

**OIL & GAS DOCKET NO. 8A-0255214**

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**THE APPLICATION OF XTO ENERGY INC. TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A HYDROGEN SULFIDE GAS PIPELINE, CORNELL-MAHONEY AREA, WASSON FIELD, YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS**

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**APPLICATION REVIEWED BY:** Andres J. Trevino, P.E.

**DATE APPLICATION FILED:** January 15, 2008

**DATE REVIEWED:** March 28, 2008

**EXAMINER'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**  
**STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

This is the unprotested application of XTO Energy Inc. for Commission authority to construct and operate a hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) gas pipeline in Yoakum County, pursuant to Statewide Rules 106, 70 and 36.

The Commission's Field Operations section has reviewed the application and has determined that the application complies with the applicable provisions of Rule 36. In addition, the Commission's Safety Division and Gas Services Division have reviewed the application. The examiner recommends approval of the application.

**DISCUSSION OF THE EVIDENCE**

XTO Energy Inc. proposes construction of a pipeline to transport produced gas from the XTO Battery in Section 742 in the Wasson Field to the XTO existing 16 inch pipeline just west of the Oxy Willard Plant in Section 764. The line will be 12 inches in diameter and approximately 5.9 miles long. The line will carry approximately 20 MMCFD of gas containing approximately 75 mole percent CO<sub>2</sub> and 5,000 parts per million (ppm) of H<sub>2</sub>S. The maximum operating pressure will be 200 psig.

The 100 ppm ROE is 1,798 feet and the 500 ppm ROE is 822 feet. The 500 ppm ROE and 100 ppm ROE includes a portion of State Highway 214 and a portion of Country Roads 335 and 355 as the pipeline will cross each road. There are two businesses within the 100 ppm ROE and one within the 500ppm ROE. The submitted contingency plan for the gathering line complies with the provisions of Rule 36(c)(9).

All materials will satisfy the requirements described in the latest editions of NACE Standard MR-01-75. The line is a Bondstrand Series 3300A Fiberglass Pipe. The material will not suffer any degradation from low pressure, H<sub>2</sub>S, wet gas service. The fiberglass material meets the product specifications of ASTM D 2996 and API-15LR.

H<sub>2</sub>S warning signs compliant with Rule 36(c)(6)(A) and (c)(6)(B) will be posted at all public road crossings as well as intervals along the pipeline frequent enough as to provide warning to avoid accidental rupture of the line by excavation. The signs will indicate poison gas, company name and emergency phone numbers.

The proposed line will comply with Statewide Rule 36(c)(8). XTO Energy will install two emergency shut-downs (ESDs) will be installed 1/4 mile on each side of State Highway 214 and will shut down on low line pressure (approximately 70 psig). The compressor at the Mahoney facility will be equipped with high/low shutdowns that will trigger at 150 psig and 70 psig respectfully. Loss of pressure due to a break in the line will trigger ESDs to activate call-out alarms.

XTO Energy published notice of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in Yoakum County. The notice was published in *The Denver City Press* on January 13, 2008. The application was filed with the Yoakum County Clerk on January 13, 2008.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On January 15, 2008, XTO Energy Inc. filed an application for a permit to construct a hydrogen sulfide gas gathering pipeline in Yoakum County.
2. XTO Energy Inc. published notice of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in Yoakum County. The notice was published in *The Denver City Press* on January 13, 2008. The application was filed with the Yoakum County Clerk on January 13, 2008.
3. XTO Energy Inc. proposes construction of a pipeline to transport produced gas from the XTO Mahoney Battery in Section 742 in the Wasson Field to the XTO 16 inch pipeline in Section 764.
  - a. The line will be 12 inches in diameter and approximately 5.9 miles long.
  - b. The line will carry approximately 20 MMCFD of gas containing approximately 5,000 parts per million (ppm) of H<sub>2</sub>S.
  - c. The maximum operating pressure will be 200 psig.
  - d. The 100 ppm ROE is 1,798 feet and the 500 ppm ROE is 822 feet.
  - e. The 500 ppm ROE includes a portion of State Highway 214 and a portion of

Country Roads 335 and 355.

- f. There are two businesses within the 100 ppm ROE, one of which is also within the 500 ppm ROE.
4. Pipeline materials and construction meet the NACE standards as required by Statewide Rule 36 for hydrogen sulfide service.
5. The submitted contingency plan for the line is in accordance and complies with the provisions of Rule 36(c)(9).
6. The pipeline will be constructed subject to Commission inspections for compliance with the appropriate Commission Rules pursuant to Statewide Rule 36(c)(6)(7)(8) and (13).
7. The Commission's Field Operations Section recommends approval. The Commission's Pipeline Safety Division and Gas Services Division have reviewed the application.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Proper notice was timely given to all parties entitled to notice pursuant to applicable statutes and rules.
2. All things have occurred and have been accomplished to give the Commission jurisdiction in this case.
3. The application complies with Statewide Rules 36, 70 and 106.
4. Approving the application for a permit to construct and operate the proposed gas pipeline is consistent with the rules and safety standards adopted by the Commission.

**EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION**

The examiner recommends that the application of XTO Energy Inc. for Commission authority pursuant to Statewide Rules 106, 70 and 36, to construct and operate the proposed hydrogen sulfide gas pipeline in Yoakum County, be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Andres J. Trevino, P.E.  
Technical Examiner