



**EQUITRANS, LP**  
**Equitrans Expansion Project**  
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**  
**April 1, 2015**

Equitrans, LP (Equitrans), a subsidiary of EQT Midstream Partners, LP, knows that stakeholder outreach and public consultation are essential elements of the permitting process and will play an important role in the overall successful development of the Equitrans Expansion Project (EEP).

Equitrans has developed a comprehensive, proactive stakeholder outreach and public participation plan. The plan is built around a fundamental principle: open, honest, proactive communication is simply the right thing to do and is necessary for the sound development of the project. Equitrans strives to be a good neighbor and a good corporate citizen, and believes that every person, organization, and institution that might be affected by this project has the right to be informed and should have an opportunity to participate in the decisions that might affect them.

**Objectives**

It is Equitrans' objective that all potential Federal, State and Community stakeholders be informed of our intentions relative to the proposed project in a timely manner. The EEP Public Participation Plan, outlined in this document, has the following objectives:

*Identify all key stakeholders along the proposed pipeline route.* While landowners are the most obvious and directly affected stakeholders, many individuals and organizations within the project's scope have a stake in the project. Identifying and engaging them is wise policy and good business.

*Establish channels for two-way communication throughout the life of the pipeline project.* Equitrans realizes that effective communication must be two-way. In addition to sharing information, Equitrans' outreach effort is designed to create a continuing dialogue with stakeholders, from the start of the pre-filing process through construction and restoration. It is also designed to provide stakeholders with a minimal number of contacts to maintain ease of communication and ensure consistency of messaging.

*Ask for public input at critical stages of planning.* Equitrans believes that the project is a partnership not only with the commercial partners, but with all stakeholders. With that idea in mind, for EEP, Equitrans will seek to gain input and ideas from stakeholders during the planning stage. This will help identify and address areas of concern.

*Keep stakeholders informed throughout the process.* Many outreach plans are designed to communicate effectively during early stages of implementation —

especially during the approval stage — but then reduce communication during construction. While communication about EEP will certainly be heaviest early in the process, Equitrans plans to proactively communicate, via website updates and other methods, during all phases of the project, even after all approvals have been received.

## **Strategies**

Equitrans will employ the following strategies to accomplish the objectives mentioned above:

*Be early and proactive.* Equitrans will communicate with identified stakeholders early and often during all phases of the project. While not always possible, it is our desire for stakeholders to hear about significant project-related news from us *before* they hear it from other sources. Doing so will help Equitrans maintain positive relationships and ensure the accuracy of the information they are receiving.

*Employ grassroots communication.* Equitrans will communicate in a “grassroots” fashion directly to stakeholders most affected by the project (e.g., landowners). Emphasis will also be placed on communicating with key community leaders and organizations, such as elected and appointed officials.

*Engage local resources.* To gain insight into public perceptions along the route and to improve the credibility of the project, Equitrans plans to arrange a centrally located community meeting for stakeholders’ engagement.

## **Audiences**

Equitrans will focus its efforts on reaching the following audiences:

- Landowners
- Local elected officials
  - Mayors, city councils
  - County commissioners
  - County and municipal planning organizations
  - Zoning boards, etc.
- State elected officials
  - State senators (local area staff)
  - State congressmen (local area staff)
- Federal elected officials
  - U.S. senators (local area staff)
  - U.S. congressmen (local area staff)
- Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies
- Economic development agencies/chambers of commerce
- Owners of mineral rights, such as coal companies
- Local law enforcement agencies
- Local media outlets
- Native Tribes
- Community at large

## **Methods**

Equitrans will employ several methods to ensure successful communication and outreach, including:

*Stakeholder identification and issues management database/tracking system.* After identifying stakeholders, Equitrans will develop and maintain an issues management system to track contact with these stakeholders in a manner that helps identify and resolve emerging issues and concerns.

