Office of
Energy Projects

January 2026

**Pine Prairie Energy Center, LLC**

**Docket No. CP25-533-000**

# Pine Prairie Energy Center Phase IV Expansion Project

## Environmental Assessment

Washington, D.C. 20426

NEPA Unique ID: EAXX-019-20-000-1758873996

**Commission Staff Page Limit and Deadline Certifications**

I certify that Commission staff has considered the factors mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and that this environmental document represents a good-faith effort to disclose the most important considerations required by NEPA within the statutory page limit (42 U.S.C. § 4336a(e)) and the statutory deadline (42 U.S.C. § 4336a(g)). This certification reflects staff's expert judgment that the analysis contained within this environmental document is an accurate representation of the potential environmental effects of the proposed action and the analysis is substantially complete. In staff's judgment, any considerations addressed briefly or left unaddressed would not meaningfully inform the assessment of environmental effects.

Gertrude Fernandez Johnson
Director, Division of Gas –
Environment & Engineering

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas 1
Pine Prairie Energy Center, LLC
Pine Prairie Energy Center Phase IV
Expansion Project
Docket No. CP25-533-000

TO THE INTERESTED PARTY:

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Pine Prairie Energy Center Phase IV Expansion Project, proposed by Pine Prairie Energy Center, LLC (Pine Prairie) in the above-referenced docket.[1] Pine Prairie requests authorization to construct additional natural gas storage and pipeline facilities at an existing natural gas storage facility in Evangeline Parish, Louisiana, and modify certain facilities previously authorized by the Commission but not constructed. Further, Pine Prairie seeks authorization to amend its certificated total storage capacity to 87.2 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas (61.1 Bcf of working gas and 26.1 Bcf of base gas) and reduce the maximum daily delivery capability from 3.2 Bcf/day to 3.0 Bcf/day.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration of your comments on the proposal prior to making a decision on the project, it is important that the Commission receive your comments **on or before 5:00pm Eastern Time on February 23, 2026**. Instructions for filing comments are provided on page 3.

FERC is the lead federal agency for authorizing interstate natural gas transmission facilities under the Natural Gas Act of 1938 (NGA) and the lead federal agency for preparation of the EA. The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)[2] and the Commission's implementing regulations.[3] The principal purposes of the EA are to: identify and assess the potential effects on the natural and human environment; describe and evaluate reasonable alternatives; identify and recommend mitigation measures; and facilitate public involvement in the environmental review process. The

[1] For tracking purposes under the National Environmental Policy Act, the unique identification number for documents relating to this environmental review is EAXX-019-20-000-1758873996.

[2] National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (Public Law [Pub. L.] 91-190. 42 U.S.C. 4321–4347, as amended by Pub. L. 94-52, July 3, 1975; Pub. L. 94-83, August 9, 1975; Pub. L. 97-258, §4(b), September 13, 1982; Pub. L. 118-5, June 3, 2023; Pub. L. 119-21, July 4, 2025).

[3] 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 380.

EA concludes that approval of the proposed project would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following project facilities:

- a new natural gas storage cavern (Cavern No. 6);
- 0.16-mile of natural gas, fresh water, and brine return pipelines that would interconnect with existing systems;
- new brine filtration, gas heating, and dehydration equipment, and demolition of existing out-of-service brine filtration equipment;
- a new 19,000-horsepower electric motor-driven compressor unit in an extension of the existing compressor building;
- about 2.4 miles of 30-inch-diameter header loop pipeline; and
- modification of the existing ANR-North Meter Station and Highway 10 Valve Site.

The Commission mailed a copy of the *Notice of Availability* of the EA to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups; and newspapers and libraries in the project area. The EA is only available in electronic format. It may be viewed and downloaded from the FERC's website (www.ferc.gov), on the natural gas environmental documents page (https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environment/environmental-documents). In addition, the EA may be accessed by using the eLibrary link on the FERC's website. Click on the eLibrary link (https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search), select "General Search" and enter the docket number in the "Docket Number" field, excluding the last three digits (i.e. CP25-533). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

The EA is not a decision document. It presents Commission staff's independent analysis of the environmental issues for the Commission to consider when addressing the merits of all issues in this proceeding. Under section 7(c) of the NGA, the Commission determines whether interstate natural gas transportation facilities are in the public convenience and necessity and, if so, grants a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate them. The Commission bases its decisions on both economic issues, including need, and environmental effects. Section 7(b) of the NGA specifies that no natural gas company shall abandon any portion of its facilities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction without the Commission first finding that the abandonment will not negatively affect the present or future public convenience and necessity.

Your comments should focus on the EA's disclosure and discussion of potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental effects. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to file your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208-3676 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to FERC Online. This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can also file your comments electronically using the eFiling feature on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to FERC Online. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on "eRegister." You must select the type of filing you are making. If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select "Comment on a Filing"; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the Commission. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP25-533-000) on your letter. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Filing environmental comments will not give you intervenor status, but you do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered. Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing or judicial review of the Commission's decision. At this point in this proceeding, the timeframe for filing timely intervention requests has expired. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene out-of-time pursuant to Rule 214(b)(3) and (d) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214(b)(3) and (d)) and show good cause why the time limitation should be waived. Motions to intervene are more fully described at https://www.ferc.gov/how-intervene.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov. Additional information about the project is available from the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. The eLibrary link also

provides access to the texts of all formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview to register for eSubscription.

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## TECHNICAL ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| °F | degrees Fahrenheit |
| ATWS | additional temporary workspace |
| Bcf | billion cubic feet |
| BMP | best management practice |
| CAA | Clean Air Act |
| Certificate | Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| $CH_4$ | methane |
| CO | carbon monoxide |
| $CO_2$ | carbon dioxide |
| $CO_2e$ | carbon dioxide equivalent |
| Commission | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission |
| dBA | decibel on the A-weighted scale |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| ECP | Environmental Construction Plan |
| EI | environmental inspector |
| EMD | electric motor-driven |
| FERC | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission |
| ft-bgs | feet below ground surface |
| GHG | greenhouse gas |
| GWP | global warming potential |
| HAP | hazardous air pollutant |
| hp | horsepower |
| HUC | hydrologic unit code |
| $L_{dn}$ | day-night sound level |
| LDENR | Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources |
| LDEQ | Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality |
| NAAQS | National Ambient Air Quality Standards |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NGA | Natural Gas Act of 1938 |
| NOS | *Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Proposed Pine Prairie Energy Center Phase IV Expansion Project* |
| $NO_x$ | nitrogen oxides |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| NSA | noise-sensitive area |
| NSPS | New Source Performance Standards |
| OEP | Office of Energy Projects |
| PCBs | Polychlorinated Biphenyls |
| Pine Prairie | Pine Prairie Energy Center, LLC |
| $PM_{2.5}$ | particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers |
| $PM_{10}$ | particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 10 micrometers |
| Project | Pine Prairie Energy Center Phase IV Expansion Project |
| Secretary | Secretary of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission |

| | |
|---|---|
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Office |
| $SO_2$ | sulfur dioxide |
| tpy | tons per year |
| USACE | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| USDA-NRCS | U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| USEPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| USGCRP | U.S. Global Change Research Program |
| USGS | U.S. Geological Survey |
| VOC | volatile organic compound |

## A. PROPOSED ACTION

### 1. Introduction and Facility Background

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) prepared this environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the effects associated with the Pine Prairie Energy Center Phase IV Expansion Project (Project), proposed by Pine Prairie Energy Center, LLC (Pine Prairie). On August 8, 2025, Pine Prairie filed an application with the Commission, pursuant to Sections 7(b) and 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act of 1938 (NGA), seeking authorization to construct and operate additional facilities at its existing natural gas storage facility in Evangeline Parish, Louisiana, including an additional storage cavern. Pine Prairie also seeks authorization to vacate two previously authorized caverns that were not constructed.

The existing storage facility was initially authorized in an Order Issuing Certificate issued by FERC on November 23, 2004 authorizing Pine Prairie to construct and operate the Pine Prairie Energy Center natural gas storage facility in Evangeline Parish, Louisiana.[4] The Pine Prairie facility was placed into service between October 2008 and April 2010 and included three underground salt storage caverns (Caverns 1, 2, and 3); a gas handling facility that includes 48,000 horsepower (hp) of compression; four fresh water supply wells; four brine disposal wells; and pipeline connecting the storage facility to six gas transmission pipelines.

On August 5, 2009, FERC issued an Order Amending Certificate authorizing expansion of the Pine Prairie Energy Center natural gas storage facility by constructing two additional natural gas storage caverns (Caverns 4 and 5); one additional water supply well; one additional brine disposal well; additional loop pipeline; and 34,800 hp of additional compression facilities. Pine Prairie placed the additional facilities in service in June 2012.[5]

On May 19, 2011, FERC authorized further expanding the Pine Prairie Energy Center natural gas storage facility by increasing the working gas capacity in Caverns 1 through 5 and constructing two additional natural gas storage caverns (Caverns 6 and 7), 11,500 hp of additional compression facilities, one additional water supply well, and one additional brine disposal well.[6] Pine Prairie constructed the additional water supply well and brine disposal well, but did not construct Caverns 6, 7, or the additional compression facilities. The total certificated capacity of the storage facility, including Caverns 6 and 7 that were not constructed, is 102.6 billion cubic feet (Bcf), with 71.9 Bcf working gas and 30.7 Bcf base gas.

### 2. Project Purpose and Need

Pine Prairie seeks to expand its firm storage capacity by constructing the previously authorized Cavern 7 (which is re-named Cavern 6 within this application and EA) and expanding the existing facilities in order to meet growing natural gas storage demand in the southeastern United States. Pine Prairie conducted an open season from May to June 2024 and received 19 bids for a total volume that exceeded the 10 Bcf increase of working gas capacity listed in the open season notice. Pine Prairie also seeks to partially vacate the 2011 Order Issuing Certificate in that Cavern 6 is no longer needed for the proposed expansion of the facility. A summary of the existing and proposed facilities is presented in table 1.

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4 Docket No. CP04-379, FERC Accession No. 20041123-3081.
5 Docket No. CP04-379, FERC Accession No. 20090805-3067.
6 Docket No. CP11-1, FERC Accession No. 20110519-3073.

| Table 1: Summary of Existing and Proposed Project Facility Capacity (in Bcf) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Certificated in 2011 [a] | | | Proposed | | |
| Cavern No. | Working Gas | Base Gas | Total | Working Gas | Base Gas | Total |
| 1 | 7.1 | 3.1 | 10.2 | 7.1 | 3.1 | 10.2 |
| 2 | 10.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 | 10.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 |
| 3 | 10.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 | 10.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 |
| 4 | 10.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 | 10.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 |
| 5 | 10.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 | 10.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 |
| 6 [a,b] | 10.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 | 10.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 |
| 7 [a] | 10.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 | -- | -- | -- |
| **Total** | **71.9** | **30.7** | **102.6** | **61.1** | **26.1** | **87.2** |

[a] Caverns 6 and 7 were previously certificated under FERC Docket No. CP11-1 but were not constructed.
[b] Pine Prairie is only requesting authorization of Cavern 6 (formerly identified as Cavern No. 7 in Docket No. CP11-1).
Source: Resource Report 1, filed on August 11, 2025. Accession No. 20250811-5130.

## 3. Scope of This Environmental Assessment

The topics addressed in this EA include geology; soils; water resources and wetlands; vegetation; wildlife and species of special concern; cultural resources; land use and visual resources; socioeconomics; air quality; noise; reliability and safety; and cumulative effects, including climate change. This EA describes the affected environment as it currently exists and the environmental consequences of the Project and compares the Project's potential effect with that of various alternatives. This EA also presents our[7] conclusions and additional mitigation measures that we recommend the Commission adopt as mandatory conditions of any Certificate it may issue to Pine Prairie.

As the lead federal agency for the Project, FERC is required to comply with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). These statutes have been considered in the preparation of this EA. FERC will use this document to consider the environmental effects that could result if it authorizes the Project. In addition to FERC, other federal, state, and local agencies may use this EA in approving or issuing permits for all or part of the proposed Project. Permits, approvals, and consultations for the Project are discussed in section A.10.

## 4. Public Participation and Comments

On August 22, 2025, FERC issued a *Notice of Application and Establishing Intervention Deadline* for the Project in Docket No. CP25-533-000. The notice announced the receipt of Pine Prairie's application, identified ways for the public to provide comments on the Project, and established a deadline for submitting a motion to intervene in the proceeding. Sabine Pass Liquefaction, LLC filed a motion to intervene. Two comments were received from Ironworkers Local 623 and Our Children's Trust. Ironworkers Local 623 commented in support of the Project. Our Children's Trust commented that authorizing the Project would harm children by increasing fossil fuel air pollution and causing climate change. This comment is addressed in sections B.8 and B.11.4 of this EA. Opposition to fossil fuels in general is outside the scope of this EA; however, section B.8 quantifies the minor construction and operational emissions from the Project, as well as emissions mitigation measures, and concludes that Project emissions would not result in a violation of any

[7] "We," "us," and "our" refer to environmental staff of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

applicable ambient air quality standard. Through the implementation of the work practices described in section B and compliance with federal and state air regulations, the temporary emissions during construction of the Project would be minor, and the impact of these emissions would be localized. The minor operational sources of emissions associated with the Project would not trigger any requirements under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration air permit program and does not require a General Conformity Determination. Therefore, we conclude that emissions generated during construction and operation would not have a significant impact on regional air quality. Section B.11.4 of this EA acknowledges that construction and operation of the Project facilities would increase the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gas (GHG) and contribute to climate change; however, there is no accepted standard to determine the significance of GHG emissions. The Commission, in exercising its authority under the NGA, will consider project need in its Order and will decide whether the Project is an environmentally acceptable action.

On September 17, 2025, FERC issued a *Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Proposed Pine Prairie Energy Center Phase IV Expansion Project* (NOS). The NOS was mailed to affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations); federal, state, and local officials; Native American Tribes; agency representatives; and local libraries. The NOS established a 30-day scoping period and requested comments on specific concerns about the Project or issues that should be considered during the preparation of the environmental document. Two comments were received in response to the NOS from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and from Mr. Steven Blake Ortego, Sr. The USEPA commented that the EA should address the proposed Project's effects on air quality and relevant mitigation measures, impaired waters under the Clean Water Act, and the possible presence of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB). These comments are addressed in sections A.8, B.2, B.3.2, and B.6. Mr. Ortego commented that his property is experiencing access issues due to erosion from Pine Prairie's facilities and requests that Pine Prairie implement mitigation measures to prevent erosion from the proposed Project. In a response to Mr. Ortego's comment, Pine Prairie reported that a meeting occurred between Pine Prairie personnel and Mr. Ortego and that the erosion was determined to be associated with a drainage ditch under the jurisdiction of the Evangeline Parish Police Jury. According to Pine Prairie, the Police Jury has confirmed that it will complete necessary repairs to address the erosion.[8]

## 5. Proposed Action

The Project would consist of construction and operation of the following facilities:

- a new natural gas storage cavern (Cavern 6) and injection/withdrawal well;
- about 2.4 miles of 30-inch-diameter header loop Pipeline Lateral;
- 0.16-mile service corridor containing natural gas, fresh water, and brine return pipelines that would interconnect with existing systems;
- new brine filtration, gas heating, and dehydration equipment,[9] and demolition of existing out-of-service brine filtration equipment;
- a new 19,000-hp electric motor-driven (EMD) compressor unit in an extension of the existing compressor building;

[8] Pine Prairie's November 14, 2025 Response to EIR, Accession No. 20251114-5076.

[9] Proposed new dehydration equipment includes three 18 million British thermal units per hour (MMBTU/hour) hydrate control heaters, three pressure regulator station valve assemblies, and associated appurtenances.

- a new mainline valve (MLV) 202-2 Valve Station (MLV 202-2 VS), including a pig launcher/receiver;[10] and
- modification of the existing ANR-North Meter Station (ANR-N MS) and Highway 10 Valve Site (HWY 10 VS).

Figure 1 shows the general location of the Project facilities, and figure 2 shows the proposed facilities and workspaces. Additional details on the proposed facilities can be found online at FERC's eLibrary, in Resource Report 1 of Pine Prairie's application.[11]

## 6. Land Requirements

Construction of the Project would temporarily affect about 102.8 acres, and would permanently affect about 10.5 acres. [12] Pine Prairie owns the majority of the land that would be used for the Project construction and operation, including land required for all new aboveground and storage facilities.

A portion of the new right-of-way for the Pipeline Lateral would overlap with existing Pine Prairie brine pipeline easement. New permanent easement would be required for about 1.3 miles (20 acres) of the Pipeline Lateral right-of-way on land not owned or controlled by Pine Prairie. Pine Prairie has not yet obtained access agreements for any of the land that the Pipeline Lateral would cross, but negotiations for the agreements underway. The temporary and permanent land required for the proposed facilities are summarized in table 2.

Pine Prairie proposes a 95-foot-wide construction right-of-way for installation of the Pipeline Lateral. The majority of the proposed alignment (about 2.15 miles) is co-located with existing Pine Prairie facilities and would be offset a distance of 25 feet from existing pipelines. Pine Prairie proposes an offset greater than 25 feet in three locations where foreign pipelines are aboveground or do not follow the most direct route, thereby increasing potential environmental effects.[13]

[10] A "pig" is a tool that the pipeline company inserts into and pushes through the pipeline for cleaning the pipeline, conducting internal inspections, or other purposes. Pig launcher/receivers are aboveground facilities where the pig is inserted/retrieved from the pipeline.

