U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT and FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Special Permit Information:

Docket Number:	PHMSA-2023-0020[1]
Requested By:	Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC
Operator ID#:	5304
Original Date Requested:	March 24, 2023
Issuance Date:	August 22, 2023
Code Section(s):	49 CFR 192.611(a) and (d) and 192.619(a)

I. Background

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 United States Code (USC) 4321 – 4375 et seq., Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, 40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1500-1508, and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Order No. 5610.1C, requires the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS)[2] to analyze a proposed action to determine whether the action will have a significant impact on the human environment. PHMSA analyzes special permit requests for potential risks to public safety and the environment that could result from our decision to grant, grant with additional conditions, or deny the request. As part of this analysis, PHMSA evaluates whether a special permit would impact the likelihood or consequence of a pipeline failure as compared to the operation of the pipeline in full compliance with the Federal

[1] The special permit conditions, ***special permit segments***, and ***special permit inspection areas*** for PHMSA-2023-0020 are merged into special permit PHMSA-2020-0001. These ***special permit segments*** are in the same pipeline ***special permit inspection areas***, which makes it more efficient to keep up with the integrity assessments in the same special permit.

[2] Throughout this special permit, the usage of "PHMSA" or "PHMSA OPS" means the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Office of Pipeline Safety.

pipeline safety regulations. PHMSA's environmental review associated with the special permit application is limited to impacts that would result from granting or denying the special permit. PHMSA developed this assessment to determine what effects, if any, our decision would have on the environment.

Pursuant to 49 USC 60118(c) and 49 CFR 190.341, PHMSA may only grant special permit requests that are not inconsistent with pipeline safety. PHMSA will impose conditions in the special permit if it is concluded that they are necessary for safety, environmental protection, or are otherwise in the public interest. If PHMSA determines that a special permit would be inconsistent with pipeline safety or is not justified, the application will be denied.

The purpose of this Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) is to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC (FGT)[3] application for a special permit request to waive compliance with the requirements of 49 CFR 192.611(a) "Change in class location: Confirmation or revision of maximum allowable operating pressure" for approximately 1.861 miles (9,824 feet) of 26-inch and 30-inch diameter gas transmission pipelines located in Orange and Osceola counties, Florida. This FEA and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) are prepared by PHMSA to assess the pipeline special permit request, in accordance with 49 CFR 190.341, and is intended to specifically analyze any environmental impact associated with the waiver of 49 CFR 192.611(a) and (d) and 192.619(a).

II. Introduction

Pursuant to 49 United States Code 60118(b) and 49 CFR 190.341, FGT applied for a special permit to PHMSA on March 24, 2023, requesting that PHMSA waive the requirements of 49 CFR 192.611(a) to permit FGT to maintain the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) for five (5) ***special permit segments*** located in Orange and Osceola counties, Florida, for which the class location has changed from Class 1 to Class 3 due to population density increase. Without the special permit, 49 CFR 192.611(a) and (d) and 192.619(a) will require FGT to replace the five (5) pipe segments or reduce pipeline MAOP.

[3] Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC is owned by Energy Transfer and Kinder Morgan, Inc.

PHMSA may issue a special permit to waive certain regulatory requirements where it is consistent with pipeline safety and which is typically contingent on the performance of additional measures beyond minimum PHMSA pipeline safety regulations, in accordance with 49 CFR 190.341.

III. Regulatory Background

PHMSA regulations at 49 CFR 192.611(a) require that an operator confirm or revise the MAOP of a pipe segment that is in satisfactory condition when the hoop stress of the segment is no longer commensurate with class location. Under 49 CFR 192.611(a), an operator may be required to reduce the operating pressure of a pipeline segment, repressure test the pipeline segment, or alternatively, may have to replace the pipe in order to maintain the MAOP. Below is the relevant text of 49 CFR 192.611(a) and (d) and 192.619(a):

49 CFR 192.611 Change in class location: Confirmation or revision of maximum allowable operating pressure.

(a) If the hoop stress corresponding to the established maximum allowable operating pressure of a segment of pipeline is not commensurate with the present class location, and the segment is in satisfactory physical condition, the maximum allowable operating pressure of that segment of pipeline must be confirmed or revised according to one of the following requirements:

(1) If the segment involved has been previously tested in place for a period of not less than 8 hours:

(i) The maximum allowable operating pressure is 0.8 times the test pressure in Class 2 locations, 0.667 times the test pressure in Class 3 locations, or 0.555 times the test pressure in Class 4 locations. The corresponding hoop stress may not exceed 72 percent of the SMYS of the pipe in Class 2 locations, 60 percent of SMYS in Class 3 locations, or 50 percent of SMYS in Class 4 locations.

(ii) The alternative maximum allowable operating pressure is 0.8 times the test pressure in Class 2 locations and 0.667 times the test pressure in Class 3 locations. For pipelines operating at alternative maximum allowable pressure per §192.620, the corresponding hoop stress may not exceed 80 percent of the SMYS of the pipe in Class 2 locations and 67 percent of SMYS in Class 3 locations.

(2) The maximum allowable operating pressure of the segment involved must be reduced so that the corresponding hoop stress is not more than that allowed by this part for new segments of pipelines in the existing class location.

3) The segment involved must be tested in accordance with the applicable requirements of subpart J of this part, and its maximum allowable operating pressure must then be established according to the following criteria:

(i) The maximum allowable operating pressure after the requalification test is 0.8 times the test pressure for Class 2 locations, 0.667 times the test pressure for Class 3 locations, and 0.555 times the test pressure for Class 4 locations.

(ii) The corresponding hoop stress may not exceed 72 percent of the SMYS of the pipe in Class 2 locations, 60 percent of SMYS in Class 3 locations, or 50 percent of SMYS in Class 4 locations.

(iii) For pipeline operating at an alternative maximum allowable operating pressure per §192.620, the alternative maximum allowable operating pressure after the requalification test is 0.8 times the test pressure for Class 2 locations and 0.667 times the test pressure for Class 3 locations. The corresponding hoop stress may not exceed 80 percent of the SMYS of the pipe in Class 2 locations and 67 percent of SMYS in Class 3 locations.

(d) Confirmation or revision of the maximum allowable operating pressure that is required as a result of a study under §192.609 must be completed within 24 months of the change in class location. Pressure reduction under paragraph (a) (1) or (2) of this section within the 24-month period does not preclude establishing a maximum allowable operating pressure under paragraph (a)(3) of this section at a later date.