*Informational materials.* Equitrans will develop messages and materials to inform stakeholders about EEP and to address potential questions and areas of concern. These materials will include, for example:

- A project fact sheet that incorporates FAQ's
- "Standard presentation" information posters, etc. for use at Open Houses and other meetings
- Internal project guidance concerning key messages about EEP to ensure consistency in communication
- Media advertisements to announce public meetings

Messages and materials about EEP will be refined throughout the development effort to contain updated information and to address stakeholder concerns that may arise. In addition, materials will contain the following information:

- Information on Equitrans
- Information on environmental and other benefits of natural gas
- Discussion of today's energy market and the need for expanded natural gas infrastructure
- FERC background information — The role of the FERC and other regulatory agencies in the process, and an overview of the pre-filing and filing processes
- Information on construction, including the types and sizes of equipment used
- Information on environmental activities conducted throughout the project, including pre-construction environmental surveys, measures during construction to minimize impact on environmental resources including agricultural resources, restoration, and post-construction monitoring
- Safety information — A discussion of pre- and post-construction safety, and an overview of the safety record of the interstate natural gas pipeline industry and of Equitrans
- A project time line — An intended time frame for completing key phases of EEP

*Web site.* Because of its accessibility and the ability to be constantly updated, online communications will play a vital role in stakeholder dialogue. In addition to serving as an EEP repository for up-to-date materials and information, the EEP Web site will feature mechanisms for stakeholders to ask questions and provide input about the project. The EEP Web site will contain:

- A narrative and graphic overview of EEP
- A downloadable map of the entire proposed route
- Downloadable detailed maps of the proposed route through each of the counties
- Downloadable project fact sheet about EEP

- Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQs”) and answers
- FERC Information, including an overview of FERC’s role and where EEP is at in the FERC process.
- Information on the public open houses
- Information on potential FERC scoping meetings
- News (project announcements, press releases, media advisories)
- Links to partner company Web sites, FERC, Office of Pipeline Safety, industry coalitions, state agencies such as the WV geological and Economic Survey, etc.

*Direct Contact.* Equitrans will utilize direct contact, either in person, by phone, or correspondence (e-mail and letter) for certain stakeholders throughout the project, as appropriate. Equitrans will notify landowners affected by the project as required by FERC’s regulations. For example, direct contact by company rights-of-way representatives is a necessity in communicating with affected landowners. Direct contact with agencies will be initiated by project environmental staff and will continue with pre-filing/pre-application agency scoping meetings. Equitrans’ communications staff will be responsible for contact with key elected officials (county commissioners, state and federal senators and representatives) along the proposed route. Direct contact will allow Equitrans to respond in a timely fashion to all inquiries from any agency, federal, state, or local authorities. Other stakeholders, including environmental organizations, economic development councils, native tribes and the news media will be contacted directly as appropriate to inform those stakeholders of the status of the project.

*Scoping Meetings.* FERC will determine whether and when any scoping meetings will be held. If such meetings are scheduled, FERC will lead those sessions and Equitrans will participate in them with the public, as well as with federal, state and local resource agencies.

*Open Houses.* Equitrans is proposing two centrally located open houses along the EEP route at locations and dates to be determined. These will be in addition to potential FERC scoping meetings. A list of tentative dates and probable locations is provided in the table below. The exact dates will be determined after consultation with FERC staff.

### Tentative Open House Meeting Locations and Dates

Location	Date	Time
Jefferson Volunteer Fire Company – Greene County 1483 Jefferson Road Jefferson, PA 15344	May 20,21,25,26,27, 2015	5:30 – 7:30pm
Forward Township Municipal Office - Allegheny County 1000 Golden Circle Elizabeth, PA 15037	May 20,21,25,26,27, 2015	5:30 – 7:30pm

Stakeholders in the study corridor will be notified and invited, both directly (with invitations sent by U.S. mail) and indirectly (through the media). The meetings have been arranged so that no interested party will need to drive much longer than 50 miles to attend, unless there is no viable alternative for a meeting location.

A “station” format is the most likely presentation format for the meetings. Stations will be established for different issues, including rights-of-way, environmental, construction, engineering, etc. as well as a FERC station. Each station will contain information pertinent to that area of project responsibility, presented both in larger visual aids and/or in handout form manned by project team members knowledgeable of the subject presented. This will allow attendees arriving at different times to circulate among the stations and gather information in a more informal fashion. The information provided to attendees will be basic enough to allow people who are unfamiliar with a project like EEP to gain a solid understanding of the project.

*Media relations.* Because of its reach and its influence, the media are an important resource in communicating information about the project. A list of media outlets by county is located in Attachment A.

*Public information contact vehicles.* Equitrans will operate and monitor a toll-free phone number, e-mail address, and postal mailing address that will enable stakeholders to obtain additional project information and provide input. These vehicles will be printed on all materials and included on the project Web site, and will include a single point of contact for stakeholder inquiries.