[11] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application. Accession No. 20250811-5130.

[12] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, table 1.4-1. Accession No. 20250811-5130.f

[13] Pine Prairie August 8, 2025 Application, Resource Report 1 Appendix B, table B-1, Accession No. 20250808-5126.

| Table 2: Proposed Facilities Land Requirements | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Facility** | **Land Requirements (acres)** | |
| | **Construction** | **Operation** |
| Pipeline Lateral | | |
| Right-of-way / Temporary Workspace | 25.9 | 7.3 |
| Additional Temporary Workspace (ATWS) | 10.2 | 0.0 |
| Access Roads | 2.0 | 0.1 |
| Contractor Yards | 23.1 | 0.0 |
| New MLV 202-2 VS | 1.2 | 0.3 |
| Modified ANR-N MS | 2.0 | 0.4 [2] |
| Modified Hwy 10 VS | 2.6 | 0.0 |
| Subtotal [1] | 67.0 | 8.1 |
| Gas Handling and Cavern Facilities | | |
| Cavern 6 [5] | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Temporary Workspace | 32.4 | 0.0 |
| Access Roads | 1.4 | 0.3 |
| New Compressor Building [3] | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| New Brine and Gas Handling Facilities [4] | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Subtotal [1] | 35.9 | 2.4 |
| **Total [1]** | **102.8** | **10.5** |

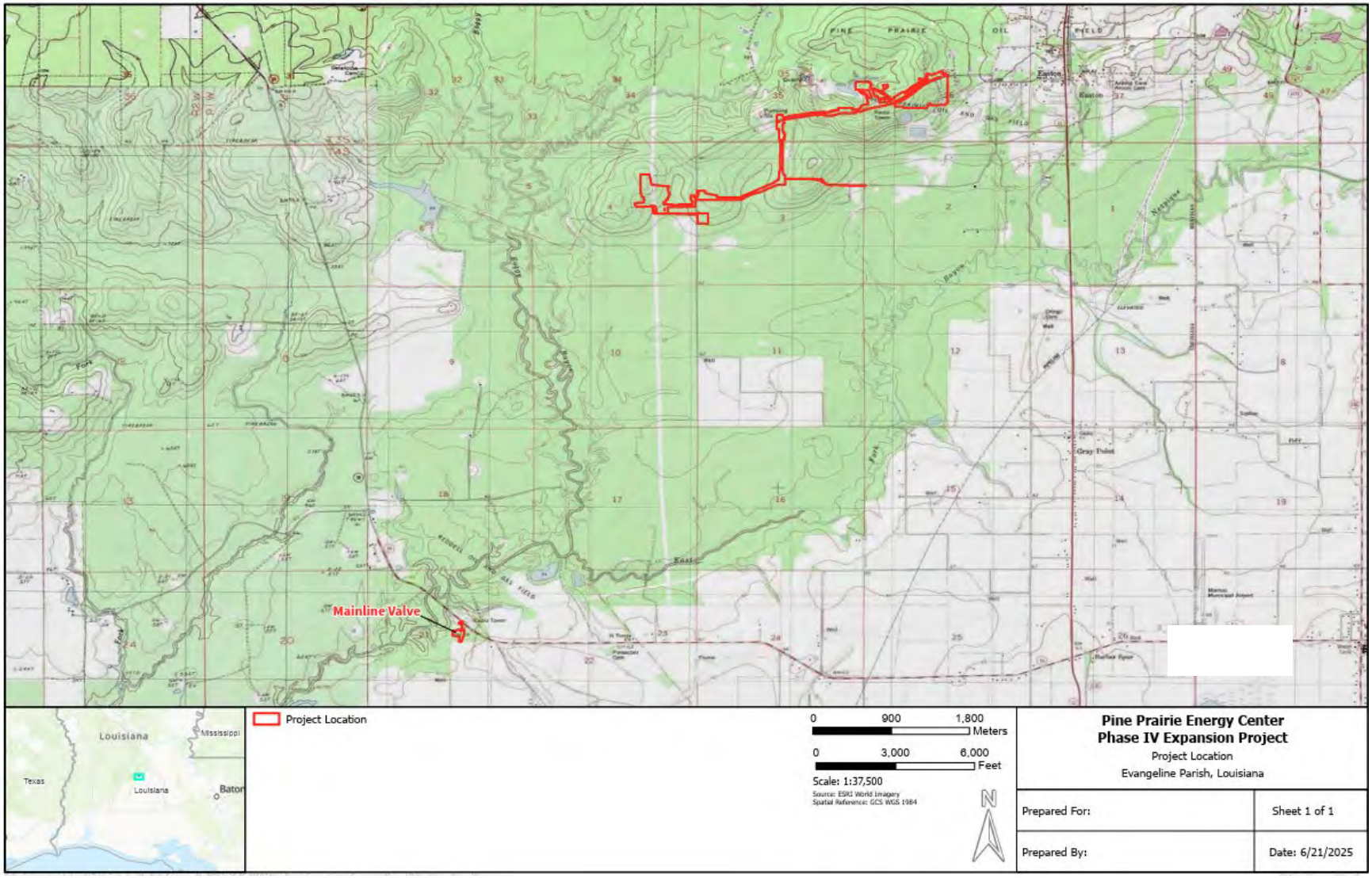
[1] Totals may not sum correctly due to rounding.
[2] Existing meter station facility would be expanded.
[3] A new compressor unit would be installed in an extension to the existing compressor building within the fenceline of the existing Gas Handling Facility.
[4] Includes brine filtration, gas heating, and dehydration equipment, and demolition of existing out-of-service brine filtration equipment; new equipment would be installed within the fenceline of the existing Gas Handling Facility.
[5] The Cavern 6 injection/withdrawal well gas piping, and the freshwater and brine piping would be installed entirely within the Cavern 6 permanent workspace and connecting with piping at the existing Cavern 3.

Source: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Accession No. 20250811-5130; and November 14, 2025 EIR Response, Accession No. 20251114-5076.

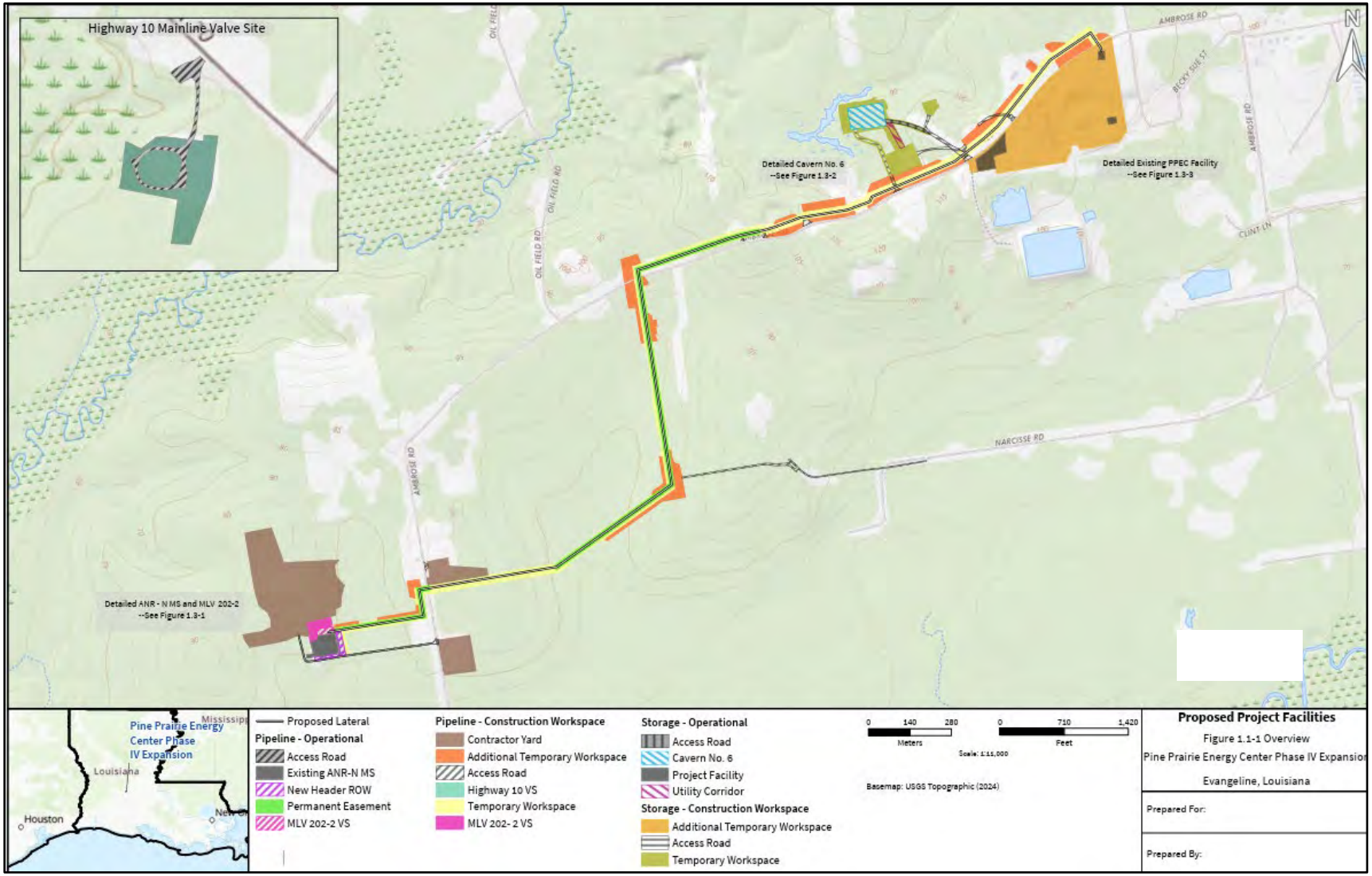
Pine Prairie would use three contractor yard locations for construction of the Pipeline Lateral, as summarized in table 3 and shown on figure 2.

| Table 3: Proposed Contractor Yards | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Contractor Yard** | **Acreage** | **Current Land Use** |
| No. 1 (ATWS 001) | 17.7 | Recently clear-cut timberland, currently highly disturbed fallow field, bisected by existing maintained utility right-of-way. |
| No. 2 (ATWS 006) | 3.0 | Existing brine disposal facility and actively maintained graveled storage yard. |
| No. 3 (ATWS 007) | 2.4 | Existing raw water facility and actively managed right--of-way. Will be used for staging activities and construction parking. |
| **Total** | **23.1** | |

**Figure 11: Project Location Map**



## Figure 2: Project Plan



## 7. Construction Workforce and Schedule

Table 4 shows the anticipated construction workforce and schedule required for the Project.

| Table 4: Anticipated Construction Workforce and Schedule | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Facility** | **Average Workforce** | **Peak Workforce** | **Construction** | | **Duration (months)** |
| | | | **Begin** | **End** | |
| Cavern 6 | 100 | 113 | August 2026 | August 2028 | 24 |
| New Brine Filtering and Compression Facilities | | | April 2027 | June 2028 | 14 |
| Pipeline Lateral | 105 | 130 | March 2028 | July 2028 | 4 |
| Source: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Accession No. 20250811-5130; and October 17, 2025 EIR Response, Accession No. 20251017-5078. | | | | | |

Pine Prairie would perform drilling and solution mining for the development of Cavern 6 seven days per week, 24 hours per day. Other construction activities for the Brine and Gas Handling Facilities and the Pipeline Lateral would primarily occur Monday through Saturday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Some construction activities, such as hydrostatic testing, tie-in welding, and commissioning activities cannot be stopped until they are completed for safety, practical, or logistical reasons. These activities could continue past 7:00 PM or into Sundays. For these instances, Pine Prairie would notify affected landowners prior to beginning the activities and would maintain a Project hotline[14] to allow landowners the opportunity to report any issues or complaints.

## 8. Construction Methods

The Project would be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with applicable requirements defined by U.S. Department of Transportation regulations in 49 CFR 192, *Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline: Minimum Federal Safety Standards*; by FERC's Siting and Maintenance Requirements in 18 CFR 380.15; and by other applicable federal and state safety regulations.

Pine Prairie would implement FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan (Plan) and Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures (Procedures). In addition, Pine Prairie developed and would implement its Project-specific Construction Spill Prevention and Response Procedures for Oil and Hazardous Materials, Unanticipated Discovery of Contamination Plan, Unanticipated Discovery Plan for Cultural Resources, Winter Construction Plan, Traffic Management Plan, Fugitive Dust Control Plan, and Invasive Species Management Plan. We reviewed these plans and find them acceptable.

Pine Prairie would use conventional techniques for constructing the underground Pipeline Lateral. This would consist of surveying and staking; installing erosion control devices (ECD); clearing and grading the workspaces; stringing and bending the pipe segments; assembling and welding the pipeline; x-raying and coating the welds; excavating the trench; lowering the pipeline into the trench; welding the tie-ins; padding and backfilling the pipeline in the trench; hydrostatic testing the pipeline; grading the right-of-way and workspaces; and clean-up and

[14] The Pine Prairie project hotline number is 1-888-275-9084.

restoration of the workspaces. These steps are described in detail in the Project application Resource Reports.[15]

Pine Prairie would develop the natural gas storage Cavern 6 by solution mining over a period lasting about 24 months using fresh water drawn from existing raw water supply wells at Pine Prairie's existing storage facility. Pine Prairie would adhere to all Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources (LDENR) requirements regarding cavern spacing, which require a minimum of 200 feet between caverns and 300 feet of spacing between a cavern wall and the edge of the salt dome.

Pine Prairie would clear and grade the wellpad in the Cavern 6 location. The well would initially be installed in a leaching well configuration, with well casing installed to a depth of 4,000 feet below ground surface (ft-bgs) and outer and inner leaching strings installed in the well bore to depths of 5,490 ft-bgs and 6,080 ft-bgs, respectively. Fresh water would be injected into the well to dissolve the walls and floor of the well bore enlarging the cavern. The resulting brine would be pumped out of the well and to the leaching facilities to remove solids, and then pumped and injected into the existing brine disposal wells.

This would continue until the cavern reached the desired dimensions, with the roof of the cavern about 4,300 ft-bgs and the floor of the cavern about 6,100 ft-bgs. Pine Prairie would then convert the well to operational configuration by removing the leaching strings and installing inner casing to a depth of 5,875 ft-bgs to act as injection/withdrawal string for the gas. Pine Prairie would gravel and fence the wellpad and regrade and restore the temporary workspace around the wellpad.

Pine Prairie would construct the brine filtration facilities and the compressor facilities within the fenceline of the existing Gas Handling Facility. Pine Prairie would modify the existing ANR-N VS and HWY 10 VS aboveground facilities with the following steps at the temporary workspace adjacent to the facilities: surveying and staking; installing ECDs; clearing and grading; excavating and constructing pipe support foundations; constructing buildings, piping, and appurtenances; hydrostatic testing; and grading and restoration. Pine Prairie would gravel and fence the permanent facilities and return the temporary workspaces to near pre-construction contours.

Pine Prairie did not identify any concerns regarding PCBs, but if identified, they would need to be treated in accordance with applicable federal (USEPA Toxic Substances Control Act) and state regulations.

## 9. Environmental Compliance and Monitoring

Pine Prairie would assign an environmental inspector (EI) for the Project. Pine Prairie would provide training for its EI and would conduct environmental training sessions for all its construction management and contractor personnel prior to and during Project construction.

The EI would oversee construction and restoration activities. The EI's duties would be consistent with the Plan and Procedures, and they would have the authority to stop activities that violate any environmental conditions of the FERC Certificate and other federal and state permits or landowner requirements and to order corrective action.

[15] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 1, Accession No. 20250811-5130.

In addition to Pine Prairie's efforts to ensure environmental compliance, FERC staff or its representatives would monitor construction activities and may conduct periodic inspections to ensure Pine Prairie's compliance with its commitments and any conditions of a Commission order.

## 10. Permits, Approvals, and Regulatory Consultations

Table 5 provides a list of major federal and state environmental permits, approvals, and consultations for the Project. Pine Prairie would be responsible for obtaining all permits and approvals to construct and operate the Project, regardless of whether they appear in this table.