49 CFR 192.619 What is the maximum allowable operating pressure for steel or plastic pipelines?

(a)(2)(ii) For steel pipe operated at 100 p.s.i. (689 kPa) gage or more, the test pressure is divided by a factor determined in accordance with the following table:

Table 1 to Paragraph (a)(2)(ii)

Class location	Factors, [1] segment - Installed before (Nov. 12, 1970)	Installed after (Nov. 11, 1970) and before July 1, 2020	Installed on or after July 1, 2020	Converted under § 192.14
1	1.1	1.1	1.25	1.25
2	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5

[1] For offshore pipeline segments installed, uprated or converted after July 31, 1977, that are not located on an offshore platform, the factor is 1.25. For pipeline segments installed, uprated or converted after July 31, 1977, that are located on an offshore platform or on a platform in inland navigable waters, including a pipe riser, the factor is 1.5.

(3) The highest actual operating pressure to which the segment was subjected during the 5 years preceding the applicable date in the second column. This pressure restriction applies unless the segment was tested according to the requirements in paragraph (a)(2) of this section after the applicable date in the third column or the segment was uprated according to the requirements in subpart K of this part:

- Section 192.619 requires Class 3 location pipe to be pressure tested to 1.5 times MAOP.

IV. Purpose and Need

FGT requested a waiver from the requirements of 49 CFR 192.611(a) for the ***special permit segments*** consisting of approximately 1.861 miles (9,824 feet) of natural gas transmission pipeline listed below in **Table 1 – Special Permit Segments**. Without a special permit, the cited regulations require that FGT complete pipe replacement, hydrotest, and pressure reduction, based on population growth in the vicinity of the segments. FGT must apply the special permit conditions to the ***special permit segments*** to provide an equivalent margin of safety and environmental protection to meet the requirements of 49 CFR 192.611(a) and (d) and 192.619(a), as outlined in the special permit conditions.

The special permit will establish enhanced integrity management (IM) procedures to maintain pipe integrity and protect both the public and the environment for the class location units in which the ***special permit segments*** are located for the length of pipeline covered by the special permit. All of the ***special permit segments*** will be treated as high consequence areas (HCA) with the implementation of IM procedures. In addition, FGT will comply with conditions as provided in the terms of the special permit for all the impacted ***special permit segments*** and the designated "***special permit inspection area***" in the special permit.

The conditions, as prescribed in the special permit, provide an additional level of safety without the impacts of excavation to remove existing pipe, install the replacement pipe, and conduct pressure testing of the existing pipe.

PHMSA has issued various special permits with nearly identical conditions and the conditions would provide, at minimum, a level of safety that is equivalent to the existing regulations. The special permit conditions are designed to identify and mitigate integrity issues that could threaten the pipeline segments and cause failure. The effect of the enhanced monitoring and maintenance requirements would be intended to ensure integrity of the pipe and protection of the population living near the pipeline segment to a similar degree as replacing with heavier walled or high-grade pipe without the enhanced integrity management (IM) activities.

Granting FGT a special permit waiving the requirements of 49 CFR 192.611(a) and (d) and 192.619(a) benefits the public and FGT in several ways. As PHMSA recognized in its 2004 Notice, implementing additional preventative and mitigative measures enables a pipeline to improve its knowledge and understanding of the pipeline's integrity, accelerate the identification and repair of actionable anomalies, and better manage and mitigate threats to the public and environment. Implementing enhanced

inspection and assessment practices throughout the ***special permit inspection areas***, in lieu of replacing the small sections of pipe experiencing the class location changes, will extend pipeline safety benefits to a much greater area. In addition, avoiding pipe excavation, replacement and pressure testing minimizes costs to the operator, avoid delivery interruptions and supply shortages, and avert environmental disturbance.

Further, grant of the special permit will allow FGT to avoid impacts to vegetation, soils, and potentially adjacent waterways due to approximately 1.861 miles (9,824 feet) of excavation to replace and hydrostatically pressure test pipe. FGT will avoid disturbing the right-of-way (ROW) of property owners except for the additional inspections that may be required to satisfy the conditions of the special permit such as those related to the IM procedures for HCAs, and potential anomaly evaluations/repairs. These measures will enable FGT to assess integrity threats and mitigate safety risks that affect a greater number of people than if FGT were to replace or pressure test isolated segments of pipe.

FGT requested a waiver of the requirements of 49 CFR 192.611(a) and (d) and 192.619(a) for the ***special permit segments*** consisting of approximately 1.861 miles of natural gas transmission pipeline listed below in **Table 1 – Special Permit Segments**.

PHMSA is granting a special permit waiving 49 CFR 192.611(a) for five (5) new ***special permit segments*** totaling 1.861 miles (9,824 feet).

V. Site Description

On the condition that FGT complies with the terms and conditions set forth below, the special permit waives compliance with 49 CFR 192.611(a) and (d) and 192.619(a)(2) for approximately 1.861 miles (9,824 feet) of gas transmission pipelines on the 26-inch and 30-inch diameter pipelines where the class location has changed from Class 1 to Class 3 in Orange and Osceola counties, Florida.

This special permit allows FGT to maintain the current MAOP as shown in **Table 1 – Special Permit Segments**.

VI. Special Permit Segments and Special Permit Inspection Areas

This special permit pertains to the specified ***special permit segments*** and corresponding ***special permit inspection areas*** defined in this section.

Special Permit Segments:

This special permit applies to the ***special permit segments*** in **Table 1 – Special Permit Segments** and are identified using the FGT survey station (SS) references.

Table 1 – Special Permit Segments

Special Permit Segment Number/ Class Change	Outside Diameter (inches)	Line Name	Length (feet)	Start Survey Station (SS) (feet)	End Survey Station (SS) (feet)	County or Parish, State	No. Dwellings	Year Installed	Seam Type/ Pipe Coating	MAOP (psig)
189579	26	Mainline Loop C/S 18-19	60	1213+93	1214+53	Orange, FL	1	1968	DSAW/ FBE	974
202967	30	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	159	620+94	622+53	Osceola, FL	18	1995	DSAW/ FBE	975
187434	30	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	4,869	807+18	855+87	Osceola, FL	76	1995	DSAW/ FBE	975
187440	30	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	285	1223+57	1226+42	Osceola, FL	1	1995	DSAW/ FBE	975
202974	30	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	4,451	1056+52	1101+03	Osceola, FL	178	1995	DSAW/ FBE	975

Notes:
DSAW/FBE = Double Submerged Arc Weld /Fusion Bonded Epoxy
Psig = pounds per square inch gauge

Special Permit Inspection Areas:

The ***special permit inspection areas*** are defined as the area that extends 220 yards on each side of the centerline as listed in **Table 2 – Special Permit Inspection Areas**.

