



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release:
June 29, 2012

JULY 12 PUBLIC MEETING IN SAHUARITA TO DISCUSS USIBWC PERMITTING PROCESS FOR BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum for Thursday, July 12, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Sahuarita Town Hall Council Chambers, 375 W. Sahuarita Center Way in Sahuarita, Arizona. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities in Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona.

Jose A. Nuñez, USIBWC Supervisory Civil Engineer, will give a presentation about the permitting and license process of the USIBWC. The USIBWC has a duty to access, maintain, and utilize the international boundary monuments that demarcate the U.S-Mexico international land boundary. The USIBWC is charged with these duties through treaties and international agreements between the United States and Mexico. Any infrastructure along the border must not disturb the foundations of existing boundary monuments nor impede access for their inspection and maintenance. In addition, any proposed construction must allow for line-of-sight visibility between each of the boundary monuments. The majority of the monuments along the international boundary are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of historic structures

because they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history.

In order for the USIBWC to issue a permit or a license, the U.S. entity that is proposing to construct the infrastructure must submit engineering drawings for review and approval prior to beginning any construction near the international boundary. These drawings must show the location of each component in relation to the international boundary and the monuments. The USIBWC requires that all structures be offset from the international boundary by a minimum of three feet and allow a clear line-of-sight between any affected boundary monuments. The USIBWC also considers the project's effects on stormwater flows.

The presentation will cover the USIBWC licensing requirements applicable for the proposed Sasabe Lateral Project, a proposed transboundary natural gas pipeline that would link El Paso Natural Gas Company's existing pipeline system near Tucson to the U.S.-Mexico border near Sasabe, Arizona. The project would provide for export of natural gas to Mexico where it would be used for power generation. The main federal agency reviewing the proposed pipeline is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 520-281-1832 or e-mail sandra.camacho@ibwc.gov.

News media may contact:

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, July 12, 2012

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Sahuarita Town Hall, Council Chambers

375 W. Sahuarita Center Way*

Sahuarita, AZ 85629

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Alejandro Barcenas, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Permitting and Licensing Process of the USIBWC for Projects along the International Boundary, including the Proposed Transboundary Natural Gas Pipeline near Sasabe - Jose Nuñez, Supervisory Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For information, call 520-281-1832 or e-mail sandra.camacho@ibwc.gov.

*Directions: From I-19, take Exit 75/Sahuarita Road east about one mile. The municipal complex is on the south side of Sahuarita Road.