Rio Bravo Pipeline Fact Sheet

General description
Operated by Next Decade to provide gas to its subsidiary Rio Grande LNG. Rio Grande LNG will further process the fracked gas, liquefy it, and export it in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) via tanker ships.

Pipeline specifications (it’s actually 2 pipelines)
- Two 42” pipelines that will be parallel to each other.
- 137.3 miles in length from Agua Dulce Hub to Port of Brownsville.
- Right Of Way (ROW): 139.7 total miles, 75 feet wide. Each pipeline will be 25 feet apart.
- Construction for second pipeline is 18 months after completion of first pipeline.
- Normal operating pressure of each pipeline will be approximately 1,350 pounds per square inch (psi) with maximum allowable pressure of 1,480 psi.
- Construction will require a ROW width of 125 feet wide.

Pipelines require more than just pipe! Accompanying infrastructure will include
- 2 interconnect booster stations (both in Kennedy County)
- 3 compressor stations (one in Kleberg, Kennedy, and Cameron County)
- Associated metering stations, 6 valve sites, and access roads.

Compressor stations are large, noisy, and polluting
- Compressor Station 3 in Cameron County near the Port of Brownsville. It is 27 acres large off HWY 48, near the channel cut and across from Bahia Grande.
- It will include six, electric driven rotary natural gas compressor units of 30,000 hp, totaling a maximum capacity of 180,000 hp.
- Compressor stations emit volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides, and will at times vent methane directly into the air in an event known as a blow-down creating a loud noise which can be heard from miles away.

Once built, expect more
In the Rio Bravo General Project Description, Resource Report 1 p.63, they state “growing demand in the region, including demand by the [Rio Grande LNG] Project, is likely to stimulate pipeline system enhancements (e.g., looping, additional compression, installation of larger pipelines) to further increase the throughput capacity of the relevant connecting pipelines or other pipelines that may provide competing transportation for shippers currently using the pipelines to which RB Pipeline will connect.” In addition, once a pipeline is built, other pipelines often locate near that ROW. Additional pipeline proposals include pipelines for Texas LNG, Annova LNG, and other pipelines that will cross the border to feed gas to Mexico.

Forcing the pipes through private land using eminent domain
Landowners who refuse to allow the pipeline through their property for a sum of money could have their land seized by eminent domain. The Rio Bravo Pipeline alone will impact over 150 landowners in Cameron, Willacy, Kennedy, Kleburg, and Jim Wells Counties. If the other pipelines are built along different routes, they could affect many more families. If the companies decide to co-locate the pipelines along the same route, these people could have four pipeline pumping as much as 9 billion cubic feet per day of gas on their property, in some cases only yards away from their homes.
Big natural gas transmission pipelines could mean big risks

All natural gas pipelines are subject to explosions and leaks. A 42-inch diameter high-pressure gas line could have a blast radius of over half a mile.\(^1\) If the Rio Bravo and Valley Crossing Pipelines parallels Highway 48, that means that the public highway itself and all port businesses would be in the impact zone, as would the sensitive natural areas of San Martin Lake, South Bay and the Bahia Grande. If the proposed LNG export terminals are built, two of them, Rio Grande LNG and Texas LNG would be completely within the half-mile impact zone of the Valley Crossing Pipeline. Both of these facilities transport, store, and handle flammable and explosive chemicals such as propane, ethane, and butane, in addition to vast quantities of LNG. A pipeline rupture alongside the plants would increase the risk of subsequent and, potentially even more devastating, explosions. If the Valley Crossing Pipeline is co-located with the double 42-inch diameter Rio Bravo Pipeline, any blast could trigger multiple line ruptures and an almost unthinkable catastrophe.

Ineffective pipeline safety and risky conditions

Large transmission pipeline accidents do occur. Pipeline failures can result from a number of reasons including external damage, bad welds, or damage during construction or installation. Corrosion is a major cause of pipeline incidents, and the soils in our area are highly corrosive. Texas LNG’s own report noted that they would have to consult a corrosion engineer because steel, metal and concrete elements in contact with the soil would be subject to degradation.\(^2\) Pipeline failures are a common occurrence with Texas experiencing pipeline failures more than any other state.


\(^2\) Texas LNG Docket CP 16-116 Resource Report 6
Recommended Minimum Evacuation Distances
For
Natural Gas Pipeline Leaks and Ruptures
(Not applicable for Butane, Propane, or other Hazardous Liquids)

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Table 1 - Evacuation Distance in Feet

The applicable leak or rupture condition is that of a sustained trench fire fueled by non-toxic natural gas escaping from two full bore pipe ends. Blast overpressure is not addressed. The distances shown in Table 1 are intended to provide protection from burn injury and correspond to a thermal heat flux exposure level of 450 Btu/hr ft². This is the accepted limit of heat exposure for unprotected outdoor areas where people congregate; as established by the US Department of Housing & Development Code 24CFR51, Subpart C, Siting of HUD Assisted Projects Near Hazardous Operations Handling Conventional Fuels or Chemicals of an Explosive or Flammable Nature. The formula used to calculate distance was taken from the Gas Research Institute Report GRI-00/0189, A Model for Sizing High Consequence Areas Associated with Natural Gas Pipelines, 2001, prepared by C-FER Technologies. That model does not take into account wind or other factors which may greatly influence specific conditions. Users are advised that the distances shown in Table 1 are considered to be "general information" only and are not intended to replace a site specific risk analysis. The Pipeline Association for Public Awareness makes no warranty with respect to the usefulness of this information and assumes no liability for any and all damages resulting from its use. Anyone using this information does so at their own risk.
Here is what you can do. It’s fast and easy!

1. Send a comment to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). 3 hard copy forms have been included for you. State your concerns and objections to the Rio Bravo Pipeline and Rio Grande LNG and mail it in.

2. Encourage other family members and friends to send in comments to FERC.

3. Go to https://www.ran.org/frackedgas and sign the petition to help stop banks from financing the project.

Need more information?

• saveRGVfromLNG.com

• https://www.sierraclub.org/texas/lower-rio-grande-valley

Want to do more?

1. Contact your elected officials (city, county, state, federal) and tell them your concerns and opposition to the Rio Bravo Pipeline and Rio Grande LNG. It could even be the same thing you sent to FERC!

2. Contact the press. Several people have been on the news stating their concerns and opposition about the Valley Crossing Pipeline near their home. You can also write letters to the editor in the newspaper.

3. Stay up to date, get involved, and join other individuals trying to stop pipelines and LNG.

   • Join Save RGV From LNG on Facebook

   • Join the Lower Rio Grande Valley Sierra Club on Facebook and Twitter.
RIO GRANDE LNG PROJECT (DOCKET NO. CP16-454-000);  
RIO BRAVO PIPELINE (DOCKET NO. CP16-455-000)

Comments can be: (1) left with a FERC representative; (2) mailed to the addresses below or (3) electronically filed.

Please send copies referenced to the address below:
For Official Filing:
Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

COMMENTS: (PLEASE PRINT) [continue on back of page if necessary]

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Commenter’s Name and Mailing Address (Please Print)

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1 The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments. See 18 Code of Federal Regulations 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission’s Internet website at http://www.ferc.gov under the link to “Documents and Filings” and “eFiling.” eFiling is a file attachment process and requires that you prepare your submission in the same manner as you would if filing on paper, and save it to a file on your hard drive. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on “Sign up” or “eRegister.” You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. This filing is considered a “Comment on Filing.” All comments submitted under eFiling are placed in the public record for the specified docket or project number(s).
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