Table 2 – Special Permit Inspection Areas

Special Permit Inspection Area Number	Special Permit Segment(s) Included	Outside Diameter (inches)	Line Name	Start Survey Station (SS)	End Survey Station (SS)	Length (miles)
189579	Mainline Loop C/S 18-19	26	Mainline Loop C/S 18-19	1+90	3890+62	73.7
202967, 187434, 187440, 202974	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	30	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	0+00	2738+66	51.2

High Consequence Areas:

One (1) ***special permit segment*** (Segment No. 202974) is located within an HCA. All of the ***special permit segments*** must be treated as HCA with the implementation of IM procedures.

VII. Alternatives

1) **Alternative 1: "No Action" Alternative**

The "No Action" Alternative or denial of the special permit would entail full compliance with existing regulations, specifically 49 CFR 192.611(a) and (d) and 192.619(a). This provision requires

1) pipeline pressure reduction (i.e., a lower operating pressure or MAOP); **2)** new pipeline pressure testing; or **3)** pipe replacement (with a heavier walled or higher-grade pipe) of all the pipeline segments associated with this special permit modification request, which includes approximately 1.861 miles (9,824 feet) of pipeline to address class location changes.

Because FGT's contractual obligations do not allow the operating pressure of the pipe to be lowered, pipeline pressure reduction is not a feasible option. Thus, denial of the special permit would require excavation to remove existing pipe, acquiring environmental permits where necessary, and pressure testing the replacement pipeline segments. This action would require the replacement and pressure testing of all the pipeline segments associated with this special permit request, which would include pipeline construction-related impacts to upland and wetland vegetation, soils, and adjacent waterbodies. Furthermore, the "No Action" Alternative would result in construction-related inconveniences for businesses and residences located near the affected area and service disruptions from taking the line out of service during pipe replacement construction and pressure testing activities. Lastly, denial of the special permit would mean the enhanced IM portions of the special permit conditions would not be implemented.

2) **Alternative 2: "Selected" Alternative**

FGT requested a special permit, allowing FGT to maintain the current MAOP despite a class change to Class 3 due to population growth. Without a special permit, in Class 3 locations, FGT will be required to reduce the pressure, replace the pipe, or pressure test the pipe. Under this alternative, the pipelines will be subject to additional safety inspections and criteria. Therefore, the special permit avoids:

1. Construction related impacts along the pipeline ROW;
2. Construction-related inconveniences for businesses and residences located near the affected area;
3. Service disruptions that could result from taking the line out of service during pipe replacement and pressure testing activities; and
4. The venting of the natural gas to atmosphere.

All segments of pipe in the special permit must be treated as HCAs under an IM Program (49 CFR Part 192, Subpart O) as a requirement of the special permit.

VIII. Overview of Special Permit Conditions

To provide an equivalent level of safety in the absence of either lowering the pipeline operating pressure or upgrading the pipe, this special permit has additional operations and maintenance requirements (conditions) which are intended to decrease the likelihood of a release of gas. These additional preventative measures are intended to prevent leaks and ruptures. This section provides an overview of the special permit conditions. For FGT specific technical requirements and the special permit conditions can be read in its entirety in Docket No. PHMSA-2023-0023 in the Federal Docket Management System located on the internet at www.regulations.gov.

1) **Current Status of Pipe in the Ground**

   To ensure that key characteristics of the pipe currently installed in each ***special permit segment*** are known, PHMSA requires records that confirm pipe specifications, successful pressure tests, and girth weld non-destructive tests. Should records be unavailable or unacceptable, FGT must complete additional activities as detailed in the special permit. If these additional activities are not completed or should pipe be discovered that does not meet specific requirements of eligibility, the ***special permit segment*** must be replaced.

2) **Operating Conditions**

   If allowed by the special permit, each ***special permit inspection area*** must continue to be operated at or below the existing MAOP until a restoration or uprating plan has been approved. To ensure compliance with special permit conditions, FGT's operations and maintenance manual (O&M), IM Program, and damage prevention (DP) program must be modified to implement the special permit conditions. In addition, PHMSA must approve any long-term flow reversals that will impact each ***special permit segment***.

3) **Threat Management**

   Threats are factors that can lead to the failure of a pipeline. Activities are required to identify, assess, remediate, and monitor threats to the pipeline.

   a) **General activities.** FGT must perform annual data integration and identification of threats to which each ***special permit inspection area*** is susceptible. These activities must include integrity assessments with specific inline inspection (ILI) tools, strict anomaly repair criteria, and appropriate environmental assessment and permitting. Additional integrity assessment

methodologies may be used if allowed by the special permit. Integrity assessments must then be conducted periodically at an interval determined in the special permit for each threat identified.

b) **External corrosion control requirements.** The special permit requires additional activities to monitor and mitigate external corrosion. These activities include installation and annual monitoring of cathodic protection (CP) test stations, periodic close interval surveys (CIS), and clearing or remediating shorted casings that may impede CP effectiveness. These activities ensure the appropriate level of CP is reaching the pipeline in areas where coating loss or damage has occurred in order to prevent or mitigate external corrosion. In addition, FGT will be required to develop and implement a plan that identifies and remediates interference from alternating or direct current (AC/DC) sources (such as high-voltage powerlines) that could adversely impact the effectiveness of CP.

c) **Internal corrosion control requirements.** The special permit includes gas quality specifications to mitigate internal corrosion because internal corrosion is highly dependent on the quality of the gas transported within the pipeline.

d) **Stress corrosion cracking requirements.** To ensure that stress cracking corrosion (SCC) is discovered and remediated, any time a pipe segment is exposed during an excavation, FGT must examine coating to determine type and condition. If the coating is in poor condition, FGT must conduct additional SCC analysis. If SCC is confirmed, FGT must implement additional special permit defined remediation and mitigation.

e) **Pipe seam requirements.** FGT must perform an engineering integrity analysis to determine susceptibility to seam threats. FGT must re-pressure test any ***special permit segment*** with an identified seam to ensure the issue is not systemic in nature.

f) **External pipe stress requirements.** Upon identification of any source of external stress on the pipeline (such as soil movement), FGT must develop procedures to evaluate and periodically monitor these stresses.

g) **Third-party specific requirements.** To assist in identifying the pipeline location and minimizing the chance of accidental pipeline strikes, FGT must install and maintain line-of-site markers for the pipeline. FGT must perform mitigation activities for any location where a depth-of-cover survey shows insufficient soil cover.