**Table 5: Anticipated Environmental Permits, Approvals, and Consultation**

| Administering Agency | Permit/Approval | (Anticipated) Filing Date | (Anticipated) Approval Receipt Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Federal* | | | |
| FERC | Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity | August 2025 | Pending |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – New Orleans District | Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit (Nationwide Permit 12 for Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities) | August 2025 | November 2025 |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Louisiana Ecological Field Services Office | Section 7 Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act; and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Consultation | June 18, 2025 | July 14, 2025 |
| *Louisiana* | | | |
| State Historic Preservation Office | Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act Coordination | June 26, 2025 | August 11, 2025 |
| Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) | Notice of Intent to Discharge Storm Water Associated with Construction Activities Permit | (March 2026) | (June 2026) |
| | Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Blanket authorization under USACE issued NWP 12) | August 2025 | November 2025 |
| | Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Statewide Permit to Discharge Hydrostatic Test Wastewater | (March 2026) | (June 2026) |
| | Clean Air Act Operating Permit (Minor modification to Title V Air Operating Permit) | August 2025 | (June 2026) |
| Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) | Informal Consultation for State Endangered Species | June 18, 2025 | July 24, 2025 |
| Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources (LDENR) – Underground Injection and Mining Division | Class II Hydrocarbon Storage Permit | July 17, 2025 | (April 2026) |
| | Class III Solution Mining Permit | July 17, 2025 | (April 2026) |
| | Class II Injection Disposal Permit for Brine Disposal Wells | July 17, 2025 | (April 2026) |
| *Local* | | | |
| Evangeline Parish Police Jury | Compliance with Local Floodplain Ordinances, Stormwater Ordinances, Zoning Ordinances; Grading Permits/ Building Permits | (April 2026) | (July 2026) |
| Acadiana Planning Commission | Informal consultation re: economic development | (April 2026) | (July 2026) |

| Table 5: Anticipated Environmental Permits, Approvals, and Consultation | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Administering Agency** | **Permit/Approval** | **(Anticipated) Filing Date** | **(Anticipated) Approval Receipt Date** |
| Parish Public Works Departments | Right-of-way/Road Permit; Highway Occupancy Permit | (April 2026) | (July 2026) |
| Sources: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 1, Accession No. 20250811-5130; and November 14, 2025 EIR Response, Accession No. 20251114-5076. | | | |

## 11. Non-Jurisdictional Facilities

Under section 7 of the NGA, and as part of the decision regarding whether to approve facilities under its jurisdiction, the Commission considers all factors bearing on the public convenience and necessity. Occasionally, proposed projects have associated facilities that do not come under the jurisdiction of FERC. Pine Prairie identified one non-jurisdictional facility associated with the Project, which would consist of installing a pole and overhead electrical service line at two locations for a cathodic protection system for the pipeline and the Cavern 6 wellpad appurtenances. All disturbances for these power facilities would be within the Project footprint. Therefore, no additional land disturbance would occur from their construction, and these facilities are not discussed further.

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This section of the EA describes the affected environment as it currently exists and discusses the environmental consequences of constructing and operating the proposed gas storage facilities (e.g., temporary, short-term, long-term, and permanent). Temporary effects generally occur during construction with the resource returning to a similar condition to that prior to construction, almost immediately following construction activities. Short-term effects could continue for up to 3 years following construction. Effects were considered long-term if the resource would require more than 3 years to recover. A permanent effect could occur as a result of any activity that modifies a resource to the extent that it would be affected for the life of the Project. In the following sections, we address direct and indirect effects, by resource.

The analysis contained in this EA is based upon Pine Prairie's application and supplemental filings, and our experience with the construction and operation of natural gas infrastructure. However, if the Project is approved and proceeds to the construction phase, it is not uncommon for a project proponent to require modifications (e.g., minor changes in workspace configurations). These changes are often identified by a company once on-the-ground implementation work is initiated. Any Project modification would be subject to review and approval from FERC's Director of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP) and any other permitting/authorizing agencies with jurisdiction.

### 1. Geology

#### 1.1 Geologic Setting

The geology in the Project region generally consists of unconsolidated materials (i.e., sand, silt, clay, and minor gravel) extending from the ground surface to a depth of up to about 150 feet below the land surface, underlain by sandstone and shale (Barton, 1925; Louisiana Geological Survey, 2009; Varvaro, 1955). The deeper sediments and rock are tilted upward around the edges of the salt dome in which the proposed cavern would be developed and radial faults occur in the sediments around the salt dome. The limestone caprock overlying the salt dome outcrops at the ground surface in some areas and was quarried historically until the late 1930s. A water-filled quarry is about 2,350 feet west of the existing Cavern 3 wellpad. The Pine Prairie salt dome occurs at depths as shallow as 300 feet below the land surface and the edges of the salt dome are vertical below a depth of about 1,000 feet below the lands surface (Spillers, 1962).

#### 1.2 Mineral and Paleontological Resources

The Pine Prairie salt dome has historically hosted oil and natural gas exploration and production prior to 1926 around the flanks of the salt dome (Barton, 1926; Spillers, 1962). Exploration wells were drilled for salt and limestone, but extraction of limestone was only completed at the ground surface. The nearest limestone quarry (abandoned) is about 0.4 mile west of the Project site. There are three liquid petroleum gas storage caverns, which were last used in 1996 more than 3,600 feet southeast and about 2,500 feet shallower than the proposed Cavern 6. One of the caverns is listed as plugged and abandoned (LDENR, 2025a). There are 21 wells listed within the Project area, eight of which are associated with the existing Pine Prairie facilities and the remaining 13 are plugged and abandoned. There are no other active wells or quarries near the Project area. Therefore, we conclude that access to mineral resources would not be significantly affected by the Project.

Paleontological resources are the fossilized remains of prehistoric plants and animals, as well as the impressions left in rock or other materials. The Cenozoic sediments in the Project area represent ancient coastal plain habitat for camels, mastodons, and other mammals (Paleobiology,

2025). However, significant fossils have not been reported in the Project area. In the event a paleontological specimen were identified during construction activities, Pine Prairie would halt work and allow the work area to be assessed by qualified personnel. Given that Pine Prairie has committed to following these procedures, we conclude paleontological resources would not be significantly affected by the Project.

### 1.3 Geologic Hazards

Geologic hazards are natural, physical conditions that can result in damage to land and structures or injury to people. These hazards are typically seismic-related, including earthquakes, surface faulting, and soil liquefaction. Other geologic hazards may include flooding and ground subsidence. Potential geologic hazards that may exist in the Project area are described in the following subsections.

Seismicity

Based on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Seismic Hazards maps for the U.S., the Project area has a 2 percent probability of exceeding peak ground acceleration of 6 to 14 percent gravity in 50 years (USGS, 2014). For reference, a peak ground acceleration of 10 percent gravity is generally considered the minimum threshold for damage to older structures or structures not constructed to withstand earthquakes. Historically, 16 earthquakes have occurred in Louisiana since 1930 with magnitudes of 3.5 or greater (USGS, 2025). While the Project area is moderately susceptible to earthquake related ground movement that could damage unreinforced structures, the Project facilities would be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration regulations (49 CFR 192) and applicable federal and state standards and design requirements, which would allow the Project facilities to withstand probable seismic risks. Furthermore, the existing facilities have not been affected by seismic activity or faults. We therefore conclude the risk of an earthquake damaging the Project facilities is low, including secondary risks caused by earthquakes such as soil liquefaction.

Land Subsidence

Subsidence is the lowering of land surface and can be caused by a number of factors, such as extracting solids or liquids from the subsurface, drying of expansive clay soils, collapse of underground mines or cavities, or dissolution of soluble bedrock such as carbonates (limestone, dolomite) or evaporites (gypsum, salt domes). While the limestone caprock of the salt dome occurs in some areas at the ground surface, it is generally buried below sediments and is not known to form karst features.

Salt creep (elastic deformation of the salt rock) will cause cavern closure that may also result in potential ground subsidence. Industry best management practices (BMP) suggest closure rates are acceptable up to 0.0001 percent per foot thickness of cavern. Pine Prairie has designed the proposed cavern to meet state requirements and industry BMPs.[16] Pine Prairie maintains a Cavern Integrity Monitoring Program, a Subsidence Monitoring Plan, and a Safety and Emergency Response Plan for the five existing storage caverns and aboveground facilities, and would modify these programs to include the proposed facilities. Furthermore, Pine Prairie would subject Cavern 6 to a mechanical integrity test in accordance with procedures that would be submitted to LDENR for approval. Given

[16] Applicable state and federal regulations are listed in Pine Prairie's Application, Resource Report 6, pp. 29-30, Accession No. 20250811-5130.

these factors and the significant depth of the proposed Cavern 6 below the ground surface and salt dome surface, we conclude potential ground subsidence would not significantly affect the proposed Project facilities or other land users above and near the proposed caverns.

### 2. Soils

Soil characteristics for the Project area were assessed using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) Soil Survey Geographic Database and the USDA-NRCS Web Soil Survey. The soils in this ecoregion are typically characterized as poorly to well drained, silt loam, alluvial, and fluviomarine sediments on level coastal prairie terraces (USDA NRCS, 2025).

The Project would affect about 81.2 acres of soils classified as prime farmland, including prime farmland if irrigated, prime farmland if protected from flooding, and prime farmland if not frequently flooded during the growing season, 62.8 acres of soils classified as highly erodible by water, and 62.8 acres of soils classified as compaction prone or hydric.[17] None of these soils are currently used for agriculture. Pine Prairie would use measures from the Project-specific Environmental Construction Plan (ECP) and the Plan and Procedures, to minimize potential effects on soils, such as segregating topsoil from subsoil in appropriate areas, seeding stockpiled soils to stabilize them and protect them from wind or water dispersal, and maintaining ECDs until revegetation is sufficiently completed to protect soils from erosion. Therefore, we conclude the Project's effects on soils would not be significant.

One potential source of groundwater or soil contamination is about 0.3 mile east of the Project location (USEPA, 2025a). The source is an autobody shop with no reported releases, and thus no contaminated media are anticipated to be encountered. No other industrial hazardous waste sites, landfills, or known contaminated sites were identified within 0.25 mile of the Project (USEPA, 2025a, b). In the event of the discovery of contamination, Pine Prairie would follow measures included in the Project-specific Unanticipated Discovery of Contamination Plan. Contamination from spills or leaks of fuel, lubricants, or hazardous materials during construction could adversely affect soils. The effects of such spills or leaks typically are small because of their low frequencies and volumes. Pine Prairie would adhere to the Project-specific Construction Spill Prevention and Response Procedures for Oil and Hazardous Materials to prevent or minimize any effects related to spills.

Given the characteristics of Project area soils, Pine Prairie's implementation of its ECP, and that all workspaces that are not permanently converted to aboveground facilities would be revegetated, we conclude that effects on soils would be short-term (lasting only until revegetation were successful) and would not be significant.

### 3. Water Resources and Wetlands

#### 3.1 Groundwater Resources

The Project area is underlain by the Chicot and Evangeline aquifer systems, which serve as the primary groundwater reservoirs underlying the area (Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality [LDEQ], 2021a). The Chicot aquifer system is a major source of groundwater for southwestern Louisiana and accounts for about 48 percent of groundwater use in the state (Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, 2018). The Chicot aquifer

[17] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 7, Appendix 7B, table 7.3-3, Accession No. 20250811-5130.

is a USEPA designated sole-source aquifer, providing 50 percent or more of the groundwater used in the Project area (USEPA, 2025c). The Evangeline aquifer generally has higher concentrations of dissolved solids than the Chicot aquifer and provides much less groundwater to Louisiana. Groundwater from the Chicot and Evangeline aquifer systems is not the primary source of drinking water in the region (LDEQ, 2021a).

Seven active industrial water supply wells were identified in the Project area, all owned by Pine Prairie. Six of the wells supply raw water for solution mining activities that were used to develop the Pine Prairie facility's existing storage caverns, and one well supplies water for the operation of the facilities. There are also six brine disposal wells in the vicinity of the Project that were used in development of the existing storage caverns and would be used to develop the proposed Cavern 6. These wells are permitted by the LDENR to accommodate the proposed groundwater use and disposal for the Project. No other wells or wellhead protection areas are in the Project vicinity.

Shallow groundwater may be present in areas of Project excavations that would require dewatering. Pine Prairie would dewater in accordance with the Project ECP and the Plan and Procedures, and would implement mitigation measures such as installing and maintaining ECDs to prevent erosion around exposed soils, and discharging groundwater through filtering structures into well vegetated uplands. Dewatering may temporarily affect groundwater levels and quality in the immediate vicinity of excavations; however, groundwater conditions would return to their pre-construction conditions after several days of the end of construction activities.

Solution Mining Effects

Water used in developing Cavern 6 by solution mining would be sourced from the Evangeline aquifer, as permitted for previous cavern development by LDEQ. During the solution mining of Cavern 6, a diesel blanket would be used to float on top of the brine to prevent uncontrolled solution mining of the cavern roof. The Cavern 6 well would be installed with surface and intermediate cemented casings to prevent contamination of potable groundwater zones.[18] Diesel would be stored in tanks with secondary containment to prevent accidental spills. Following completion of the solution mining phase, the diesel would be pumped back to surface tanks and removed from the Project site. Brine from the leaching process would be transported by pipeline from the cavern wellpads to the proposed upgraded brine leaching plant and then by pipeline to one of the six existing saltwater disposal wells.

Given that Pine Prairie would use existing permitted water supply wells and brine disposal wells, and would commit to implementing the mitigation measures described above, we conclude that effects on groundwater would not be significant.

### 3.2 Water Use

Pine Prairie anticipates the Project would require about 819.6 million gallons of water over two years, as summarized in table 6. The majority of the water would be used for solution mining activities in the development of storage Cavern 6. The water would be withdrawn from six existing permitted water supply wells owned by Pine Prairie. The raw water usage would average about 1.12 million gallons per day over the 2-year duration of the Project, which represents about 52 percent of

[18] The deepest potable aquifer is the Evangeline Aquifer, which can extend up to 2,250 ft-bgs, about 2,050 feet above the top of proposed Cavern 6.

the permitted capacity of the supply wells permitted for withdrawal of 1,500 gallons per minute, and about 31 percent of the capacity of the supply wells permitted for withdrawal of 2,500 gallons per minute.[19] The estimated volume of brine that would be produced by the solution mining represents about 41 percent of the permitted capacity of the disposal wells.[20] No new supply water wells or brine disposal wells are proposed for this Project. The reasonably foreseeable effects of the existing wells are discussed in the NEPA documents prepared for the existing storage caverns.[21] Furthermore, Pine Prairie states that in the 20 years of operation of the existing storage facility, no reductions in capacity from the existing well field or adverse effects in nearby wells due to aquifer drawdown have been identified.[22] Given that the groundwater withdrawals and brine injections are well below the permitted well capacities, as determined by the LDENR (as described in section 3.1), we conclude that the water used for the Project would not have significant effects on other users of the water resources in the Project area.

**Table 6: Anticipated Water Use Needs**

| Water Use | Water Source | Rate of Discharge (gallons per minute) | Discharge Location | Estimated Volume (gallons) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hydrostatic Test Water | Existing brine disposal and raw water supply wells. | TBD | MP 4.09[2] | 515,000 |
| Cavern Development | Existing raw water supply wells. | Up to 5,040 | Existing brine disposal wells | 819,000,000 |
| Dust Suppression | Existing brine disposal and raw water supply wells. | TBD | As needed in workspaces | 16,893 |
| Hydrovac Excavations [1] | Existing brine disposal and raw water supply wells. | TBD | Contractor Yard 1 | 64,000 |
| | | | **Total** | **819,595,893** |

[1] Primarily used for installing underground small-diameter piping and conduit in aboveground facilities.
[2] Hydrostatic test water would be discharged in a controlled fashion into an upland area within workspaces near the proposed new MLV 202-2 VS facility, in accordance with applicable permit conditions and with Section VII.D of the Procedures.
Source: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 2, Accession No. 20250811-5130; and November 10, 2025 Supplemental Filing, Accession No. 20251110-5125.

### 3.3 Surface Water

The Project would cross three 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC): Boggy Bayou (080802010103), Millers Lake-East Fork Bayou Nezpique (080802010104), and East Fork Bayou Nezpique (080802010106). The Project would cross three waterbodies. Five additional waterbodies are within Project workspace, but would not be crossed by Project facilities. Table 7 depicts the waterbodies crossed by the Project, and within Project workspace.

[19] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 2, pp. 2-13, Accession No. 20250811-5130.
[20] Pine Prairie's October 17, 2025 EIR Response, Accession No. 20251017-5078.
[21] FERC's EAs issued on November 30, 2004 (Accession No. 20041130-0103), July 10, 2009 (Accession No. 20090710-4002), and March 18, 2011 (Accession No. 20110318-4004).
[22] Pine Prairie's December 29, 2025 EIR Response, Accession No. 20251229-5249.

| Table 7: Waterbodies affected by the Project | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ID** | **Waterbody Name** | **Approximate MP** | **Centerline Crossing Width (feet)[a]** | **Flow Regime** | **Pipeline Crossing Method** | **Construction Effects (square feet)[c]** |
| P005 | N/A | 4.17 | 0 | Perennial | Timber Mats | 73.2 |
| S013 | N/A | 4.70 | 8 | Intermittent | Dry Open-Cut | 883.0 |
| S014 | N/A | 4.70 | 0 | Intermittent | Timber Mats | 352.3 |
| S005 | N/A | 5.80 | 4 | Intermittent | Dry Open-Cut | 413.3 |
| S006 | N/A | 5.80 | 0 | Ephemeral | Timber Mats | 547.5 |
| S007 | N/A | 5.80 | 0 | Ephemeral | Timber Mats | 75.5 |
| S002 | N/A | 6.20 | 0 | Ephemeral | Timber Mats | 1,034.6 |
| S001 | N/A | 6.25 | 3 | Ephemeral | Dry Open-Cut | 232.7 |

Key:

[a] Waterbodies with a crossing width of "0" are within the Project limits of disturbance, but would not be crossed by the pipeline. However, effects from timber matting would still occur and are depicted in the construction effects column.

[b] LAC 33:IX.11

[c] No effects would occur during Project operation.

MP = milepost

Source: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Accession No. 20250811-5130, and supplemental filing October 17, 2025, Accession number 20251017-5078.

