



# THE TAOS NEWS

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## BLM seeks comment on proposed gas line

### Staff report

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public input on a proposal by the New Mexico Gas Company to relocate a six-mile section of the Taos Mainline, a natural gas pipeline that serves as the only purveyor of natural gas to the communities of Taos, Questa and Red River in Taos County. The section of the pipeline, located primarily on BLM lands within the Rio Grande corridor between the communities of Rinconada and Pilar, is currently stressed by unstable slopes. If approved, the BLM would grant New Mexico Gas Company a right-of-way for a new location.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action or an alternative. The proposed relocation involves routing the pipeline along State Road 68, while an alternative also under consideration would route the pipeline along the western rim of the gorge, both requiring about 6 miles of a new right-of-way. As part of this process, the BLM is actively soliciting public input regarding potential issues associated with re-routing the pipeline.

To help facilitate public involvement, the BLM is hosting a public scoping meeting Thursday (Nov. 13) at the Sagebrush Inn in Taos (1508 Paseo del Pueblo Sur) from 6 to 8 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting to learn about the proposed re-route and to provide comments.

Comments are due no later than Dec. 1, 2014, and may be submitted by email: [blm\\_nm\\_taos\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nm_taos_comments@blm.gov) or by mail to BLM Taos Field Office, Attention: Brad Higdon, 226 Cruz Alta Road, Taos, NM 87571.

—*Staff Report*