4) **Consequence Mitigation**

To ensure quick response and decreased adverse outcome in the event of a failure, each side (upstream and downstream) of the ***special permit segment*** must have and maintain operable automatic shutdown valves (ASV) or remote-controlled valves (RCV). FGT must monitor valves through a control room with a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system. In addition to the mainline valves, should a crossover or lateral connect between the valve locations, additional isolation valves may be required. To ensure a leak is discovered promptly, leakage surveys are required twice a year.

5) **Gas Leakage Surveys and Remediation**

The ***special permit segment*** and ***special permit inspection area*** have requirements in the special permit to conduct leakage surveys more frequently than is presently required in 49 CFR 192.706. Gas leakage surveys using instrumented gas leakage detection equipment must be conducted along each ***special permit segment*** and at all valves, flanges, pipeline tie-ins with valves and flanges, and ILI launcher and receiver facilities in each ***special permit inspection area*** at least twice each calendar year, not to exceed 7½ months. The type of leak detection equipment used, survey findings, and remediation of all instrumented gas leakage surveys must be documented by FGT. The special permit will require a three-step grading process with a time interval for remediation based upon the type of leak.

6) **Post Leak or Failure**

Should an in-service leak occur, the leak must be graded and remediated as required in the permit. In addition, for all in-service or pressure test leak/failure(s), FGT must conduct a root cause analysis to determine the cause. If the cause is determined to be systemic in nature, FGT must implement a remediation plan or the ***special permit segment*** must be replaced, as determined by the special permit specific conditions.

7) **Class Location Study and Potential Extension of Special Permit Segment**

FGT must conduct a class location study at an interval specified in the special permit. This allows FGT to quickly identify extended locations that must comply with the ***special permit segment*** requirements. FGT may extend a ***special permit segment*** with proper notification, update of the Final Environmental Assessment (FEA), and implementation of all requirements in the special permit.

8) **PHMSA Oversite and Management**

PHMSA maintains oversight and management of each special permit. This includes annual meetings with executive level officers on special permit implementation status, written certification of the special permit, special permit required notification of planned activities, notification of root cause analysis results, and notification prior to certain excavation activities so that PHMSA may observe.

9) **Documentation**

FGT must maintain documentation that supports compliance with special permit conditions for the life of the pipeline.

IX. Affected Resources and Environmental Consequences

Potential risks from the regulatory waiver to pipeline integrity will be analyzed for each ***special permit segment*** to evaluate the potential for impacts or increased risk to safety or environmental resources. The applicant must consider any direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts.

1) **Safety:**

a) What protections are normally provided by the regulation(s) for the waiver segments?

Class locations are based upon the population (dwellings for human occupancy) within a "class location unit", which is defined as an onshore area that extends 220 yards on either side of the centerline of any continuous 1-mile of pipeline. These locations are determined by surveying the pipeline for population growth. More conservative safety factors are required as the number of dwellings for human occupancy (population growth) increase near the pipeline. Pipeline operators must conduct surveys and document population growth within 220 yards on either side of the pipeline. A higher population along the pipeline may trigger any of the following for the pipeline segment with the higher population: A reduced MAOP, a new pressure test at a higher pressure, or new pipe with either or both heavier walled or higher-grade pipe.

The special permit conditions are designed to identify and mitigate integrity issues that could threaten the ***special permit segments*** and cause pipeline failure. The effect of the monitoring and maintenance requirements in the special permit conditions will ensure the integrity of the pipe and protection of the population living near the ***special permit segment*** to a similar degree of a lower MAOP, new pressure test, or a thicker walled or higher-grade pipe without the enhanced IM protections. Populations living near the ***special permit inspection area*** will benefit from a higher

level of safety. The safety risk with respect to this request for a special permit focuses on maintaining the integrity of the pipeline and on the risk, it poses to the increased population to mitigate a failure of this pipeline. Granting this special permit does not increase the potential impact radius (PIR (the radius of a circle within which the potential failure of a pipeline could have significant impact on people or property)) of the pipeline. However, the risk from the increased human population around the pipeline will be mitigated through IM procedures. The pipeline integrity attributes (such as pipe diameter, wall thickness, grade, pipe seam type, pressure test, maximum allowable operating pressure, and anomaly findings) for the ***special permit segment*** can be reviewed in the Federal Dockets Management System (FDMS) located at www.regulations.gov under the document titled "**2023-0020 - Attachment A – FGT – Class 1 to 3 SP – Segment Integrity Information**." Details about the pipeline's integrity and compliance history are provided in the **Special Permit Analysis and Findings (SPAF)** document, which is available in the docket (PHMSA-2023-0022) in the FDMS at www.regulations.gov. The SPAF does not describe any integrity issues (such as pipe body, seam, or girth weld, operational or environmental) that would affect the approval of the special permit with implementation by TGP of conditions to maintain safety. PHMSA has determined that the pipeline and ***special permit segments*** are in satisfactory condition for the issuance of the special permit.

b) Describe potential safety risks that could be associated with waiving the cited regulations. How could those risks be relevant to the operation and operation history of this pipeline? How will the protections normally provided by the regulation be provided under the special permit?

The safety risk with respect to this request for a special permit focuses on maintaining the integrity of the pipeline and on the risk, it poses to the increased population to mitigate a failure of this pipeline. Granting this special permit does not increase the Potential Impact Radius (PIR), which is defined in 49 CFR 192.903 as the radius of a circle within which the potential failure of a pipeline could have significant impact on people or property of the pipeline. However, the risk from the increased human population around the pipeline will be mitigated through increased IMP.

The special permit requires IM inspections for ***special permit inspection areas*** adjacent to the ***special permit segments***, which will lower the risk in the ***special permit inspection areas*** and beyond. FGT will implement the special permit conditions in the ***special permit inspection areas*** for the duration of the special permit, and PHMSA will oversee compliance.

c) Will operation under a special permit change the risk of rupture or failure?

Operation under the special permit is expected to reduce the risk of failure due to the addition of extensive special permit conditions requiring additional maintenance, monitoring, inspection, and repair conditions. The special permit segments must be inspected at intervals similar to IM Program intervals, which will maintain the integrity of the pipe segments over the life of the special permit.

d) How will the special permit conditions mitigate or account for this risk so that the overall level of safety of the pipeline is unchanged or improved?