Construction of the Project across waterbodies may result in adverse effects from in-stream construction activities or construction on slopes adjacent to stream channels. Clearing and grading of stream banks, in-stream trenching, trench dewatering, and backfilling could result in temporary modification of aquatic habitat, increased sedimentation, turbidity, decreased dissolved oxygen concentrations, releases of chemical and nutrient pollutants from sediments, thermal effects, modification of riparian areas, and introduction of chemical contaminants such as fuel and lubricants.

The EPA commented that FERC should identify any designated Clean Water Act 303(d) impaired waterbodies crossed by the project. Pine Prairie searched the EPA's database, *How's my Waterway* on June 19, 2025, that identified no designated 303(d) waterbodies would be crossed by the Project. Pine Prairie would cross streams in accordance with applicable federal and applicable state permit requirements. To minimize adverse effects at stream crossings, Pine Prairie would implement measures from the Procedures provided in the Pine Prairie ECP. Depending on the construction schedule, Pine Prairie would conduct in-stream construction during low-or no-flow periods whenever possible, and use the timber matting for temporary workspaces near waterbodies. Pine Prairie would limit effects from workspaces near waterbodies by deploying timber mats to support equipment, installing silt fencing for erosion control, and utilizing secondary containment vessels for storage of fluids. Based on our review of these measures and the proposed crossing methods, we conclude that effects on surface waters would be temporary and would not be significant.

*Floodplains*

All Project workspaces are proposed within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplains designated at Zone X,[23] except for the HWY 10 Valve Site and a section of a temporary access road (TAR-LA-PPEC-4.90), which falls within FEMA floodplains designated as Zone A.[24] Due to the flat topography in the Project areas, surface runoff would be primarily over land sheet flow, with very little channelized flow. Pipeline construction may temporarily affect flood storage. However, Pine Prairie would return these areas to grade/contour following construction. Permanent aboveground facilities would reduce flood storage capacity within the Project area. However, given the size of Region 4 and relatively flat nature of the area (i.e., more area serves as flood storage), and that these aboveground facilities are spread across the Project area, we conclude the Project is unlikely to be affected by flooding, and adverse effects on floodplains would not be significant.

## 3.4 Wetlands

Project construction would affect a total of 3.6 acres of wetlands, including 2.6 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM), 0.03 acre of palustrine scrub-shrub (PSS), and 1 acre of palustrine forested wetlands (PFO).[25] Table 8 depicts the wetlands affected by the Project.

**Table 8: Wetland Effects from the Project**

| Wetland ID | Approx MP | Linear Crossing Length[a] (feet) | Wetland Impact (acres)[b] | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | PEM | | PSS | | PFO [e] | | Total | |
| | | | Cons | Op | Cons | Op | Cons | Op | Cons | Op |
| **Pipeline and Aboveground Facilities** | | | | | | | | | | |
| W015- PEM[c] | 4.1 | N/A | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0 |
| W015- PEM | 4.1 | 921 | 2.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2.1 | 0 |
| W013- PFO | 4.7 | 135 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1[e] |
| W011- PFO | 5.0 | 411 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.3[e] |
| W009- PSS/PEM | 5.4 | N/A | 0.1 | 0 | <0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0 |
| **Gas Handling Facility and Cavern Facilities** | | | | | | | | | | |
| W001- PEM1[d] | N/A | N/A | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| **Project Totals [f]** | | | **2.6** | **0.1** | **<0.1** | **0.0** | **1.0** | **0.4** | **3.6** | **0.5** |

[a] Crossing Length = the total linear feet of pipeline within the wetland boundaries. N/A indicates wetlands are not crossed by the pipeline centerline but are in the limits of disturbance.

[b] Operation acreages are based on a 30-foot-wide corridor centered over the pipeline. However, actual effects on trees and shrubs would be limited in accordance with the Procedures.

[c] This portion of the wetland is in the limits of disturbance of the ANR-N MS.

[d] This wetland is in the Cavern No. 6 well pad area and will be permanently filled.

[e] Operation effects reflect the conversion of PFO cover to PEM and PSS cover within maintained ROW.

[23] "Zone X" is the FEMA designation for floodplains of minimal flood hazards outside the 100-year floodplain.

[24] " Zone A" is the FEMA designation for floodplains that include areas with 1 percent chance of flooding, or 100-year floodplain.

[25] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 2, Accession No. 20250811-5130. Pine Prairie conducted wetland delineations in April and May 2025, in accordance with the three-criteria wetland requirements as described in the1987 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Wetland Delineation Manual (USACE, 1987) and the 2010 Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains Regional Supplement (USACE, 2010).

| Table 8: Wetland Effects from the Project | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wetland ID | Approx MP | Linear Crossing Length[a] (feet) | Wetland Impact (acres)[b] | | | | | | | |
| | | | PEM | | PSS | | PFO [e] | | Total | |
| | | | Cons | Op | Cons | Op | Cons | Op | Cons | Op |
| [f] Totals may not sum correctly due to rounding.<br>NOTE: Acreages <0.01 were considered *de minimis* and were not added to the total effects.<br>Source: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Accession No. 20250811-5130, and supplemental filing October 17, 2025, Accession number 20251017-5078. | | | | | | | | | | |

Effects on wetlands from Project construction would consist of potential soil compaction, increased erosion, and sedimentation resulting in additional turbidity. About 0.4 acre of PFO wetlands would be permanently converted to maintained pipeline right-of-way, and about 0.1 acre would be filled for the proposed storage field. Pine Prairie would implement construction and restoration measures in wetlands and waterbodies in accordance with the Procedures. Following construction activities, all construction materials would be removed, and contours would be returned to approximate pre-existing conditions. Pine Prairie would allow wetlands to revert to conditions similar to those before construction through natural revegetation from existing seed and root stock, which is anticipated to occur within one or two growing seasons.

Given the limited area of affected wetlands (3.6 acres during construction and 0.5 acre for operation), limited wetland conversion (0.4 acre of PFO wetland to PEM/PSS), limited fill (0.1 acre), and Pine Prairie's commitment to implementing mitigation measures from the Procedures, we conclude that effects on wetlands would not be significant, and mostly temporary.

## 4. Fisheries, Vegetation, and Wildlife

### 4.1 Fisheries

Surveys from May and April 2025 identified aquatic life within three stream crossings (S013, S014, and P005). Pine Prairie proposes to use a dry crossing method on all flowing streams that would be crossed by the pipeline to maintain a hydrological connection during surface excavation and installation of the pipeline; therefore, the primary effects would be a temporary disturbance of stream banks and substrate, and removal of bank vegetation. Temporary effects from a dry crossing technique could include disruption to fish food resources, increased sedimentation and water turbidity downstream from the construction workspace, and downstream scour from pump or flume discharges. Fish passages may also be temporarily restricted during pipe installation using a dry crossing method, but Pine Prairie would screen intake hoses to minimize the potential for entrainment of fish and restore passages after construction when water flow bypass measures have been removed.

Pine Prairie would adhere to the mitigation measures presented in the Plan and Procedures, as appropriate to minimize construction-related effects on fisheries.

After construction, Pine Prairie would restore all waterbodies to their pre-existing conditions. Pine Prairie anticipates that no permanent loss or alteration of aquatic habitat or species would occur during Project operation, and Pine Prairie would adhere to all FERC requirements. With these measures, we conclude that effects on fisheries would be temporary to short-term (lasting until riparian vegetation is reestablished) and not significant.

### 4.2 Vegetation

The Project area occurs within forest, developed land, grasslands/herbaceous, scrub shrub, and wetlands. Vegetation effects are quantified in appendix B.

General temporary construction-related effects on vegetation would occur from disturbances from clearing and grading, while permanent effects are those associated with the operation of the associated pipeline, the Cavern 6 wellpad, aboveground facilities, and permanent access roads. Temporary effects would last through construction until the completion of successful restoration. In addition to direct vegetation effects, potential effects may include compaction of soils by construction equipment.

Construction of the Pine Prairie pipeline would result in permanent effects resulting from the conversion of one vegetation community to another community (i.e., forest to herbaceous or scrub-shrub) within the maintained right-of-way, or the addition of impervious surfaces/developed areas within the aboveground facilities. The Project would require about 2.5 acres of forest, 0.7 acre of scrub-shrub, and 0.4 acre of PFO/PSS wetland for the permanent right-of-way.[26] In addition, Pine Prairie would convert 0.5 acre of herbaceous area and 0.3 acre of developed land to impervious surfaces during the operation of MLV 2102-2 and ANR-North MS, as well as access roads.[27] Open areas within the fenceline of the expanded aboveground facilities would either be graveled or revegetated with an herbaceous seed mix.

Pine Prairie would allow areas not permanently converted to impervious surfaces, maintained within a fence line, or required to be maintained as herbaceous ground cover to revert to pre-construction conditions. Pine Prairie would conduct routine maintenance around these facilities, including mowing and fertilizing vegetation.

Vegetation effects by the Project are expected to be mostly short-term and recover relatively quickly (one to two growing seasons). However, effects on forested lands would take longer to return to pre-construction conditions (typically up to 30 years). Pine Prairie would adhere to the Commission's Plan and Procedures, which includes measures to minimize erosion, restore approximate pre-construction contours in temporary workspaces, increase the potential for successful revegetation of the workspaces, minimize effects on native vegetation, and prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds. Given the limited area of effects and Pine Prairie's proposed construction and mitigation measures, we conclude that effects on vegetation would not be significant.

[26] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 3, Accession No. 20250811-5130.

[27] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 3, table 3.3-1, Accession No. 20250811-5130.

### 4.3 Wildlife and Migratory Birds

*Wildlife*

Construction of the Project would result in short-term effects on wildlife, including increased noise, lighting, and human activity, which could disrupt breeding and/or feeding behavior of wildlife in the vicinity of the Project. Movement of equipment and vehicles during construction could result in direct mortality of some small, less mobile mammals, reptiles, and amphibians that are unable to leave the area quickly. However, wildlife in the vicinity of most of the pipeline and aboveground facilities are likely acclimated to disturbance due to their collocation with other existing pipelines and operations of existing facilities. The permanent transition of forested to herbaceous habitat would result in a loss of suitable wildlife habitat for some species and create habitat for other species.

Following construction, Pine Prairie would restore temporary workspace, including additional temporary workspace and most areas within the permanent pipeline right-of-way, to near pre-construction conditions and vegetative cover in accordance with the Plan and Procedures and landowner agreements. To maintain accessibility of the right-of-way and to accommodate pipeline integrity surveys, vegetation within the pipeline right-of-way may be cleared periodically in accordance with the Plan and Procedures. Given the limited area of disturbance, duration for establishment of vegetation, and abundant adjacent habitat, we conclude that effects on wildlife would not be significant and would be mostly short-term.

*Migratory Birds*

The Project area would occur along the border of BCR 25 (West Gulf Coastal Plains/Ouachitas) and BCR 37 (Gulf Coastal Prairie). A variety of migratory birds, including birds of conservation concern use or could use the wildlife habitats that would be affected by the Project. These birds use these habitats for resting (stopover), sheltering, foraging, breeding, and nesting.

Non-nesting migratory birds would not be substantially affected, as these individuals would temporarily relocate to avoid construction activities. However, construction activity near active nests during incubation or brood rearing could result in nest abandonment; overheating, chilling, or desiccation of unattended eggs or young causing nestling mortality; premature fledging; and/or ejection of eggs or young from the nest.

Based on the acreage of Project effects, limited duration of those effects across most of the right-of-way, available adjacent habitat, and the mitigation measures discussed above, we have determined that the Project would not result in population-level effects on migratory birds or eagles and would not lead to significant measurable negative effects on migratory birds or their habitats.

To further reduce potential effects, Pine Prairie would conduct Project clearing after August 1st to avoid the nesting and breeding season of many migratory birds in southern Louisiana (April 15th to August 1st), to the extent feasible and practical. If Pine Prairie requires clearing within this window, it would consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for recommended mitigation measures if any nests are encountered during construction.

### 4.4 Threatened, Endangered, and Special-Status Species

Pine Prairie obtained an Information for Planning and Consultation official species list on June 17, 2025, which identified tricolored bat (proposed endangered), red-cockaded woodpecker (endangered), whooping crane (experimental population), alligator snapping turtle (proposed threatened), and the monarch butterfly (proposed threatened) as potentially present within the Project area. No critical habitat is present within the Project area. No suitable habitat was identified for the red-cockaded woodpecker, whooping crane, alligator snapping turtle, and monarch butterfly; therefore, we conclude that the Project would have *no effect* on these species and consultation under the Endangered Species Act is complete for these species. Should new species be listed or Project conditions change that may impacts federally listed species, we would consult with the USFWS.

*Tricolored bat*

The tricolored bat inhabits partly open forest habitats with woodland edges and large trees, but also inhabit grasslands, suburbs, developed areas, and culverts. Roosting habitat in Louisiana are hardwood trees, pine trees, eastern red cedar, and Spanish moss, suspended from trees, along with barns, porch roofs, bridges, and bunkers. Pine Prairie used the USFWS Determination Key for the tricolored bat which resulted in a "may affect" finding. The USFWS recommended that Pine Prairie clear trees outside of pup season for the tricolored bat, and Pine Prairie agreed to this mitigation measure and requested that the USFWS concur with a "not likely to adversely affect" finding for the species. On July 18, 2025, the USFWS provided concurrence that the Project is not likely to adversely affect the tricolored bat. Endangered Species Act consultation is therefore complete.

### 4.5 State Listed Species

Pine Prairie consulted with the LDWF via email to determine whether any state listed species were known to occur in the vicinity of the Project. LDWF indicated in a letter dated March 31, 2025 that no known significant natural communities or natural heritage resources occur near the Project facilities. In addition, there are no State Natural Area Preserves under the LDWF's jurisdiction in the vicinity of the Project. Therefore, we conclude that effects on state-listed species would be minimal, if any.

## 5. Cultural Resources

In addition to accounting for effects on cultural resources under NEPA, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, requires FERC to take into account the effects of its undertakings on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP),[28] and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. Pine Prairie, as a non-federal party, is assisting FERC in meeting our obligations under Section 106 and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800. The Section 106 process is coordinated at the state level by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

[28] In accordance with 36 CFR 800.16(l)(1), a historic property is any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, object, or property of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties.

### 5.1 The Area of Potential Effects

The area of potential effects (APE) is the "geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist" (36 CFR 800.16(d)). The direct APE for archaeological sites includes all areas of potential effects where ground-disturbing activities are possible, while the indirect APE is considered to be the geographic areas from which any permanent infrastructure has the potential to affect, diminish, or alter the visual, auditory, vibratory, or atmospheric setting of a NRHP-listed or NRHP-eligible property.

The direct APE totals 102.89 acres where Project construction activities would involve soil disturbing activities and includes pipeline corridors, workspaces, and staging areas. The indirect (visual) APE consists of areas that may incur a visual effect on any historic structure or aboveground architectural resource that is at least 50 years of age and either listed or eligible for listing on the NRHP. For the purposes of the Project, the indirect APE considered resources within a 1-mile radius of the surrounding direct APE. The APE is sufficient to account for all potential effects to historic properties by the proposed Project.

### 5.2 Cultural Resources Investigations

Prior to survey, Pine Prairie conducted a cultural resources desktop analysis to identify historic properties within the APE and to account for any direct effects to those properties by the proposed Project. This research identified two archaeological sites as being within the Project's direct APE and an additional site within 1 mile of the Project area. The two sites within the direct APE (16EV16 and 16EV70) represent historic artifact scatters and have since been completely disturbed by the existing facilities. The two sites within the direct APE represent to be 20$^{th}$ century sites based on diagnostic artifacts found. The third site (16EV83), also an historic artifact scatter/dump is approximately 0.34 mile northwest of the Project. None of the three previously identified archaeological sites have been recommended as eligible for the NRHP. In addition, eight cultural resources investigations have been conducted within 1 mile of the Project, with six overlapping the current direct APE. The background investigation did not identify any historic resources within 1 mile of the Project's APE.

Pine Prairie conducted a Phase I archaeological investigation during two field sessions (March 23-28, 2025, and April 25-28, 2025) utilizing pedestrian reconnaissance, surface inspection, and subsurface shovel testing. The Phase I investigation did not identify any new archaeological sites, and no evidence of historic aboveground resources were identified within 1 mile of the Project area. Furthermore, no evidence of the previously recorded (16EV16 and 16EV70) was identified, indicating that both sites have been extensively disturbed by existing facilities. On June 24, 2025, Pine Prairie submitted the Phase I archaeological investigation report to the Louisiana SHPO requesting concurrence that the Project would have no effect on cultural resources within either the direct or indirect APE. On July 14, 2025, the SHPO responded via email requesting that the site forms for 16EV16 and 16EV70 be updated, which Pine Prairie provided on July 16, 2025. The SHPO responded via letter dated August 11, 2025, indicating the previously identified archaeological sites are not eligible for listing on the NRHP. We agree with this finding.

### 5.3 Tribal Outreach

On June 20, 2025, Pine Prairie contacted the following federally recognized Tribes regarding the Project: Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town,

Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. On July 31, 2025, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma responded via email requesting a copy of the cultural resources survey, as well as GPS coordinates for the Project's APE. A letter with the same request was filed on the Project docket on December 19, 2025. Pine Prairie supplied the requested information on August 5, 2025, and on September 6, 2025, the Tribe responded stating "no historic properties affected." There have been no additional comments to date.

