission. Based on these impacts and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the undersigned respectfully request that FERC provide an additional 30 days to submit comments on the Environmental Assessment after the public health threat from COVID-19 has subsided.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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[businesses-to-close](#) (Mar. 23, 2020); Texas Governor Greg Abbott recently issued an order that limits all public gatherings to 10 people and closed all non-essential services within the state. Rayasam, Renuka, *Texas governor issues lockdown orders*, POLITICO, <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/03/19/texas-governor-coronavirus-lockdown-orders-137691> (Mar. 19, 2020); Barragan, James, *Texas Gov. Greg Abbott allows only 'essential services' statewide, closes schools until May 4*, DALLAS MORNING NEWS, <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/public-health/2020/03/31/texas-gov-greg-abbott-extends-social-distancing-measures-through-april-30-closes-schools-until-may-4/> (Mar. 31, 2020).