Performance of the conditions in the special permit is consistent with pipeline safety for the public and environment. As already noted, all of the ***special permit segments*** included under the special permit will be treated as HCAs with the additional risk analysis and remedial activities associated with this designation. The special permit will include conditions to be implemented by FGT that address potential safety risks. Among these are incorporation of these segments into the FGT IM Program, close interval corrosion surveys, implementation of a cathodic protection reliability improvement plan, an ILI program with intervals not to exceed seven years, anomaly evaluation and repair meeting more stringent criteria, additional testing and remediation of interference currents caused by induced alternating current sources, pipe seam evaluations, criteria for the identification of pipe properties, installation of line-of-sight markers and the integration of all inspection and remediation data.

e) If a failure occurred, will consequences and spill or release volumes be different if PHMSA granted the permit?

The consequences of a natural gas release will not be impacted as a result of the special permit and the potential for such an event is expected to be less likely with the added safety programs noted above. If PHMSA denied the special permit request and FGT opted to lower the pressure, the PIR would be smaller in the event of a pipeline failure. However, FGT's contractual obligations will not allow for a lowering of pressure and therefore, FGT would need to replace the existing ***special permit segments*** due to population growth.

f) For Part 192 special permit request, will the Potential Impact Radius (PIR) of a rupture change under the special permit? Please calculate and provide the PIR data, if applicable. Will more people be affected by a failure if PHMSA granted the permit?

As compared to current operation, the PIR as calculated in accordance with 49 CFR 192.903 will not change under the special permit since maximum operating pressure and pipe diameter will not

change, thus there will be no additional impact on the public. The PIR for the ***special permit segment*** is calculated using the formula below.

$$PIR = 0.69 * (MAOP * NOMINAL\ DIAMETER^2)^{0.5}$$

The calculated PIRs for the ***special permit segments*** are provided in **Table 3** below.

Table 3 - Special Permit Segments

Special Permit Segment No.	Line	Outside Diameter (inches)	MAOP (psig)	PIR (ft)
189579	Mainline Loop C/S 18-19	26	974	560
202967	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	30	975	646
187434	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	30	975	646
187440	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	30	975	646
202974	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	30	975	646

g) Will operations under the special permit have an effect on pipeline longevity or reliability? Will there be any life cycle or maintenance issues?

Operation under the special permit will provide additional safety conditions and is expected to have a positive impact on pipeline longevity and reliability.

The pipeline integrity attributes (such as pipe diameter, wall thickness, grade, coating type (fusion bonded epoxy), pipe seam type, pressure test, maximum allowable operating pressure, and anomaly findings) for the ***special permit segments*** can be reviewed in the Federal Document Management System (FDMS) in the docket (PHMSA-2023-0020) at www.regulations.gov under the documents titled **"Attachment A - Pipeline Segment Integrity Information and Attachment B - Criteria Document**."

2) **Air Quality and Climate Change:**

a) Describe the air quality of the ***special permit segment(s)*** and ***special permit inspection area(s)***. Will either the Selected Action Alternative or "No Action" Alternative cause an increase or decrease in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or other air emissions in the vicinity of the ***special permit segment(s)*** or ***special permit inspection area(s)***?

Air Quality Control Regions (AQCRs) are areas for which implementation plans describe how ambient air quality standards would be achieved and maintained. AQCRs are defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Area (EPA) and state agencies in accordance with the Clean Air Act of 1970 (CAA). The 1977 CAA Amendments in Section 107 require EPA and states to identify by category those AQCRs meeting and not meeting the U.S. National Ambient Air Quality Standards

(NAAQS) which are standards for harmful pollutants. Areas meeting the NAAQS are designated "attainment areas," and areas not meeting the NAAQS are designated "nonattainment areas". The designation of an area is made on a pollutant-by-pollutant basis. All ***special permit segments*** occur in areas that are designated attainment areas for all pollutants.

b) Explain whether blowdown will occur as a result of either the "Selected" Alternative or the "No Action" Alternative. What steps will the applicant take to mitigate blowdown associated with the proposed special permit, such as reducing pressure prior to blowdown, methane capture, or flaring?

A benefit of the "Selected" Alternative is that it will avoid methane venting, construction, or ground disturbances in the pipeline ROW. The "No Action" Alternative where a special permit was not granted, pipe replacement and/or hydrotesting would be required, which would necessitate the use of heavy equipment during construction and blowing down the pipeline releasing natural gas, a known GHG. Pipeline operators can and should mitigate blowdowns through pressure reductions and capture and storage of natural gas during pipeline work. The special permit requires increased maintenance and repair activities, which will result in greenhouse gas emissions, but the extent of those emissions is likely less than the emissions that would result from a blowdown.

c) Explain whether construction activities or other activities causing emissions will occur as a result of either alternative?

This special permit will not affect the air quality of the ***special permit segments*** or the ***special permit inspection areas*** in a measurable way**.** The objective of the special permit is to avoid construction or ground disturbances in the pipeline ROW that will be necessitated if the special permit was not granted. However, there may be increased maintenance activity which could require the use of heavy equipment due to the increased IM requirements in the special permit conditions.

If the special permit request was not granted pipe replacement would be required, which would necessitate blowing down the pipeline releasing natural gas, a known greenhouse gas. Furthermore, pipe replacement and pressure testing would be required which would require the temporary use of heavy equipment, which would result in temporary construction emissions.

The scope and duration of any activities associated with the ***special permit segments*** will have an insignificant impact on climate change. The objective of the special permit is to avoid construction or ground disturbances in the pipeline ROW. If the special permit is not granted, pipe replacement

and/or hydrotesting would be required, which would necessitate the use of heavy equipment during construction and blowing down the pipeline releasing natural gas, a known greenhouse gas.

d) Explain whether materials, design, etc. in the special permit application could result in an increase or decrease in emissions in comparison to operation under the No Action Alternative. Cite any data relied upon. For example, non-steel pipelines have increased porosity allowing greater seepage emissions than steel pipelines.

During pipeline operations, there will be no increase or decrease in air emissions as compared to the No Action Alternative. All pipeline material will consist of steel.

3) **Noise:** The noise levels in the vicinity of the special permit segments and ***special permit segments*** and ***special permit inspection areas*** can be described as common noises associated with the residential soundscape, which are formed from a wide range of sources including noise associated with vehicular traffic, lawn mowing and farming equipment, and other community noise sources.

Noise levels will not change in the ***special permit segments*** or the ***special permit inspection areas*** as a result of the approval of this special permit request. Therefore, the scope and duration of any activities associated with the ***special permit segments*** will have little to no impact on noise levels in the vicinity of the pipeline. However, if the special permit request is not granted then pipe replacement and/or pressure testing would be required, which will result in more significant and longer duration though temporary increases in noise during construction of these activities.