### 5.4 Unanticipated Discoveries Plan

Pine Prairie developed a Project-specific Unanticipated Discovery Plan, which outlines the procedures to follow, in accordance with state and federal laws, in the event that unanticipated cultural resources or human remains are discovered during construction of the Project, including consultation with FERC, the SHPO, and tribes regarding discoveries. The Unanticipated Discovery Plan was submitted to FERC and the SHPO. We requested a minor revision to the Unanticipated Discovery Plan, which Pine Prairie provided and we find acceptable.

### 5.5 Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act

FERC has completed its compliance requirements with Section 106 of the NHPA for the Project.

## 6. Land Use, Recreation, and Visual Resources

Land use within and surrounding the Project workspaces is primarily developed land, shrub scrub land, forest land, wetlands, and open herbaceous land. The acreage of each type of land used for the proposed facilities is summarized in table 9.[29]

The majority of the proposed facilities, about 78.6 acres or 76 percent[30] of the affected land, are collocated with existing Pine Prairie facilities and are within open developed or herbaceous land. This includes the Header Pipeline (which is offset 25 feet from existing Pine Prairie pipeline facilities), the MLV 202-2 VS (which is adjacent to the existing ANR-N MS), and the Cavern 6 wellpad (which is near the Cavern 3 wellpad on previously cleared land used for oil and gas operations). Pine Prairie currently owns or controls all lands proposed for the locations of new aboveground facilities. Following construction activities, the temporary workspace, and Header Pipeline permanent right-of-way would be restored and revegetated. The aboveground facilities and the Cavern 6 permanent wellpad would be permanently converted to developed land and would be graveled and fenced. The contractor yards and temporary access roads would be returned to their pre-construction conditions.

As part of construction of the aboveground facilities, Pine Prairie would permanently convert about 0.7 acre of shrub scrub land and 0.4 acre of wetland to open or developed land.[31] About 15 percent of the forest land that would be disturbed and/or cleared is managed silvicultural areas for timber production); however, all but about 2.6 acres of forested areas would be available for forested

[29] Further details on the land use categories in the Project areas can be found in the Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application. Resource Report 8, Accession No. 20250811-5130.

[30] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 8, table 8.2-1, Accession No. 20250811-5130.

[31] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 8, table 8.2-1, Accession No. 20250811-5130.

revegetation following construction.[32] Pine Prairie would negotiate with and reimburse landowners for any damages or loss of timber from construction of the Project, and would work with landowners in silvicultural areas to ensure that affected areas are restored in accordance with the Plan and Procedures.[33]

No residences are within 50 feet of the proposed Project workspaces, and no known residential development is planned in the Project area. No public or private recreational lands are within 0.25 mile of the Project and therefore would not be affected.

### 6.1 Visual Resources

Visual effects from pipeline construction and operation would occur in areas that are currently forested, where the existing right-of-way would be expanded. However, Pine Prairie proposes co-locating the pipeline with the existing right-of-way to minimize visual effects from the Project. The proposed new brine leaching and gas handling facilities would be visible from Ambrose Road along the north side of the existing Gas Handling Facility. However, the new facilities would be comparable to existing facilities on and near the site and would not significantly alter the viewshed. The other proposed aboveground facilities would be co-located with existing facilities and would be set back from roadways with vegetative barriers blocking their view. Pine Prairie would preserve the existing tree lines to the extent possible, making the facilities less visually intrusive. We conclude that while some of the visual effects resulting from the Project would be permanent, they would not be significant.

### 6.2 Coastal Zones

The Project is not in a Coastal Zone Management Area (LDENR, 2025b).

[32] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 8, Accession No. 20250811-5130.

[33] We note the Commission does not adjudicate disputes regarding compensation for damage-related issues.

| Table 9: Land Use Types Affected by the Project | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Facility** | **Developed** | | **Shrub Scrub** | | **Forest** | | **Wetlands** | | **Herbaceous** | | **Total [1]** | |
| | **Const [2]** | **Oper [3]** | **Const [2]** | **Oper [3]** | **Const [2]** | **Oper [3]** | **Const [2]** | **Oper [3]** | **Const [2]** | **Oper [3]** | **Const [2]** | **Oper [3]** |
| **Header Pipeline** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Temporary Workspace [4] | 0.8 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.7 | 11.6 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 0.4 | 9.1 | 0.0 | 26.0 | 3.7 |
| Additional Temporary Workspace | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 4.5 | 0.0 | 10.2 | 0.0 |
| Access Roads | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 2.0 | 0.1 |
| Contractor Yards | 4.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 19.2 | 0.0 | 23.1 | 0.0 |
| MLV 202-2 VS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 0.3 |
| ANR-N MS | 1.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| Hwy 10 VS | 0.7 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 0.0 |
| *Subtotal [1]* | *9.3* | *0.3* | *3.3* | *0.7* | *16.5* | *2.6* | *3.5* | *0.4* | *34.3* | *0.5* | *67.0* | *4.4* |
| **Gas Handling Facility and Cavern** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| New Cavern 6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Temporary Workspace | 29.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 32.4 | 0.0 |
| Access Roads | 0.70 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 0.3 |
| *Subtotal [1]* | *29.7* | *0.0* | *0.1* | *0.1* | *0.8* | *0.0* | *0.1* | *0.1* | *5.3* | *2.3* | *35.9* | *2.4* |
| **Total [1]** | **39.0** | **0.3** | **3.4** | **0.8** | **17.3** | **2.6** | **3.6** | **0.5** | **39.6** | **2.7** | **102.8** | **6.8[4]** |

Notes:
[1] Total may not sum due to rounding
[2] Const = construction effects
[3] Oper = operations effects
[4] Includes new permanent easement.
Source: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Resource Report 8, Accession No. 20250811-5130; and November 11, 2025 Supplemental Filing, Accession No. 20251110-5125.

## 7. Socioeconomics

Construction and operation of the Project could affect socioeconomic conditions in the Project area. Potential socioeconomic effects of construction and operation of the Project include changes in population levels or local demographics, increased employment opportunities, increased demand for housing and public services, tourism and transportation effects, and an increase in government revenue associated with sales, payroll, and property taxes. The socioeconomic study area considered for the analysis of the Project includes Evangeline Parish, Louisiana.

### 7.1 Population and Housing

Evangeline Parish, Louisiana has an estimated population of 32,162. Pine Prairie anticipates that construction for the Cavern Facilities would occur from August 2026 with an expected duration of 24 months and construction for the Gas Handling Facilities would occur from April 2027 with an expected duration of 14 months. The anticipated construction for the Pine Prairie Pipeline Lateral would occur from March 2028 with an expected duration of four months. Construction of the Project would require a peak workforce of about 243 employees, of which all would be non-local. Pine Prairie anticipates hiring one additional permanent employee to operate and maintain the proposed Project facilities.

Population effects on the socioeconomic study area are expected to be minor. This represents an increase in population of approximately 0.7 percent. Based on the population within the study area, the temporary addition of the non-local workforce to the study area for the duration of construction would not result in significant population change. Additionally, the temporary increase in population would be distributed throughout the study area and the addition of one operational employee would have no permanent effects on the population.

All of the 243 construction workers are expected to come from outside the local workforce and may require temporary housing. The total vacant rental units for the parish are 224 units (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023). There are an additional approximately 177 seasonal, recreational or occasional use units; 3 recreational vehicle campgrounds; and 3 hotels/motels available. Construction of the Project could affect the availability of short-term housing in the study area. However, the Project is likely to have a minor temporary positive effect on the rental and accommodation industry in the area through increased demand and higher rates of occupancy. Given the rental vacancies and the number of hotels, motels, and other temporary housing available in the study area, sufficient housing exists in the Project area and Project effects on the local housing market would not be significant.

### 7.2 Economy, Employment and Income

The 243 non-local workforce would most likely spend a portion of their pay in local communities on items, such as housing, food, automobile expenses, entertainment, and miscellaneous other items. The number of temporary, indirect jobs in the study area could increase as purchases for goods and services would increase along with the influx of the construction workforce to the area. Indirect employment, including hiring additional staff in the retail and service industries to accommodate the increase in demand for food, clothing, lodging, gasoline, and entertainment, along with an increased demand for goods and services would have a temporary stimulating effect on local economies. Indirect jobs would represent a temporary, minor increase in employment opportunities in the study area. A negligible decrease in unemployment would occur from the hiring of one permanent employee.

Construction and operation of the Project would result in additional state and local tax revenues related to retail sales and payroll. Non-local construction workers would spend money on housing, transportation, food, and entertainment. In addition, equipment fuel and some construction materials, such as gravel and fencing materials, would likely be purchased from local or regional vendors. These revenues would result in minor temporary beneficial effects on local businesses by generating additional revenues and contributing to the tax base. Once operational, property taxes would be assessed on the value of the project facilities. As such, the increased tax base during project operations would be a minor long-term beneficial effect on local governments in the project area.

### 7.3 Public Service

A wide range of public services are found in the study area. Services and facilities include hospitals, law enforcement, fire departments, and schools. There are 5 law enforcement agencies, 4 fire and rescue units, 1 acute care hospital, and 13 public schools within the geographic scope of the Project. About 243 non-local workers would be anticipated to travel to the study area to work on the Project, which is a small number relative to the current population of the study area. Construction workers would likely reside at locations distributed throughout the Project area, resulting in a minor increase in the demand for public services during construction of the Project. This may include a minor and temporary increase in the demand for emergency medical and police services associated with increased traffic and worksite related accidents. Additionally, the temporary increase in population would result in minor effects on local community facilities and services, such as police, fire, medical services, and schools. The parish in the study area has adequate infrastructure and services to meet the needs of any non-local construction workers entering the study area.

The one new employee hired for operation of the Project would have a negligible permanent effect on public services.

### 7.4 Traffic

Throughout the construction phase of the Project, Pine Prairie would access the work area sites primarily from public road crossings and several temporary access roads. The main roadways in Evangeline Parish in the vicinity of the Project area include Highway 106, Highway 13, and Highway 10. Pine Prairie would contact local government authorities before specific traffic control measures or potential road closures (if needed) are implemented. The construction contractor would provide traffic control measures, including warning signs and/or flagman, along roads to ensure safe ingress and egress from the construction areas/aboveground facility sites.

A short-term, temporary increase in traffic may occur as construction workers commute to the Project area, company and contractor trucks access the Project areas, and equipment and materials are transported to the work sites. A peak total of about 192 daily vehicle trips would be dispersed on state and local roads in the Project area. However, peak construction for all Project components may not occur simultaneously, so the total peak number of trips generated by the Project may be lower. Traffic associated with the delivery of materials and equipment to the project sites would result in temporary, but not significant increases in traffic and traffic congestion on the roads near the Project facilities for the duration of construction.

Pine Prairie anticipates hiring one permanent staff. During operations, effects on traffic would be imperceptible.

## 8. Air Quality

Federal and state air quality standards are designed to protect human health and welfare. Ambient air quality is protected by the Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970, as amended in 1977 and 1990. The USEPA has developed National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)[34] for criteria pollutants carbon monoxide, lead, oxides of nitrogen ($NO_x$), ozone, particulate matter less than 10 micrometers ($PM_{10}$), particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers ($PM_{2.5}$), and sulfur dioxide ($SO_2$). Ozone is not directly emitted into the atmosphere from an emissions source; rather, ozone develops as a result of a chemical reaction between $NO_x$ and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the presence of sunlight. Hazardous air pollutants (HAP) are also emitted during fossil fuel combustion and are chemicals known to cause cancer and other serious health effects.

Fugitive dust would be generated during Project construction from earthmoving, wind-blown dust from stockpiles, and road dust. Most of the fugitive dust would be particulate matter in excess of 10 microns, but a portion would be $PM_{10}$ and $PM_{2.5}$.

The USEPA defines air pollution to include the mix of the following six long-lived greenhouse gases (GHG), carbon dioxide ($CO_2$), methane ($CH_4$), nitrous oxide ($N_2O$), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. GHGs produced by fossil-fuel combustion are $CO_2$, $CH_4$, and $N_2O$, and are generally non-toxic and non-hazardous at normal ambient concentrations. Emissions of GHGs are quantified and regulated in units of carbon dioxide equivalent ($CO_2e$). The $CO_2e$ unit of measure factors in the global warming potential (GWP) of each GHG over a specified timeframe.[35] There are no NAAQS or established significance thresholds for GHG. Minor leaks and fugitive releases along the pipeline and at the wellhead, appurtenant equipment and valves could occur in the form of $CH_4$ during Project operation.

Air Quality Control Regions (AQCRs) are areas established for air quality planning purposes in which state implementation plans describe how ambient air quality standards would be achieved and maintained. Evangeline Parish is classified as in attainment or unclassifiable for all criteria pollutant NAAQS except for a portion of the parish is classified as in nonattainment for the 2010 1-hour $SO_2$ standard. The Project would not take place in the nonattainment area. Therefore, a General Conformity Determination would not be required.

**Permitting/Regulatory Requirements**

The CAA is the basic federal statute governing air pollution in the United States. Based on Project activities, Project location, and adherence to established emission permitting thresholds, we have reviewed the following federal requirements and determined that they are not applicable to the new or modified equipment at the proposed Project:

- New Source Review- Prevention of Significant Deterioration;
- New Source Review - Non-attainment New Source Review;
- National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; and
- General Conformity Determination

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[34] The current NAAQS are listed on the USEPA's website at https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table.

[35] $CO_2$ has a GWP of 1, $CH_4$ has a GWP of 25, and $N_2O$ has a GWP of 298 on a 100-year timescale.

Based on the Project's projected operational emissions being less than the Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Non-attainment New Source Review thresholds, and the change in emissions remaining below major source thresholds, only minor New Source Review permitting procedures would apply. The provisions of the CAA that are applicable to the Project are discussed below.

**New Source Performance Standards**

The USEPA promulgates New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for new, modified, or reconstructed sources to control emissions to the level achievable by the best-demonstrated technology for stationary source types or categories as specified in the applicable provisions discussed below. NSPS also establishes fuel, monitoring, notification, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements. The LDEQ would determine final applicability to all NSPS in the final permit that it issues for Project facilities.

*40 CFR 60 Subpart OOOOb - (Standards of Performance for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Facilities)*

Subpart OOOOb would be applicable to the proposed new compressors, pumps, process controllers, natural gas wells, storage vessel tank batteries, sweetening units and fugitive emission equipment components; Pine Prairie would comply with these rules and leak detection requirements. The EMD reciprocating compressor would be subject to applicable rod-packing provisions.[36]

*40 CFR 60 Subpart Dc – Standards of Performance for Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units*

NSPS Subpart Dc applies to steam generating units for which construction, modification, or reconstruction commenced after June 9, 1989, and that has a maximum design heat input capacity of 29 megawatts (100 million British thermal units per hour [MMBtu/h]) or less, but greater than or equal to 2.9 megawatts (10 MMBtu/h). The three proposed hydrate control heaters would be subject to the applicable provisions of this subpart.

**Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule**

The USEPA's Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule, codified under 40 CFR 98 requires reporting from applicable operational sources of GHG emissions if these sources, in total, emit greater than or equal to 25,000 metric tons of GHG (as $CO_2e$) in 1 year. The Mandatory Reporting Rule does not require emission control devices and is strictly a reporting requirement for stationary sources based on actual emissions. The existing Pine Prairie facility is already subject to GHG reporting based on actual emissions in excess of the reporting threshold. Pine Prairie would continue to comply with the GHG reporting requirements as applicable.

**Title V Permitting**

The state permitting program under Title V of the CAA as detailed under 40 CFR 70 requires sources of air pollutants to obtain operating permits if the source has the potential to emit greater than 100 tons per year (tpy) of any air pollutant, 10 tpy of any single HAP, or 25 tpy of any combination of HAPs. These sources are referred to as major sources. The existing Pine

[36] https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-11/fact-sheet_o-g_final-ifr_20251124.pdf

Prairie Facility is currently subject to the Title V permitting program and would remain a major source subject to the Title V permitting program after the Project is complete.[37]

**State Air Quality Regulations**

In addition to the federal standards, the emissions from proposed facility components would also be subject to regulations under Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 33 Part III. Regulations applicable to the proposed Project are listed below, with expanded details provided in the application filing.[38]

- LAC 33: III. Chapter 13- Emission Standards for Particulate Matter
- LAC 33: III. Chapter 21- Control of Emission of Organic Compounds
- LAC 33: III Section 2116- Glycol Dehydrators

The modified components at the existing Pine Prairie Facility would comply with the applicable requirements under LAC 33:III.[39]

### 8.1 Construction Emissions

Construction of the Project facilities would result in temporary increases in emissions of some air pollutants over 24 months of construction activities occurring between August 2026 and August 2028. Construction activities would result in the temporary generation of fugitive dust (large particles as well as $PM_{10}$ and $PM_{2.5}$) due to land clearing and grading, ground excavation, and driving on unpaved roads. The amount of dust generated would be a function of construction activity, soil type, soil moisture content, wind speed, precipitation, vehicle traffic and types, and roadway characteristics. Emissions would be greater during dry periods and in areas of fine-textured soils subject to surface activity. Exhaust emissions would be generated by the use of heavy equipment and trucks powered by diesel or gasoline engines on-site, and delivery vehicles and construction workers commuting to and from work areas. Construction emission estimates are based on the fuel type and anticipated frequency, duration, capacity, and levels of use of various types of construction equipment. Emission intensity would vary depending upon the phase of construction (earth moving, building construction, electrical work, etc.). Construction emissions were estimated using the USEPA's Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator model[40] and EPA AP-42 emission factors. Table 10 provides the total Project construction emissions, including exhaust emissions and fugitive dust from on-road and off-road construction equipment and vehicles, exhaust emissions from construction worker vehicles for commuting, and vehicles used to deliver equipment and materials to the construction site during the 18 months of pipeline and aboveground facility construction, out of the overall 24 months of construction that includes solution mining.

