



December 18, 2017

For information: Tim Korte (505) 697-3643

This is the December update on the Taos Mainline re-route project. We recently met with New Mexico Department of Transportation administrators to map out plans for continuing the project after the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The meeting led to a contingency plan for the winter months.

We have about 2 miles remaining to reach the south end of the project area. We believe we can complete the work by the end of January or early February, weather permitting and provided our excavation crews don't encounter additional veins of granite, a challenge that is partially responsible for extending the project beyond our initial November 30 target date for completion.

If a winter storm is approaching, we will meet again with NMDOT to assess the situation and plan accordingly. Several options will be under consideration, including continuing our work in light snowfall with NMDOT salting and plowing Highway 68 as warranted.

It's also possible that a major winter storm could mean suspending construction for several days, a determination that will be made in consultation with NMDOT and other stakeholders. The safety of motorists and construction workers remains our highest priority.

Crews are currently trenching, staging, welding and installing the pipeline near Mile Marker 25. A separate work zone has been established near Mile Marker 24 to bore under the highway where the pipeline will tie in to the existing Taos Mainline.

Here is our current construction and road closure plan:

- We will work until Thursday, December 21, 2017, and then the concrete barriers will be removed and the road fully reopened for the holidays by noon on Friday, December 22, 2017. We will leave the road open through Tuesday, January 2, 2018.
- Limited crews will be working over the holidays but their assignments will be away from the highway and no traffic controls will be imposed.
- On Tuesday, January 2, 2018, the concrete barriers will be repositioned on the highway in preparation for work to resume. On Wednesday, January 3, 2018, traffic control restrictions will be reinstated and remain in place 24 hours a day until work is concluded.

NMGC representatives remain available to attend public meetings or visit with civic organizations to discuss the Taos Mainline project and answer questions. Please contact me with questions or comments or to schedule a meeting.

Project Background – Because of shifting soils on the west side of the river, the natural gas pipeline known as the “Taos Mainline” is being replaced in the Rio Grande Gorge between Rinconada and Pilar. The new pipeline is being installed in the right-of-way along the shoulder of New Mexico 68. The Taos Mainline delivers natural gas to customers in Taos, Questa, Red River and surrounding communities.

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