

STATE OF MONTANA

Executive Order No. 4-81

Office of the Governor

Executive Order calling for the establishment of an Inter-agency Pipeline Task Force to coordinate the siting of proposed large diameter pipelines in Montana.

WHEREAS, several agencies of state government have statutory authority to regulate different elements respecting the siting, construction and operation of large pipelines in Montana;

WHEREAS, no agency of state government has comprehensive statutory authority to coordinate the permitting and review processes of the state agencies concerning the siting, construction and operation of large diameter pipelines;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 5-80, issued July 30, 1980, established the Interagency Pipeline Task Force to facilitate joint, cooperative and coordinated actions by state agencies in fulfilling legal obligations relating to the Northern Tier Pipeline;

WHEREAS, the siting, construction and operation of all large diameter pipelines in Montana requires the joint, cooperative and coordinated actions by state agencies in fulfilling legal obligations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TED SCHWINDEN, in accordance with the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby rescind Executive Order No. 5-80, and hereby order and direct the Department of State Lands, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Montana Historic Preservation Office, Department of Health & Environmental Sciences, Department of Highways, and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to establish by Interagency agreement an INTERAGENCY PIPELINE TASK FORCE to be administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The INTERAGENCY PIPELINE TASK FORCE shall facilitate joint, cooperative and coordinated actions by state agencies and provide informational support for those agencies in fulfilling legal obligations relating to the siting of

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all large diameter interstate pipelines.

The objectives of the INTERAGENCY PIPELINE TASK FORCE are to: reduce duplication of agency effort; provide informational support to the agencies; help the agencies share other agency skills, knowledge and expertise; provide the public with information; provide a central point of contact between the construction and regulatory authorities of the pipeline; expedite the permitting process where possible; and, provide adequate personnel for necessary activities performed by the INTERAGENCY PIPELINE TASK FORCE.

Specifically, the INTERAGENCY PIPELINE TASK FORCE shall:


- (1) provide a single point of contact to facilitate communications between state agencies and the construction authority, and state agencies and the Bureau of Land Management Pipeline Monitoring Office;
- (2) establish an information program to provide information about general pipeline construction and government involvement to the public affected by the project;
- (3) coordinate an interagency study to evaluate and recommend a centerline on state-owned or administered land;
- (4) work with federal agencies and private landowners, upon request, on federal and private lands to promote consistency in centerline selection;
- (5) review and evaluate the construction authority's design and operational plans for agencies if state approval of such plans is required prior to construction;
- (6) coordinate construction surveillance to determine that permit and easement conditions are being adhered to; and
- (7) where applicable, perform tasks consistent with the procedures of the Alaska Natural Gas Act.

Given under my hand the the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 4th day of March in the year of our LORD, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-One.



TED SCHWINDEN, Governor

ATTEST:



JIM WALTERMIRE, Secretary of State