There are no State or County noise ordinances applicable to the ***special permit inspection areas.***

4) **Environmental Justice:**

a) Please provide demographic information about the community immediately surrounding (i.e., half-mile vicinity) the relevant site(s).

As shown in **Table 5 - Demographic Information for Special Permit Segment (Using EPA EJScreen**), two (2) ***special permit segments*** (i.e., Segment Nos. 202967 and 189579) contain a higher proportion (> 50%) of individuals identified as minority (EPA, 2023a). None of the ***special permit segments*** are located in areas containing predominantly higher linguistically isolated or low-income populations.

In any event, the activities of the special permit are intended to maintain safety along all of the ***special permit segments***, reduce environmental impacts, and increase the level of the safety along

the ***special permit inspection areas*** and will not have a disparate impact on any minority, low income, or limited English proficiency populations.

Table 4 - Demographic Information for Special Permit Segments – Using EPA EJScreen

Special Permit Segment No.	County, State	Total Population (Along Special Permit Segment)	Minority*/ People of Color** Population	Low Income Population	Linguistically Isolated
187434	Osceola, Fl	253	29%	20%	1%
187440	Osceola, FL	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
202967	Osceola, FL	1,155	56%	37%	10%
202974	Osceola, FL	165	28%	12%	0%
189579	Orange, FL	149	59%	12%	2%

Source: EPA, 2023a. EJScreen : Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. Available online at: https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/.

Notes:

Minority*: The term minority is used in the currently active DOT Environmental Justice Order 5610.2(a), available at: https://www.transportation.gov/transportation-policy/environmental-justice/department-transportation-order-56102a

People of Color**: The term people of color is used in the EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and mapping tool (EJSCREEN). An overview of demographic indicators through EJSCREEN is available at: https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/overview-demographic-indicators-ejscreen

b) Explain how a pipeline failure along the ***special permit segment(s)*** could impact environmental resources and human health/safety. It is important that the public understand that PHMSA and the applicant are cognizant of these potential impacts in proposing and considering the special permit.

A pipeline failure may take the form of a leak or a rupture. The consequences of either a leak or rupture could lead to environmental damages, injuries, and deaths. Typically the consequences would be most serious in the event of a rupture. If a rupture occurs and the released gas ignites, the thermal radiation from the fire is a hazard to people outdoors, potentially causing serious injury or death depending on distance from the rupture. The thermal radiation may also result in spontaneous or piloted ignition of houses and other structures, or of nearby vegetation. An unignited release from a pipeline typically does not result in injury to people, although many ignition sources can exist during a rupture or leak, and natural gas is extremely flammable. Natural gas is not toxic but a simple asphyxiant. However, an unignited release will have environmental consequences because unburned natural gas is a much more potent GHG than carbon dioxide, which is released if ignition occurs.

c) Explain whether the special permit will increase risk or decrease risk of pipeline failure in comparison to the no action alternative. If there could arguably be an increase in risk,

transparently explain this and why the increased risk is acceptable. Also, explain how the special permit conditions mitigate any arguable increase in risk.

The special permit will require the pipeline in the ***special permit inspection areas*** to receive additional inspection and monitoring to provide more information about the condition of the pipe so that any integrity issues can be remediated to avoid risk. The "No Action" Alternative will require compliance with Federal regulation 49 CFR 192.611(a). This would require the replacement of the existing pipeline in the special permit segment with new pipe that meets the requirements of 49 CFR 192. However, the additional inspection and monitoring conditions associated with the special permit would not be applicable if the special permit were denied because those conditions are not mandated by the regulations. Accordingly, both alternatives are expected to lead to a similar safety result.

d) In economic terms, describe the population in the affected area. Will this project be situated in or disproportionately impact any predominantly low-income populations?

This special permit will not be situated in, or disproportionately impact, any predominantly low-income populations. The demographic information for the ***special permit segments*** using EPA EJScreen (2023) is shown in **Table 5**. The total population within a 0.5-mile radius of each of the ***special permit segments*** ranges from 0 to 1,155. The low-income population in the ***special permit segments*** ranges from 12 percent to 37 percent. The objective of the special permit is to avoid construction or ground disturbances in the pipeline ROW that will be necessitated if the special permit was not granted. As described in the special permit, FGT must apply alternative risk control measures to the ***special permit segments*** to provide an acceptable margin of safety and environmental protection to meet the requirements of 49 CFR 192.611 as outlined in the special permit conditions. Implementing enhanced inspection and assessment practices throughout the ***special permit inspection areas***, in lieu of replacing the small sections of pipe experiencing the class location changes, extends pipeline safety benefits to a much greater area, and thus will not have an adverse impact on the local population. In addition, avoiding pipe excavation, replacement, and pressure testing will minimize costs to the operator, will avoid delivery interruptions and supply shortages, and avert environmental disturbance. Thus, the increased safety measures associated with the special permit will benefit local populations.

5) **Aesthetics:** The visual character of the ***special permit segments*** and the ***special permit inspection areas*** will not be changed by the approval of this special permit request. The objective of the special

permit is to avoid construction or ground disturbances in the pipeline ROW that would be necessitated if the special permit was not granted. Therefore, the issuance of the requested special permit will not result in aesthetic impacts to the affected ***special permit segments*** or ***special permit inspection areas***. Denial of the special permit request would require the replacement or pressure testing of the pipeline segment associated with this special permit request. Pipe replacement would require removal of the existing pipe and installation of a new pipe. This would result in the use of heavy equipment and ground disturbance. Furthermore, pressure testing would also require disturbances along the pipeline ROW.

6) **Agricultural Resources:** As shown in **Table 5,** two ***special permit segments*** cross or are adjacent to agricultural land for a total of 2,519 feet (0.48 mile). The issuance of the special permit will reduce short term impact to agricultural resources in the ***special permit segments***. Increased monitoring and maintenance requirements imposed by the special permit conditions could increase these activities causing temporary and isolated impacts to the ***special permit inspection area*** throughout the duration of the special permit. The objective of the special permit is to avoid the higher impact construction activities associated with pipeline replacement in the ROW along the ***special permit segments***.