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[37] Title V Permit can be viewed in attachment 9A of the Pine Prairie October 17, 2025 Environmental Information Request response. FERC Accession no. 20251017-5078.

[38] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Supplemental Application Filing section 9.2.2.10. FERC accession no. 20250811-5130

[39] https://deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Air/Asbestos/AsbestosRegulations.pdf

[40] Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator: MOVES5. Office of Transportation and Air Quality. US Environmental Protection Agency. Ann Arbor, MI. November 2024.

To reduce emissions, Pine Prairie would implement measures outlined in the Fugitive Dust Control Plan, which we have reviewed and find acceptable,[41] that include measures such as applying water to construction sites and access roads, covering open bodied trucks while transporting materials, reducing vehicle speed on unpaved roads, and paving/gravelling roads where necessary to minimize airborne dust from sediment on the roads. To mitigate exhaust emissions during construction, Pine Prairie would construct the Project in accordance with applicable regulations under 40 CFR 1039 by using low-sulfur diesel fuel in non-road construction equipment as applicable, and manufacturers' recommendations imposed at the time of manufacture. In its comments filed on October 17, 2025, the USEPA recommended this EA include a Construction Emissions Mitigation Plan, incorporating relevant requirements to minimize particulate matter and toxic air emissions. The Project-specific Fugitive Dust Control Plan and other mitigation measures described in this and subsequent sections constitute the equivalent of a Construction Emissions Mitigation Plan.

**Table 10: Estimated Construction Emissions (tons)**

| $NO_x$ | CO | VOC | $SO_2$ | $PM_{10}$ | $PM_{2.5}$ | $CO_2e$ | Total HAPs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8.6 | 51.35 | 1.47 | 45.61 | 12.62 | 0.02 | 4,386 | 0.55 |

Source: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Supplemental Application Filing section 9.2.3.1. FERC accession no. 20250811-5130. Representing total Project construction emissions.

Given the 18 months of facility construction, intermittent, and limited nature of construction emissions, we find that emissions from construction-related activities for the Project would not result in a violation of any applicable ambient air quality standard or significantly affect regional air quality.

### 8.2 Operational Emissions

Operational emissions would result from the Project's proposed new gas dehydration unit, thermal oxidizer, reboiler, hydrate control heaters, lube oil tanks, and fugitive emissions from components associated with the proposed compressor. Emissions from the operation of the proposed sources would be required to comply with applicable federal and state emissions regulations as indicated above. Operational emissions are presented in table 11.

[41] Pine Prairie October 17, 2025 application filing. FERC Accession no. 20251017-5078.

| Table 11: Summary of Project Operation Emissions for Pine Prairie Energy Center (tpy) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Pine Prairie Energy Center** | **Criteria Pollutants** | | | | | | **HAP** | | **GHG** |
| | **$PM_{10}$** | **$PM_{2.5}$** | **$SO_2$** | **$NO_x$** | **CO** | **VOC** | **Single HAP** | **Total HAP** | **$CO_2e$** |
| **New Source** | | | | | | | | | |
| H-TBD1 - Hydrate Control Heater (EQT TBD1) [a] | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.03 | 5.08 | 4.27 | 0.28 | 0.09 | 0.10 | 6,067 |
| H-TBD2 - Hydrate Control Heater (EQT TBD2) [a] | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.03 | 5.08 | 4.27 | 0.28 | 0.09 | 0.10 | 6,067 |
| H-TBD3 - Hydrate Control Heater (EQT TBD3) [a] | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.03 | 5.08 | 4.27 | 0.28 | 0.09 | 0.10 | 6,067 |
| BTEX-05 TO - Thermal Oxidizer (EQT TBD4)[b] | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.01 | 1.67 | 1.41 | 1.18 | 0.07 | 0.11 | 2,000 |
| BTEX-05 GR - TEG Reboiler (EQT TBD5)[c] | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 1.05 | 0.88 | 0.74 | 0.04 | 0.07 | 1,250 |
| Insignificant Activity - Lube Oil Tank 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2.38E-03 | - | - | - |
| Insignificant Activity - Lube Oil Tank 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 2.38E-03 | - | - | - |
| F-TBD1 - EMD Compressor Fugitive Emissions (FUG TBD4) | - | - | - | - | - | 0.46 | 0.06 | 0.06 | - |
| **Total Project Emissions** | **1.38** | **1.38** | **0.11** | **17.96** | **15.09** | **3.22** | **0.44** | **0.54** | **21,451** |
| **Existing/Permit Totals**[d] | **12.94** | **12.94** | **0.90** | **272.58** | **89.10** | **71.66** | **-** | **14.54** | **-** |
| **New Proposed Sitewide Emissions** | **12.63** | **12.63** | **0.82** | **268.42** | **85.87** | **68.91** | **7.95** | **14.28** | **155,257** |
| **Facility-Wide Change in Emissions Post Project** | -0.31 | -0.31 | -0.08 | -4.16 | -3.23 | -2.75 | - | -0.26 | - |

[a] Source grouped under the proposed emission CAP GRP TBD1 for operational flexibility, utilizing a fuel usage restriction.
[b] Source grouped under the proposed emission CAP GRP TBD2 for operational flexibility, utilizing a fuel usage restriction.
[c] Source grouped under the proposed emission CAP GRP TBD3 for operational flexibility, utilizing a fuel usage restriction.
[d] Cavern Nos. 6 and 7 were previously certificated by the Commission under FERC Docket No. CP11-01; however, Pine Prairie did not proceed with construction of Cavern Nos. 6 and 7. In this application, Pine Prairie is only seeking authorization to construct Cavern No. 6 (formerly identified as Cavern No. 7 in Docket No. CP11-01).
Source: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Supplemental Application Filing section 9.2.3.3. FERC accession no. 20250811-5130.

Operation of the Project would produce limited emissions, and once complete, the proposed overall site emissions for criteria pollutants would decrease as a result of the Project. Additionally, Pine Prairie would implement proposed emission source group limitations for annual fuel usage, preventative maintenance, leak detection and repair assessments, implement recompression measures and install emissions reduction equipment such as compressor vent gas recovery systems and emission control devices. Based on this and the facility's ongoing compliance with the NAAQS, no further dispersion modeling is necessary.

Based on the limited nature of Project operational emissions and reduction of overall criteria pollutant emissions from the elimination of certificated facilities as a result of the Project, we find that emissions from operations would not result in a violation of any applicable ambient air quality standard, or significantly affect air quality.

**9. Noise**

Construction and operation of the Project would affect the local noise environment in the Project area. The ambient sound level of a region, which is defined by the total noise generated within the specific environment, is usually composed of sounds emanating from both natural and artificial sources. At any location, both the magnitude and frequency of environmental noise may vary considerably over the course of the day and throughout the week, in part due to changing weather conditions and the effects of seasonal vegetative cover.

In 1974, the USEPA published its Information on Levels of Environmental Noise Requisite to Protect Public Health and Welfare with an Adequate Margin of Safety. Two measurements used to relate the time-varying quality of environmental noise to its known effects on people are the 24-hour equivalent sound level ($L_{eq}$) and the day-night average sound level ($L_{dn}$). The $L_{eq}$ is an A-weighted sound level containing the same sound energy as the instantaneous sound levels measured over a specific time period. Noise levels are perceived differently depending on length of exposure and time of day. The $L_{dn}$ takes into account the duration and time the noise is encountered. Specifically, in the calculation of the $L_{dn}$, late night to early morning (10:00 PM to 7:00 AM) noise exposures are penalized +10 decibels (dB) to account for people's greater sensitivity to sound during the nighttime hours. The USEPA has indicated that an $L_{dn}$ of 55 decibels on the A-weighted scale (dBA) protects the public from indoor and outdoor activity interference. Due to the 10 dBA nighttime penalty added prior to calculation of the $L_{dn}$, for a facility to meet the 55 dBA $L_{dn}$ limit established by the USEPA to protect the public from indoor and outdoor activity interference, a facility must be designed such that the constant 24-hour noise level does not exceed an $L_{eq}$ of 48.6 dBA at any Noise Sensitive Area (NSA). The dBA is used because human hearing is less sensitive to low and high frequencies than mid-range frequencies. For an essentially steady sound source that operates continuously over a 24-hour period and controls the environmental sound level, the $L_{dn}$ is approximately 6.4 dB above the measured $L_{eq}$.

We have adopted the USEPA's 55 dBA $L_{dn}$ criterion and use it to evaluate the potential noise effects from the proposed Project at NSAs, such as residences, schools, or hospitals. Also, in general, a person's threshold for a perceivable change in loudness on the A-weighted sound level is about 3 dBA, whereas a 6 dBA change is clearly noticeable, and a 9 dBA change is perceived as either twice or half as loud.

There are no state or local noise ordinances that apply to the Project.

### 9.1 Construction Noise Effects

Noise would be generated during construction of the Project facilities. Noise levels would be highest in the immediate vicinity of construction activities and would diminish with distance from each work area. These effects would be localized and temporary, with sound levels changing depending on the type of equipment used, the duration of use for each piece of equipment, the number of construction vehicles and machines used simultaneously, and the distance between the sound source and receptor.

The nearest NSA to the Project is to the compressor station at 1,600 feet southeast of the construction workspace. Construction would occur primarily during daytime hours, which FERC considers to be between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM, with the exception of drilling operations at Cavern No. 6, which would occur on a 24-hour basis for approximately 4 months from December 2026 through March 2027.[42] Estimated noise levels from drilling activities are presented in table 12.

**Table 12: Estimated Sound Levels for Drill Rig Operation**

| NSA | Distance/ Direction from Well Bore (feet) | Existing Ambient dBA, $L_{dn}$ | Drilling Daytime Sound Level dBA, Ld | Drilling Nighttime Sound Level dBA, Ln | Drilling Day-Night Level dBA, Ldn | Increase Over Ambient dBA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4,190 E | 55.0 | 27.8 | 27.8 | 34.3 | 0 |
| 2 | 4,200 ESE | 52.7 | 25.7 | 25.7 | 32.1 | 0 |
| 3 | 3,950 SE | 51.9 | 25.7 | 25.7 | 32.1 | 0 |

Source: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Supplemental Application Filing section 9.3.5.3. FERC accession no. 20250811-5130 and Pine Prairie October 17, 2025 application filing table 3. FERC Accession no. 20251017-5078.

Based on the scope of construction activities, distance to nearest NSA, most construction activities over the 18 months of facility construction would be limited to daytime hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM with the exception of drilling procedures at Cavern No. 6, and the projected drilling noise levels, we conclude that noise effects from construction activities would not be significant.

### 9.2 Operational Noise

The Project's operational noise would be generated by new equipment at the Pine Prairie facilities. Table 13 summarizes the estimated operational noise effects on the nearest NSAs to the compression during operation of the Project.[43]

[42] Figure A3, "Location of the Drilling Unit for the Well Head of Cavern 6" NSA distances from drilling location at 22. FERC accession no. 20250811-5130.

[43] Figure A2, "NSA Locations Used for the Project Addition" NSA distances from PPEC facility. FERC accession no. 20250811-5130.

| Table 13: Operational Noise | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NSA** | **Distance & Direction (feet)** | **Existing Ambient dBA, Ldn** | **Existing Facility dBA, Ldn** | **Projected Sound Level of New Equipment dBA, Ldn** | **Total Existing Facility + Modification dBA, Ldn** | **Increase over existing dB** |
| 1 | 1,700 NE | 55.0 | 53.6 | 34.3 | 53.7 | 0.1 |
| 2 | 1,600 ESE | 52.7 | 46.7 | 32.9 | 46.9 | 0.2 |
| 3 | 2,140 S | 51.9 | 49.9 | 31.6 | 50.0 | 0.1 |
| Source: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Supplemental Application Filing section 9.3.5.2. FERC accession no. 20250811-5130 and Pine Prairie October 17, 2025 application filing table 3. FERC Accession no. 20251017-5078. | | | | | | |

The acoustic analysis indicates that Pine Prairie Facility sound level contributions are less than an $L_{dn}$ of 55 dBA at the closest NSA. To confirm the estimated operational noise levels, **we recommend that**:

- **Pine Prairie shall file a noise survey with the Secretary of the Commission (Secretary) no later than 60 days after placing the modified Pine Prairie Facility in service. If a full load condition noise survey is not possible, Pine Prairie shall provide an interim survey at the maximum possible horsepower load and provide the full load survey within 6 months. If the noise attributable to the operation of the Pine Prairie Facility under interim or full horsepower load conditions exceeds an $L_{dn}$ of 55 dBA at any nearby NSAs, Pine Prairie shall file a report on what changes are needed and install the additional noise controls to meet the level within 1 year of the in- service date. Pine Prairie shall confirm compliance with the above requirement by filing a second noise survey with the Secretary no later than 60 days after it installs the additional noise controls.**

Based on the proposed operational noise levels and our recommendation, we conclude that the noise attributable to operation of the Project would not cause a significant effect on the local noise environment.

## 10. Reliability and Safety

The transportation of natural gas by pipeline involves some risk to the public in the event of an accident and subsequent release of gas. The greatest hazard is a fire or explosion following a major pipeline rupture. Methane, the primary component of natural gas, is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. It is not toxic, but is classified as a simple asphyxiate, possessing a slight inhalation hazard. If breathed in high concentration, oxygen deficiency can result in serious injury or death. An unconfined mixture of methane and air is not explosive; however, it may ignite and burn if there is an ignition source. A flammable concentration within an enclosed space in the presence of an ignition source can explode. It is buoyant at atmospheric temperatures and disperses rapidly in air.

The facilities associated with the Project must be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the DOT Minimum Federal Safety Standards in 49 CFR 192, including the provisions for written emergency plans and emergency shutdowns. The regulations are intended to ensure adequate protection for the public and to prevent natural gas

facility accidents and failures. Pine Prairie would provide the appropriate training to local emergency service personnel before the facilities are placed in service.

The DOT pipeline standards are published in Parts 190-199 of Title 49 of the CFR. For example, 49 CFR 192 specifically addresses natural gas pipeline safety issues, prescribes the minimum standards for operating and maintaining pipeline facilities, and incorporates compressor station design, including emergency shutdowns and safety equipment. Part 192 also requires a pipeline operator to establish a written emergency plan that includes procedures to minimize the hazards in a natural gas pipeline emergency. The operator must also establish a continuing education program to enable customers, the public, government officials, and those engaged in excavation activities to recognize a gas pipeline emergency and report it to appropriate public officials.

Louisiana has adopted the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's regulations from 49 CFR 192 in addition to the existing state regulations relating to natural gas storage caverns, which are codified in the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 43, Part XVII, Subpart 7, Chapter 37 and 39. These regulations outline specific rules for underground natural gas storage facilities.[44]

With adherence to DOT pipeline standards, we conclude that Pine Prairie's facilities construction and operation would represent a minimum increase in risk to the public.

### 11. Cumulative Effects

We identified other actions in the vicinity of the proposed Project and evaluated the potential for cumulative effects on the environment. A cumulative environmental effect is one that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of the agency or party undertaking such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions, taking place over time. Our cumulative effects analysis focuses on the current aggregate effects of past actions without delving into the historical details of individual past actions.

In this analysis, we consider the effects of past projects within defined geographic scopes as part of the affected environment (environmental baseline) which were described and evaluated in the preceding environmental analysis. However, present effects of past actions that are relevant and useful are also considered. Our cumulative effects analysis focuses on potential effects from the proposed Project on resource areas or issues where the incremental contribution could result in cumulative effects when added to the potential effects of other actions. To avoid unnecessary discussions of insignificant effects and projects and to adequately address and accomplish the purposes of this analysis, an action must first meet the following three criteria to be included in the cumulative analysis:

- affects a resource also potentially affected by the Project;
- causes this effect within all, or part of, the Project area defined by the resource specific geographic scope; and
- causes this effect within all, or part of, the time span of the Project's estimated effects.

[44] https://www.doa.la.gov/doa/osr/louisiana-administrative-code/

Based on the effects of the Project as identified and described in this EA, we have determined that the resource-specific geographic scopes described below in table 14 are appropriate to assess cumulative effects.

We note that GHGs do not have a localized geographic scope. GHG emissions from the Project combined with projects all over the planet lead to increased $CO_2$, $CH_4$, and other GHG concentrations in the atmosphere. Thus, the geographic scope for analysis of GHG emissions is global.

The actions included in our analysis are based on the likelihood of their effects coinciding with the Project, meaning the other actions have current or ongoing effects or are "reasonably foreseeable." The actions we considered are those that could affect the same resources during the same time frame as the Project. As noted in section B.5, the Project would not affect effect on cultural resources; therefore, there would be no potential for cumulative effects on cultural resources and it is not discussed further.