## Attachment A

### List of Media Outlets by County

#### **Wetzel County, WV (Mobley)**

##### Newspaper

- Wetzel Chronicle ([www.wetzelchronicle.com](http://www.wetzelchronicle.com); Contact :: Lauren Riggs; [lriggs@wetzelchronicle.com](mailto:lriggs@wetzelchronicle.com))
- Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram ([www.theet.com](http://www.theet.com); Contact :: Darlene Taylor; [dswiger@theet.com](mailto:dswiger@theet.com))

##### Radio

- West Virginia Public Broadcast ([www.wvpubcast.org](http://www.wvpubcast.org); Contact :: Beth Vorhees; [bvorhees@wvpubcast.org](mailto:bvorhees@wvpubcast.org))

##### Television

- WBOY - NBC - Clarksburg, WV
- WDTV - CBS - Clarksburg, WV
- WVFX - FOX - Clarksburg, WV

#### **Greene County, PA (Franklin, Morgan, Jefferson Twp.)**

##### Newspaper

- Observer-Reporter ([www.observer-reporter.com](http://www.observer-reporter.com); Contact :: Emily Petsko; [epetsko@observer-reporter.com](mailto:epetsko@observer-reporter.com))
- Greene County Messenger ([www.greencountymessenger.com](http://www.greencountymessenger.com); Contact :: Eric Morris; [info@greencountymessenger.com](mailto:info@greencountymessenger.com))
- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ([www.post-gazette.com](http://www.post-gazette.com)) Contact :: Stephanie Ritenbaugh; ([sritenbaugh@post-gazette.com](mailto:sritenbaugh@post-gazette.com))
- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review ([www.triblive.com](http://www.triblive.com)) Contact :: David Conti; ([dconti@triblive.com](mailto:dconti@triblive.com))
- The Daily News ([www.triblive.com](http://www.triblive.com)) Contact :: Patrick Cloonan; ([pcloonan@triblive.com](mailto:pcloonan@triblive.com))

##### Television

- KDKA - CBS – Pittsburgh, PA ([newsdesk@kdka.com](mailto:newsdesk@kdka.com))
- WPXI - NBC - Pittsburgh, PA ([target11@wpxi.com](mailto:target11@wpxi.com))
- WTAE - ABC - Pittsburgh, PA ([news@wtae.com](mailto:news@wtae.com))

#### **Washington County, PA (Union Twp.)**

##### Newspaper

- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review ([www.triblive.com](http://www.triblive.com)) Contact :: David Conti; ([dconti@triblive.com](mailto:dconti@triblive.com))
- The Daily News ([www.triblive.com](http://www.triblive.com)) Contact :: Patrick Cloonan; ([pcloonan@triblive.com](mailto:pcloonan@triblive.com))
- Valley Independent News ([www.triblive.com](http://www.triblive.com)) Contact :: Chris Buckley; ([cbuckley@triblive.com](mailto:cbuckley@triblive.com))
- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ([www.post-gazette.com](http://www.post-gazette.com)) Contact :: Stephanie Ritenbaugh; ([sritenbaugh@post-gazette.com](mailto:sritenbaugh@post-gazette.com))

##### Television

- KDKA - CBS – Pittsburgh, PA ([newsdesk@kdka.com](mailto:newsdesk@kdka.com))
- WPXI - NBC - Pittsburgh, PA ([target11@wpxi.com](mailto:target11@wpxi.com))
- WTAE - ABC - Pittsburgh, PA ([news@wtae.com](mailto:news@wtae.com))

## **Allegheny County, PA (Forward Twp.)**

### Newspaper

- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review ([www.triblive.com](http://www.triblive.com)) Contact :: David Conti; ([dconti@triblive.com](mailto:dconti@triblive.com))
- The Daily News ([www.triblive.com](http://www.triblive.com)) Contact :: Patrick Cloonan; ([pcloonan@triblive.com](mailto:pcloonan@triblive.com))
- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ([www.post-gazette.com](http://www.post-gazette.com)) Contact :: Stephanie Ritenbaugh; ([sritenbaugh@post-gazette.com](mailto:sritenbaugh@post-gazette.com))

### Television

- KDKA - CBS – Pittsburgh, PA ([newsdesk@kdk.com](mailto:newsdesk@kdk.com))
- WPXI - NBC - Pittsburgh, PA ([target11@wpxi.com](mailto:target11@wpxi.com))
- WTAE - ABC - Pittsburgh, PA ([news@wtae.com](mailto:news@wtae.com))