Table 5 - Special Permit Segments Within or Adjacent to Agriculture Land

CID No.	Pipeline Segment Name	County, State	Stationing		Segment Length (feet)	Length of Segment Crossing Agriculture Land (feet)
			Begin	End		
187434	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	Osceola, FL	807+18	855+87	4,869	787 (Crosses)
202974	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	Osceola, FL	1056+52	1101+03	4,451	1,732 (Adjacent)

7) **Biological Resources:** The ***special permit segments*** and ***special permit inspection areas*** are dominated by maintained herbaceous vegetation cover (grassland) or cultivated cropland (at agriculture crossings). This special permit will not impact vegetation (including wetlands), wildlife (including threatened and endangered species), or fishery resources in the pipeline ROW where the ***special permit segment*** or the ***special permit inspection area*** are located.

The low-growing herbaceous cover within the pipeline ROW may provide sources of food and nesting sites for various birds, as well as cover for mammals, invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians. The pipeline ROW within the ***special permit segments*** has been disturbed previously and is maintained in an herbaceous state by routine mowing and clearing activities using mechanical

equipment. Furthermore, land surrounding the special permit segments have been altered due to agricultural or residential/commercial development. Therefore, the wildlife found in the vicinity of the ***special permit segments*** will most likely be tolerant of human disturbance. A discussion of water resources (wetlands and waterbodies) crossed by the special permit segment is provided in the Water Resources Section below.

There are no known threatened, proposed threatened, or endangered species in the area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC) was utilized to identify the federally and state listed threatened and endangered species that could potentially inhabit or traverse the ***special permit segment*** (USFWS, 2023a). **Table 6** provides a list of the federally and state listed threatened and endangered species potentially occurring in the ***special permit segment*** area. A total of 19 listed species (3 mammals, 7 birds, 2 reptiles, 1 insect and 6 plant species) were identified as potentially occurring in the ***special permit segments***.

The special permit will avoid construction or ground disturbance in the pipeline ROW. Therefore, the special permit grant will not affect the wildlife habitat resulting in "*No effect*" to listed species. However, if the special permit request is not granted, then pipe replacement and/or pressure testing would be required, which would require FGT to disturb vegetation and wildlife habitat in order to comply with 49 CFR 192, which could potentially disturb potential listed species such as Eastern indigo snake in the ***special permit segments***.

Any inspection activities related to the ***special permit segments*** will be conducted within the boundaries of the previously disturbed pipeline ROW. FGT has received a categorical exclusion blanket clearance from the USFWS for minor pipeline construction and maintenance projects within FGT's existing ROW. The Florida USFWS Ecological Services Field Office has determined in its categorical exclusion blanket clearances that work within FGT's existing ROW is unlikely to adversely impact federally listed species and their habitats.

Table 6 - Federally and State Listed Threatened and Endangered Species Potentially Occurring within the Special Permit Segments

Species	Federal Status	State Status	County	Segment CID No.	Habitat Description	Determination of Effect / Rationale
Mammals						
Florida Bonneted Bat (*Eumops floridanus*)	E	E	Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974	Roosts in pine and palm trees year-round with peak activity in April.	**No effect** / No preferred suitable roosting habitat in the ***special permit segment***

Table 6 - Federally and State Listed Threatened and Endangered Species Potentially Occurring within the Special Permit Segments						
Species	**Federal Status**	**State Status**	**County**	**Segment CID No.**	**Habitat Description**	**Determination of Effect / Rationale**
						areas (maintained pipeline ROW/agriculture land).
Florida Panther Puma (=Felis) (*concolor coryi*)	E	E	Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974	Inhabits dense understory vegetated areas. Require large, contiguous areas of suitable habitat.	**No effect** / No preferred suitable habitat in the ***special permit segment*** areas (maintained pipeline ROW/ agriculture land).
Puma (=mountain Lion) (=Felis) (*concolor)* (all subsp. except *coryi*)	SAT	--	Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974	All subspecies range from Canada to South America.	**No effect** / No preferred suitable habitat in the ***special permit segment*** areas (maintained pipeline ROW/ agriculture land).
Birds						
Audubon's Crested Caracara (*Polyborus plancus audubonii*)	T	T	Orange	189579	Occurs in dry or wet prairie areas with scattered cabbage palms (Sabal palmetto). It may also be found in lightly wooded areas.	**No effect** / No suitable habitat is present in the ***special permit segment*** areas (maintained pipeline ROW/ agriculture land).
			Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974		
Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. Jamaicensis*)	T	T	Orange	189579	Typically found in salt and brackish marshes with dense cover.	**No effect** / No suitable habitat is present in the ***special permit segment*** areas (maintained pipeline ROW).
Everglade Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*)	E	E	Orange	189579	Habitat includes salt and brackish marshes with dense cover.	**No effect** / No suitable habitat is present in the ***special permit segment*** areas (maintained pipeline ROW/ agriculture land).
			Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974		
Florida Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammoddramus savannarum floridanus*)	E	E	Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974	Requires large areas of frequently burned dry prairie habitat, with patchy open areas sufficient for foraging.	**No effect** / No suitable habitat is present in the ***special permit segment*** areas (maintained pipeline ROW/ agriculture land).
Florida Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)	T	T	Orange	189579	Optimal habitat includes sand pine scrub, xeric oak scrub, scrubby flatwoods, and scrubby coastal strand habitats.	**No effect** / No suitable habitat is present in the ***special permit segment*** areas (maintained pipeline ROW/ agriculture land).
			Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974		
Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*)	E	E	Orange	189579	Mature 80-120-year-old longleaf or loblolly pine forest.	**No effect** / No mature 80 to 120-year-old longleaf or loblolly pine forest present in the ***special permit segmen***t areas (maintained pipeline ROW/agriculture land).
			Osceola	187434 187440 202967		