Table 15 provides a list of identified past and reasonably foreseeable actions (federal, non-federal, and private) in the vicinity of the Project.

| Table 14: Geographic Scope by Resource for Cumulative Effects Associated with the Project | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Resource** | **Geographic Scope** | **Justification** |
| Geology and Soils | Construction workspaces and the extent of the salt dome geologic formation | Effects on soils and surficial geology would not extend beyond the area of direct disturbance associated with the Project. Effects on subsurface geology would be limited to the portion of the salt dome containing the cavern. |
| Groundwater, Surface Water, and Wetlands | Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC)-12 watersheds | Watersheds are natural, well-defined boundaries for surface water flow and commonly contribute to the recharge of groundwater resources. Effects on groundwater, surface water, and wetlands could reasonably extend throughout a HUC-12 watershed. Effects on groundwater could reasonably extend throughout the portion of the salt dome containing the cavern. |
| Vegetation, Wildlife, and Special-Status Species | HUC-12 watersheds | Consideration of effects within a HUC-12 watershed sufficiently accounts for effects on vegetation and wildlife (including migratory birds and special-status species) that would be directly affected by construction activities and for indirect effects, such as changes in habitat availability and displacement of transient species. |
| Land Use | Within 1.0 mile of construction workspace | Effects on general land uses, including public recreational areas, would be restricted to the construction workspaces and the adjacent landscape up to 1 mile where indirect effects could occur. |
| Visual Resources | Within 1.0 Mile of aboveground facilities | Assessing the effect based on the viewshed allows for the effect to be considered with any other feature that could affect visual resources. |
| Socioeconomics | Affected parish | The geographic scope of potential effect for socioeconomics was considered to include the parishes affected by projects where most workers would be expected to reside during construction and operation of the Project. Affected parishes would experience the greatest effects associated with employment, housing, public services, transportation, traffic, and economy and taxes. |
| Air Quality – Construction | 0.25-mile radius of the Project site | Air emissions during construction would be limited to vehicle and construction equipment emissions and dust and would be localized to the Project's active construction work areas and areas adjacent to these active work areas. |
| Air Quality – Operation | 1-mile radius of aboveground facility | Air quality effects could result in cumulative effects within this distance for minor sources of air pollutants. |
| Noise – Construction | NSAs within 0.25-mile radius of the Project site | Other projects in the immediate proximity of pipeline, aboveground facility construction, or drilling activities would have the potential to cumulatively add to construction noise. |
| Noise – Operation | NSAs within a 1-mile radius of the Project site | Noise from the Project's aboveground facilities could result in cumulative operational noise effects on NSAs within 1 mile. |

As described in table 15, we identified several projects with the potential to contribute to cumulative effects together with the proposed Project facilities. Based on the geographic scopes listed in table 14, we did not identify any projects within the geographic scope for the following resources, and therefore, the project would not have cumulative effects on these resources:

- geology and soils;
- land use;
- visual resources;
- air quality (construction or operation); and
- noise (construction or operation).

The reasonably foreseeable cumulative effects for the remaining resource areas are discussed in the following sections.

| Table 15: Projects with the Potential to Result in Cumulative Effects with the Project | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Project** | **County** | **Description** | **Anticipated Construction Window** | **Distance from Project Component** | **Potentially Affected Resources** |
| ***FERC Jurisdictional*** | | | | | |
| Woodside Louisiana Liquified Natural Gas. Project; FERC Docket Nos. CP17-117, 118 | Evangeline Parish | Approximately 11.3 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline and approximately 10.6 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline in Evangeline Parish, three meter stations, and a compressor station with two natural gas-powered compressor turbines. | Ongoing (Estimated completion date late 2029) | 16.9 miles south | Socioeconomics |
| ***FERC Non-Jurisdictional*** | | | | | |
| AES, Evangeline Solar Energy Project | Evangeline Parish | 2,300-acre, 200-megawatt solar energy project | Anticipated to begin 2026 and end 2027 | 24.9 miles east | Socioeconomics |
| ibV Energy, Bayou Chicot Solar | Evangeline Parish | 1,817-acre, 240-megawatt solar energy project | Anticipated to begin 2026 | 10.2 miles northeast, within HUC 12 | Groundwater, Surface Water, Vegetation, Wildlife, Socioeconomics |
| Louisiana Department of Transportation, multiple projects | Evangeline Parish | Road construction on State Highway (SH) 3187, SH-13, and Parish Highway 376 | Beginning construction in 3rd quarter 2026 to 1st quarter 2027 | 3.2 miles south and 6.7 miles north, within HUC 12 | Groundwater, Surface Water, Vegetation, Wildlife, Socioeconomics |
| Louisiana Department of Transportation, multiple projects | Evangeline Parish | Road construction on SH-3277, SH-757/104 | Construction underway through late 2026. | 16.8 miles southwest | Socioeconomics |
| Louisiana Department of Transportation, multiple projects | Evangeline Parish | Road construction on SH-1159, SH-1158, SH-29, SH-13/758, SH-758, and US Highway 190/SH-29 | November 2025 to September 2026 | 25.7 to 27.0 miles southwest and southeast | Socioeconomics |
| Source: Pine Prairie's August 8, 2025 Application, Resource Report 1, Accession No. 20250808-5127. | | | | | |

### 11.1 Groundwater

The ibV Energy, Bayou Chicot Solar project and the State Highway (SH) 3187, SH-13, and Parish Highway 376 projects could overlap temporally with the Project and are within the same HUC 12 watershed. However, the projects within the geographic scope of groundwater would primarily involve only shallow ground disturbance that would have minimal effects on groundwater and would decrease rapidly with distance from the projects. Further, the Pine Prairie would minimize effects on groundwater through its implementation of well design and use of the Plan and Procedures. Thus, at the distance between the Project and other concurrent projects, the cumulative effects on groundwater would be temporary and would not be significant.

### 11.2 Surface Water, Wetlands, Vegetation, and Wildlife

The ibV Energy, Bayou Chicot Solar project, SH-3187, SH-13, and Parish Highway 376 projects could overlap temporally with the Project and are within the same HUC 12 watershed. Pine Prairie would implement BMPs, including those in the Plan and Procedures, to minimize effects on surface waters, wetlands, vegetation, and wildlife from the Project, reducing the cumulative effects on these resources. The other projects within the geographic scope for these resource areas would also likely implement similar BMPs. While many of the projects within the geographic scope would result in permanent effects on vegetation and wildlife habitat, the effects would be highly localized (to highways and the solar facility). Further, these projects would be required to consult with the appropriate permitting agencies for any permanent effects on jurisdictional wetlands and implement the corresponding mitigation. We conclude that the cumulative effects on surface water, wetlands, vegetation, and wildlife would be mostly temporary to short-term and would return to near pre-construction conditions. Overall, construction and operation of the Project would not result in significant cumulative effects on surface water, groundwater, wetlands, vegetation, or wildlife.

Temporary cumulative effects on fisheries include disturbance of waterbody banks, removal of bank vegetation, and in some instances, modification of flow during dry-ditch crossing construction. Pine Prairie would minimize effects resulting from construction through adherence to the Pine Prairie Procedures provided in the Pine Prairie Project-specific ECP as well as all applicable environmental permit conditions/requirements.

### 11.3 Socioeconomics

All of the projects listed in table 15 are within the geographic scope of the proposed Project for socioeconomics. Construction of the Project is anticipated to begin in August 2026 and last 24 months. During peak construction, Woodside Louisiana LNG Project is expected to need approximately 6,430 workers of which an estimated 1,929 would be local hires. If these projects and the proposed Project overlap during construction and non-local workers are hired for the projects, there would be a temporary cumulative effect to housing, public services, and traffic. There may also be a temporary beneficial effect to employment for Evangeline Parish, Louisiana. The proposed Project and Woodside Louisiana LNG Project would create one and 539 permanent positions, respectively. For the Evangeline Solar Energy Project and Energy, Bayou Chicot Solar Project, the permanent workforces would likely be less than ten (depending on kilowatt output). Given the size of the population within Evangeline Parish (about 32,162 people), the operational cumulative effects would be minor for housing, public service, and traffic. There would be a net, although minor, beneficial cumulative effect to employment during operation of these projects.

Therefore, we conclude that effects of the proposed Project on socioeconomics, when added to the identified past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, would not be significant.

### 11.4 Climate Change

Climate change is the variation in the Earth's climate (including temperature, precipitation, humidity, wind, and other meteorological variables) over time. Climate change is driven by accumulation of GHG in the atmosphere due to the increased consumption of fossil fuels (e.g., coal, petroleum, and natural gas) since the early beginnings of the industrial age and accelerating in the mid- to late-20th century.[45] The GHGs produced by fossil-fuel combustion are $CO_2$, methane, and $N_2O$.

In 2017 and 2018, the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)[46] issued its *Climate Science Special Report: Fourth National Climate Assessment*, Volumes I and II.[47] This report and the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*, states that climate change has resulted in a wide range of effects across every region of the country and the globe. Those effects extend beyond atmospheric climate change alone and include changes to water resources, agriculture, ecosystems, human health, and ocean systems.[48] According to the Fourth Assessment Report, the United States and the world are warming; global sea level is rising and oceans are acidifying; and certain weather events are becoming more frequent and more severe.[49] These effects have accelerated throughout the end of the 20th and into the 21st century.[50]

GHG emissions do not result in proportional local and immediate effects; it is the combined concentration in the atmosphere that affects the global climate. These are fundamentally global effects that feed back to local and regional climate change effects. Thus, the geographic scope for cumulative analysis of GHG emissions is global rather than local or regional. For example, a project 1 mile away emitting 1 ton of GHG would contribute to climate change in a similar manner as a project 2,000 miles distant also emitting 1 ton of GHG.

Climate change is a global phenomenon; however, for this analysis, we will focus on the existing and potential climate change effects in the general Project area. The USGCRP's Fourth

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[45] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, United Nations, *Summary for Policymakers* of Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. (Valerie Masson-Delmotte et al., eds.) (2021), https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf (IPCC Report) at SPM 5. Other forces contribute to climate change, such as agriculture, forest clearing, and other anthropogenically driven sources.

[46] The U.S. Global Change Research Program comprised representatives from 13 federal departments and agencies and issued reports every 4 years that described the state of the science relating to climate change and the effects of climate change on different regions of the United States and on various societal and environmental sectors, such as water resources, agriculture, energy use, and human health.

[47] U.S. Global Change Research Program, Climate Science Special Report, Fourth National Climate Assessment | Volume I (Donald J. Wuebbles et al. eds) (2017), https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/19486 (USGCRP Report Volume I); U.S. Global Change Research Program, Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II Impacts, Risks, And Adaptation In The United States (David Reidmiller et al. eds.) (2018), https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/19487 (USGCRP Report Volume II).

[48] IPCC Report at SPM-5 to SPM-10.

[49] USGCRP Report Volume II at 73-75.

[50] See, e.g., USGCRP Report Volume II at 99 (describing accelerating flooding rates in Atlantic and Gulf Coast cities).

Assessment Report notes the following observations of environmental effects attributed to climate change in the Southeast region of the United States;[51]

- the near decade of 2010 through 2017 has been warmer than any previous decade since 1920 for average daily maximum and average daily minimum temperature;
- since 1960, there have been lower numbers of days above 95°F compared to the pre-1960 period but during the 2010's the number of nights above 75°F has been nearly double the average over 1901 – 1960. The length of the freeze free season was 1.5 weeks longer on average in the 2010s compared to any other historical period on record;
- the number of days with 3 or more inches of rain has been historically high over the past 25 years. The 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s rank first, third, and second, respectively in the number of these events;
- summers have been either increasingly dry or extremely wet, depending on location;
- due to a combination of sea level rise and soil subsidence, approximately 2,006 square miles of land have been lost in Louisiana between 1932 and 2016, or about 23 square miles per year; and
- in south Louisiana, relative sea level is rising at a rate of 1 to 3 feet per 100 years.

The USGCRP's Fourth Assessment Report notes the following projections of climate change effects in the Southeast region with a high or very high level of confidence.[52]

- climate models project nighttime temperatures above 75°F and daytime maximum temperatures above 95°F become the summer norm. Nights above 80°F and days above 100°F, which are now relatively rare, would become common;
- lowland coastal areas are expected to receive less rainfall on average, but experience more frequent intense rainfall events followed by longer drought periods;
- coastal areas along the Gulf of Mexico are flat; therefore, expected sea level rises may cause inundation in certain low-lying areas;
- drought and sea level rise will create stressful conditions for coastal trees that are not adapted to higher salinity levels;
- other coastal species may also be stressed by sea level rise and warmer temperatures, prompting migration out of the area; and
- tropical storms and hurricanes may become more intense.

It should be noted that while the effects described above taken individually may be manageable for certain communities, the effects of compound events (such as simultaneous heat and drought, wildfires associated with hot and dry conditions, or flooding associated with high precipitation on top of saturated soils) can be greater than the sum of the parts.[53]

The GHG emissions associated with construction and operation of the Project were identified and quantified in section B.8 of this EA. Emissions of GHG are typically expressed in

51 USGCRP Report Volume I and II.
52 USGCRP Report Volume II.
53 USGCRP Report Volume II.

terms of $CO_2e$.[54] Construction $CO_2e$ emissions from the Project are estimated to be 4,386 tons (3,978.10 metric tons). Operational $CO_2e$ emissions as a result of the Project are estimated to be 21,451 tons per year (tpy) (19,460.02 metric tpy).[55] Our Children's Trust filed comments stating the Project would enable "fossil fuel air pollution" from extraction and combustion. Upstream and downstream GHG emissions are indirect effects that are outside the scope of the environmental review for this Project.[56]

Construction and operation of the Project would increase the atmospheric concentration of GHGs in combination with past, current, and future emissions from all other sources globally and contribute incrementally to future climate change effects. To assess effects on climate change associated with the Project, Commission staff considered whether it could identify discrete physical effects resulting from the Project's GHG emissions or compare the Project's GHG emissions to established targets designed to combat climate change.

To date, Commission staff have not identified a methodology to attribute discrete, quantifiable, physical effects on the environment resulting from the Project's incremental contribution to GHGs. Without the ability to determine discrete resource effects, Commission staff are unable to assess the Project's contribution to climate change through any objective analysis of physical effect attributable to the Project. Additionally, Commission staff have not been able to find an established threshold for determining the Project's significance when compared to established GHG reduction targets at the state or federal level. Ultimately, this EA is not characterizing the Project's GHG emissions as significant or insignificant.[57] However, as we have done in prior NEPA analyses, we disclose the Project's GHG emissions in comparison to national and state GHG emission inventories.

In order to provide context of the Project emissions on a national level, we compare the Project's GHG emissions to the total GHG emissions of the United States as a whole. At a national level, 5,489 million metric tons of $CO_2e$ were emitted in 2022 (inclusive of $CO_2e$ sources and sinks) (USEPA, 2024). Construction emissions from the Project could potentially increase $CO_2e$ emissions based on the national 2022 levels by 0.000072 percent; in subsequent years, Project operation could result in a potential increase in $CO_2e$ emissions by 0.00035 percent based on the national 2022 levels. To provide context on a state level, we compare the Project's estimated GHG emissions to the state emission inventories. The Project's construction and operational emissions would occur in Louisiana. At the state level, Louisiana energy-related $CO_2$ emissions in 2023 were 183.8 million metric tons. [58] Project construction could potentially increase

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[54] GHG gases are converted to CO2e by means of the GWP; the measure of a particular GHG's ability to absorb solar radiation; and its residence time within the atmosphere, consistent with the EPA's established method for reporting GHG emissions for air permitting requirements that allows a consistent comparison with federal regulatory requirements.

[55] Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Supplemental Application Filing section 9.2.3.3. FERC accession no. 20250811-5130.

[56] *Seven Cnty. Infrastructure Coal. v. Eagle Cnty., Colo.*, 605 U.S. 168, 188-90 (2025).

[57] *See e.g.*, *Driftwood Pipeline LLC*, 183 FERC ¶ 61,049, at P 63 (2023) ("…there currently are no accepted tools or methods for the Commission to use to determine significance, therefore the Commission is not herein characterizing these emissions as significant or insignificant.)

[58] U.S. Energy Information Administration (2024). "State carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels tables." https://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/

$CO_2$ emissions based on the Louisiana 2023 levels by 0.002; in subsequent years, Project operations could potentially increase emissions by 0.01 percent.

When states have GHG emissions reduction targets, we compare the project's operational and downstream GHG emissions to those state goals to provide additional context.[59] The State of Louisiana established executive targets in 2020 to reduce net GHG emissions 40 to 50 percent by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. The targets also aim for net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. Operational emissions in 2030 would represent 0.02 percent of Louisiana's 2030 projected GHG emission levels, assuming the reductions from the 2005 levels summarized above.[60]

[59] We reviewed the U.S. State Greenhouse Emission Targets site for individual state requirements at: https://www.c2es.org/document/greenhouse-gas-emissions-targets/.

[60] *Id.* Louisiana's $CO_2$ emissions in 2005 were 202.5 million metric tons; therefore, we consider the 2025 emission target to be 101.25 million metric tons assuming a 45 percent reduction from 2005 levels.

## C. ALTERNATIVES

We identified and evaluated alternatives to the specific natural gas storage and transmission facilities proposed by Pine Prairie. Each alternative was evaluated using a specific set of criteria and includes a determination whether the alternative:

- meets the objectives of the proposed Project;
- has technical and economic feasibility and practicality; and
- offers a significant environmental advantage over the proposed Project.

The alternatives were reviewed against the evaluation criteria in the sequence presented above. The first consideration for including an alternative in our analysis is whether it could satisfy the stated purpose of the Project. An alternative must meet the stated purpose of the Project, which is to expand the existing storage facilities by 15.4 Bcf (10.8 Bcf working gas, 4.6 Bcf base gas) in order to meet growing natural gas storage demand in the southeastern United States. It is important to recognize that not all conceivable alternatives can meet the Project's purpose, and an alternative that does not meet the Project's purpose cannot be considered a viable alternative.

We considered the no-action alternative and system alternatives.

Our evaluation of alternatives is based on Project-specific information provided by Pine Prairie, publicly available information, our consultations with federal and state resource and permitting agencies, our expertise and experience regarding the siting, construction, and operation of natural gas projects and such projects' potential environmental effects, and the specific environmental effects associated with the Project, as described in section B of this EA.

### 1. No-Action Alternative

NEPA requires the Commission to consider and evaluate the No-Action Alternative. In instances involving federal decisions on proposals for projects, the no-action would mean the proposed activity would not take place and the resulting effects from taking the no-action would be compared with the effects of permitting the proposed activity.

Under the No-Action Alternative, Pine Prairie would not construct any component of the Project and, consequently, would be unable to meet the stated purpose and need. We have prepared this EA to inform the Commission and stakeholders about the expected effects that would occur if the Project facilities are constructed and operated; however, these effects would not occur under the No-Action Alternative. We have not identified any significant effects associated with the proposed action, and we have not found reasons to recommend the No-Action Alternative. However, the Commission will determine if the Project is in the public convenience and necessity and could choose the No-Action Alternative.

We have not identified any reasonably foreseeable negative environmental effects of not implementing the proposed action, as it is speculative to predict whether alternative projects may be proposed to meet shippers needs under a no-action alternative.

### 2. System Alternatives

System alternatives would use existing, modified, or proposed natural gas storage and transmission systems to meet the purpose and need of the Project. The alternatives would have to provide for a similar increase in storage capacity and deliverability of natural gas as the Project and

could result in environmental effects that are less than, similar to, or greater than those associated with construction and operation of the Project.

Numerous natural gas storage facilities are in the Gulf Coast region in which the Project is located, including 741 Bcf of storage capacity at 19 facilities in Louisiana and 847 Bcf at 40 facilities in Texas (U.S. Energy Information Agency [EIA], 2025). Three storage facilities in the region have been certificated by the Commission in the past three years to construct 69.1 Bcf of new or expanded storage capacity, and the certificated capacities are or will be substantially subscribed.[61]

We have not identified other existing storage and transmission facilities that would meet the additional demand for storage services and also offer access to the pipelines that would be connected to the Project. Therefore, these other systems would have to construct equivalent facilities to achieve the equivalent new storage capacity as the Project and this would likely result in similar or greater (as additional piping would likely be required) effects to the proposed Project. Therefore, we conclude that the system alternatives would not provide a significant environmental advantage over the proposed Project.

### 3. Alternatives Conclusions

No comments were received recommending an alternative location for the Project. Further, no environmental issues or resource effects have led us to recommend a project alternative. Overall, Commission staff conclude that approval of the Project would not result in significant environmental effects. We also conclude that no system or other alternative would provide a significant environmental advantage over the Project as proposed. Therefore, we conclude that the proposed Project, with our recommended mitigation measures, is the preferred alternative to meet the Project objectives.

[61] Recently certificated expansion at storage facilities in the Gulf Coast region include: 20.0 Bcf of new working gas capacity at LA Storage, LLC (FERC Docket No. CP21-44); 34.7 Bcf of new working gas capacity at Black Bayou Gas Storage, LLC (CP24-494); and 14.4 Bcf of additional working gas capacity at Golden Triangle Storage, LLC (CP23-542).

## D. STAFF'S CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conclusions and recommendations presented in this EA are those of the Commission's environmental staff. Based on the analysis in this EA, we have determined that if Pine Prairie constructs and operates the proposed facilities in accordance with its application and supplements, approval of the Project would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. We also conclude that the proposed Project, with our recommended mitigation measures, is the preferred alternative to meet the project objectives. If the Commission authorizes the Project, we recommend that the following measures be included as environmental conditions to any Certificate the Commission may issue:

1. Pine Prairie shall follow the construction procedures and mitigation measures described in its application and supplements (including responses to staff data requests) and as identified in the EA, unless modified by the Order. Pine Prairie must:

    a. request any modification to these procedures, measures, or conditions in a filing with the Secretary;

    b. justify each modification relative to site-specific conditions;

    c. explain how that modification provides an equal or greater level of environmental protection than the original measure; and

    d. receive approval in writing from the Director of OEP, or the Director's designee, **before using that modification**.

2. The Director of OEP, or the Director's designee, has delegated authority to address any requests for approvals or authorizations necessary to carry out the conditions of the Order, and take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the protection of environmental resources during construction, abandonment activities, and operation of the Project. This authority shall allow:

    a. the modification of conditions of the Order;

    b. stop-work authority; and

    c. the imposition of any additional measures deemed necessary to ensure continued compliance with the intent of the conditions of the Order, as well as the avoidance or mitigation of unforeseen adverse environmental effects resulting from Project construction and abandonment activities and operation.

3. **Prior to any construction**, Pine Prairie shall file an affirmative statement with the Secretary, certified by a senior company official, that all company personnel, EIs, and contractor personnel would be informed of the EI's authority and have been or would be trained on the implementation of the environmental mitigation measures appropriate to their jobs **before** becoming involved with construction and restoration activities.

4. The authorized facility locations shall be as shown in the EA, as supplemented by filed alignment sheets. **As soon as they are available, and before the start of construction**, Pine Prairie shall file with the Secretary any revised detailed survey alignment maps/sheets at a scale not smaller than 1:6,000 with station positions for all facilities approved by the Order. All requests for modifications of environmental conditions of the Order or site-specific

clearances must be written and must reference locations designated on these alignment maps/sheets.

Pine Prairie's exercise of eminent domain authority granted under NGA section 7(h) in any condemnation proceedings related to the Order must be consistent with these authorized facilities and locations. Pine Prairie's right of eminent domain granted under NGA section 7(h) does not authorize it to increase the size of its natural gas facilities to accommodate future needs or to acquire a right-of-way for a pipeline to transport a commodity other than natural gas.

5. Pine Prairie shall file with the Secretary detailed alignment maps/sheets and aerial photographs at a scale not smaller than 1:6,000 identifying all route realignments or facility relocations, staging areas, pipe storage yards, new access roads, and other areas that would be used or disturbed and have not been previously identified in filings with the Secretary. Approval for each of these areas must be explicitly requested in writing. For each area, the request must include a description of the existing land use/cover type, documentation of landowner approval, whether any cultural resources or federally listed threatened or endangered species would be affected, and whether any other environmentally sensitive areas are within or abutting the area. All areas shall be clearly identified on the maps/sheets/aerial photographs. Each area must be approved in writing by the Director of OEP, or the Director's designee, **before construction in or near that area**.

   This requirement does not apply to extra workspace allowed by the Commission's *Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan* and/or minor field realignments per landowner needs and requirements that do not affect other landowners or sensitive environmental areas such as wetlands.

   Examples of alterations requiring approval include all route realignments and facility location changes resulting from:

   a. implementation of cultural resources mitigation measures;

   b. implementation of endangered, threatened, or special concern species mitigation measures;

   c. recommendations by state regulatory authorities; and

   d. agreements with individual landowners that affect other landowners or could affect sensitive environmental areas.

6. **Within 60 days of the acceptance of the authorization and before construction and abandonment begins**, Pine Prairie shall file an Implementation Plan with the Secretary for review and written approval by the Director of OEP, or the Director's designee. Pine Prairie must file revisions to the plan as schedules change. The plan shall identify:

   a. how Pine Prairie would implement the construction procedures and mitigation measures described in its application and supplements (including responses to staff data requests), identified in the EA, and required by the Order;

   b. how Pine Prairie would incorporate these requirements into the contract bid documents, construction contracts (especially penalty clauses and specifications), and construction drawings so that the mitigation required at each site is clear to on-site construction and inspection personnel;

c. the number of EIs assigned per spread, and how the company would ensure that sufficient personnel are available to implement the environmental mitigation;

d. company personnel, including EIs and contractors, who would receive copies of the appropriate material;

e. the location and dates of the environmental compliance training and instructions Pine Prairie would give to all personnel involved with construction and restoration (initial and refresher training would be provided as the Project progresses and personnel change).

f. the company personnel (if known) and specific portion of Pine Prairie's organization having responsibility for compliance;

g. the procedures (including use of contract penalties) Pine Prairie would follow if non-compliance occurs; and

h. for each discrete facility, a Gantt or PERT chart (or similar Project scheduling diagram) and dates for:

(1) the completion of all required surveys and reports;

(2) the environmental compliance training of on-site personnel;

(3) the start of construction; and

(4) the start and completion of restoration.

7. Pine Prairie shall employ at least one EI for the Project. The EI(s) shall be:

a. responsible for monitoring and ensuring compliance with all mitigation measures required by the Order and other grants, permits, certificates, or other authorizing documents;

b. responsible for evaluating the construction contractor's implementation of the environmental mitigation measures required in the contract (see condition 6 above) and any other authorizing document;

c. empowered to order correction of acts that violate the environmental conditions of the Order, and any other authorizing document;

d. a full-time position, separate from all other activity inspectors;

e. responsible for documenting compliance with the environmental conditions of the Order, as well as any environmental conditions/permit requirements imposed by other federal, state, or local agencies; and

f. responsible for maintaining status reports.

8. Beginning with the filing of its Implementation Plan, Pine Prairie shall file updated status reports with the Secretary on a **monthly** basis for cavern development activities and compression construction and **bi-weekly** basis for all other activities until all construction/abandonment and restoration activities are complete. On request, these status reports will also be provided to other federal and state agencies with permitting responsibilities. Status reports shall include:

a. an update on Pine Prairie's efforts to obtain the necessary federal authorizations;

b. the construction status for each Project component, work planned for the following reporting period, and any schedule changes for stream crossings or work in other environmentally-sensitive areas;

c. a listing of all problems encountered and each instance of non-compliance observed by the EI(s) during the reporting period (both for the conditions imposed by the Commission and any environmental conditions/permit requirements imposed by other federal, state, or local agencies);

d. a description of the corrective actions implemented in response to all instances of non-compliance;

e. the effectiveness of all corrective actions implemented;

f. a description of any landowner/resident complaints that may relate to compliance with the requirements of the Order, and the measures taken to satisfy their concerns; and

g. copies of any correspondence received by Pine Prairie from other federal, state, or local permitting agencies concerning instances of non-compliance, and Pine Prairie's response.

9. Pine Prairie must receive written authorization from the Director of OEP, or the Director's designee, **before commencing construction of any Project facilities.** To obtain such authorization, Pine Prairie must file with the Secretary documentation that it has received all applicable authorizations required under federal law (or evidence of waiver thereof).

10. Pine Prairie must receive written authorization from the Director of OEP, or the Director's designee, **before placing each phase of the Project into service**. Such authorization would only be granted following a determination that rehabilitation and restoration of the right-of-way and other areas affected by the Project are proceeding satisfactorily.

11. **Within 30 days of placing the authorized facilities in service**, Pine Prairie shall file an affirmative statement with the Secretary, certified by a senior company official:

    a. that the facilities have been constructed in compliance with all applicable conditions, and that continuing activities would be consistent with all applicable conditions; or

    b. identifying which of the conditions in the Order Pine Prairie has complied with or would comply with. This statement shall also identify any areas affected by the Project where compliance measures were not properly implemented, if not previously identified in filed status reports, and the reason for noncompliance.

12. Pine Prairie shall file a noise survey with the Secretary **no later than 60 days** after placing the modified Pine Prairie Facility in service. If a full load condition noise survey is not possible, Pine Prairie shall provide an interim survey at the maximum possible horsepower load and provide the full load survey **within 6 months**. If the noise attributable to the operation of the Pine Prairie Facility under interim or full horsepower load conditions exceeds an $L_{dn}$ of 55 dBA at any nearby NSAs, Pine Prairie shall file a report on what changes are needed and install the additional noise controls to meet the level **within 1 year** of the in-service date. Pine Prairie shall confirm compliance with the above requirement by filing a second noise survey with the Secretary **no later than 60 days** after it installs the additional noise controls.

13. All conditions attached to the water quality certification issued categorically by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality constitute mandatory conditions of the Certificate/Authorization Order. **Prior to construction**, Pine Prairie shall file, for review and written approval of the Director of OEP, or the Director's designee, any revisions to its project design necessary to comply with the water quality certification conditions.

# APPENDIX A

# LIST OF PREPARERS

## LIST OF PREPARERS

**Cornwall, Joel** – Project Manager, Project Description, Geology, Soils, Groundwater, Land Use, Visual, Cumulative Effects, Alternatives
M.S., Hydrogeology, 2014, University of South Florida
B.S., Geology, 2002, Western Washington University

**Bloomfield, Andrea** – Water Resources, Biological Resources
B.S. Environmental Management, 2018, University of Maryland

**McDaniel, Nina** –Air Quality, Noise, and Reliability and Safety
M.S., Engineering Management, University of New Orleans, 2012
B.S., Civil Engineering, University of New Orleans, 2010

**Schnieder, Brian** – Cultural Resources
M.A., Anthropology/Archaeology, 2013, University of Idaho
B.S., Anthropology/Archeology, 2005, James Madison University

**Willis, Pamela** – Socioeconomics
B.S., Business, 1990, University of Pittsburgh

# APPENDIX B

# VEGETATION EFFECTS FROM THE PROJECT

**Appendix B**
**Vegetation Effects from the Project [a]**

| Facility | Developed[b] | | Shrub Scrub | | Forest[c] | | Wetlands[d] | | Herbaceous[e] | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Construction | Operational | Construction | Operational | Construction | Operational | Construction | Operational | Construction | Operational | Construction | Operational |
| **Pipeline** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Temporary Workspace | 0.8 | - | 1.7 | - | 11.6 | - | 2.8 | - | 9.1 | - | 26.0 | - |
| New Permanent Easement | - | 0.1 | - | 0.7 | - | 2.5 | - | 0.4 | - | - | - | 3.7 |
| Additional Temporary Workspace | 1.1 | - | 0.2 | - | 4.0 | - | 0.4 | - | 4.5 | - | 10.2 | - |
| Access Roads | 1.3 | 0.1 | - | - | 0.4 | - | - | - | 0.3 | <0.1 | 2.0 | 0.1 |
| Contractor Yards | 4.0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 19.2 | - | 23.1 | - |
| MLV 202-2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1.2 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 0.3 |
| ANR-North MS | 1.5 | 0.1 | - | - | - | - | 0.2 | - | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| HWY 10 VS | 0.7 | - | 1.4 | - | 0.5 | - | - | - | - | - | 2.6 | - |
| *Subtotal* | *9.3* | *0.3* | *3.3* | *0.7* | *16.5* | *2.5* | *3.5* | *0.4* | *34.3* | *0.5* | *67.0* | *4.3* |
| **Gas Handling and Cavern Facilities** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| New Cavern No. 6 | - | - | 0.1 | 0.1 | - | - | 0.1 | 0.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Temporary Workspace | 29.04 | - | - | - | 0.6 | - | - | - | 2.7 | - | 32.4 | - |
| Access Roads | 0.67 | - | - | - | 0.2 | - | - | - | 0.6 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 0.3 |
| *Subtotal* | *29.71* | *0.0* | *0.1* | *0.1* | *0.8* | *-* | *0.1* | *0.1* | *5.3* | *2.3* | *35.9* | *2.4* |
| **Grand Total** | **39.03** | **0.3** | **3.4** | **0.8** | **17.3** | **2.5** | **3.6** | **0.5** | **39.6** | **2.7** | **102.9** | **6.7** |

**Appendix B**

**Vegetation Effects from the Project [a]**

Key:

[a] This table was derived first using field delineated wetlands and then with National Land Cover Database (NLCD) for the other land use types. Due to the raster nature of NLCD, the NLCD was adjusted slightly using field verified land use data. This table presents the existing vegetation communities in the Project limits of disturbance (developed, grassland/ herbaceous, scrub/shrub, forested, open water, and wetland); however, in RR 8 the ROW is characterized based on its existing land uses such as open space or agriculture.

[b] Includes Open, Low, Medium, and High Developed Lands.

[c] Includes upland Deciduous, Mixed, and Evergreen Forests.

[d] Includes Emergent, Scrub-Shrub, and Forested Wetlands. Operational effects reflect the conversion of PFO to PEM (permanent easement), and the fill of an isolated (non- regulated) PEM wetland at the Cavern No. 6 well pad.

[e] Herbaceous areas will be allowed to revert to their original vegetation cover type, with some routine maintenance/mowing; however, some areas will be converted to gravel or developed areas to support Project operations.

Source: Pine Prairie August 11, 2025 Application, Accession No. 20250811-5130, and supplemental filing October 25, 2025, Accession number 20251017-5078.

# APPENDIX C

# LIST OF REFERENCES

**LIST OF REFERENCES**


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