Table 6 - Federally and State Listed Threatened and Endangered Species Potentially Occurring within the Special Permit Segments						
Species	**Federal Status**	**State Status**	**County**	**Segment CID No.**	**Habitat Description**	**Determination of Effect / Rationale**
				202974		
Wood Stork (*Mycteria Americana*)	T	T	Orange	189579	Inhabits emergent wetland, mixed hardwood swamps, sloughs, mangroves, and cypress domes. Nesting trees range from low shrubs to cypress.	**No effect** / No preferred suitable nesting habitat present in the ***special permit segment*** areas (maintained pipeline ROW/agriculture land).
			Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974		
Reptiles						
American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*)	SAT	SAT	Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974	Inhabits large wetlands including freshwater marshes, salt marsh and brackish waters as well as lakes and streams.	**No effect** / No preferred suitable habitat in the ***special permit segment*** areas (maintained pipeline ROW/ agriculture land).
Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon couperi*)	T	T	Orange	189579	Species prefers xeric longleaf pine sandhills with gopher tortoise burrows and requires very large tracts of land. Commensal species with gopher tortoise burrows. FGT will adhere to USFWS Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake if excavations are required in an area containing burrows.	**No effect** / Although suitable habitat is present within the pipeline ROW (i.e., gopher tortoise burrows), the special permit will allow FGT to avoid construction in the pipeline ROW avoiding impacts to this species.
			Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974		
Insects						
Monarch Butterfly *(Danaus plexippus*)	C	-	Orange	189579	Found in open fields and meadows with milkweed.	**No effect** / Preferred suitable habitat is not present in the ***special permit segments*** (maintained pipeline ROW/agriculture land).
			Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974		
Flowering Plants						
Beautiful Pawpaw (*Deeringothamnus pulchellus*)	E	E	Orange	189579	Resides in pine flatwoods consisting of low shrubs and poorly drained soils.	**No effect /** Preferred suitable habitat is not present in special permit segment areas (maintained pipeline ROW/agriculture land).
Lewton's Polygala (*Polygala lewtonii*)	E	E	Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974	Oak scrub, sandhill, and transition zones between high pine and turkey oak barrens.	**No effect /** Preferred suitable habitat is not present in special permit segment areas (maintained pipeline ROW/agriculture land).

Table 6 - Federally and State Listed Threatened and Endangered Species Potentially Occurring within the Special Permit Segments						
Species	**Federal Status**	**State Status**	**County**	**Segment CID No.**	**Habitat Description**	**Determination of Effect / Rationale**
Papery Whitlow-wort (*Paronychia chartacea*)	T	T	Orange	189579	Inhabits sand scrub of ancient dunes, in pure, white sand clearings and on the sandy shores of sinkhole lakes. Within these scrub communities, also inhabits disturbed, sandy habitats such as road rights-of-way and recently cleared high pine.	**No effect** / Although suitable habitat is present within the pipeline ROW, the special permit will allow FGT to avoid construction in the pipeline ROW avoiding impacts to this species.
			Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974		
Pigeon Wings (*Clitoria fragrans*)	T	T	Orange	189579	Inhabits undisturbed areas in Florida scrub habitat, often in the transition between scrub and sandhill areas.	**No effect /** Preferred suitable habitat is not present in special permit segment areas (maintained pipeline ROW/agriculture land).
			Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974		
Pygmy Fringe-tree (*Chionanthus pygmaeus*)	E	E	Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974	Inhabits scrub, sandhill, and xeric hammock, primarily on the Lake Wales Ridge. May form thickets with evergreen scrub oaks and shrubs.	**No effect /** Preferred suitable habitat is not present in special permit segment areas (maintained pipeline ROW/agriculture land).
Sandlace (*Polygonella myriophylla*)	E	E	Orange	189579	Inhabits within scrub habitats in areas of bare white or yellow sand created by moderate disturbance.	**No effect** / Although suitable habitat is present within the pipeline ROW, the special permit will allow FGT to avoid construction in the pipeline ROW avoiding impacts to this species.
			Osceola	187434 187440 202967 202974		
Source: USFWS, 2023a. Notes: E - Endangered T - Threatened C - Candidate Species PT – Proposed Threatened SAT - Treated as threatened due to similarity of appearance to a species which is federally listed such that enforcement personnel have difficulty in attempting to differentiate between the listed and unlisted species.						

8) **<u>Cultural Resources</u>:** There are no cultural, archaeological, or paleontological resources that will be impacted by this special permit request. The special permit will avoid construction in the ROW. Any inspection activities associated with the ***special permit segments*** and ***special permit inspection areas*** will be conducted within the boundaries of FGT's existing aboveground facilities (i.e., compressor stations and/or regulator stations) and maintained pipeline ROW. The Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with its categorical exclusion for work within existing ROW and stated that "no known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking."

9) **<u>Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources</u>:**

Geology and Soils

The general characteristics of the ***special permit segments*** consist of relatively flat terrain and gently sloping highlands, with few natural geologic exposures. The ***special permit segments*** are in the Atlantic Plain physiographic region of the U.S. Most of the ***special permit segments*** located in peninsular Florida will traverse the Gulf Coastal Lowlands.

Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs) are geographically associated land resource units, usually encompassing several thousand acres, characterized by a particular pattern of soils, geology, climate, water resources, and land uses. The ***special permit segments/inspection areas*** cross the Southern Florida Flatwoods MLRA (USDA NRCS, 2023). Within the Southern Florida Flatwoods MLRA, the soils are deep or very deep, poorly drained, or very poorly drained, and loamy or sandy (USDA NRCS, 2022).

The special permit will avoid construction or ground disturbances in the pipeline ROW that would be necessitated if the special permit was not granted. Therefore, the issuance of the requested special permit will not result in soils impacts to the affected ***special permit segment*** or ***special permit inspection area***. Furthermore, no changes to geologic conditions will occur.

Denial of the special permit request would require the replacement and/or pressure testing of the pipeline segment associated with this special permit request. Pipe replacement would require vegetation clearing, removal of the existing pipe, and installation of a new pipe. The removal of the vegetative cover and ground disturbance exposes soils to the effects of wind and water which increases the potential for soil erosion and the transport of sediment to sensitive resource areas. Furthermore, pressure testing would also expose the soil to water which increases the potential for soil erosion and transport of sediment to sensitive areas along the pipeline ROW.

Mineral Resources

Florida's mineral commodities include limestone, sand, gravel, clay, heavy minerals, phosphate, and peat. The ***special permit segments*** are located along FGT's existing pipeline system and do not cross any areas mined for mineral resources.

Seismic Hazards

Seismic hazards include earthquakes, surface faulting, and soil liquefaction. The U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS's) National Earthquake Hazard Program has developed a series of maps that depict the estimated probability for seismic hazards. The Program's National Seismic Hazard Maps are

derived from seismic hazard curves calculated on a grid of sites across the U.S. that describe the annual frequency of exceeding a set of ground motions. Based on the latest long-term model, 2018, the ***special permit inspection area*** is characterized as falling into the category of the lowest hazard potential (USGS, 2019a). The USGS has also produced a 2018 one-year (short-term) probabilistic seismic hazard forecast for the central and eastern U.S. from induced and natural earthquakes. Again, the ***special permit inspection area*** falls within the category of lowest potential with a less than 1-percent chance of potentially minor-damage ground shaking in 2018 (USGS, 2019b). The low seismic risk in the ***special segment inspection area*** is also a limiting factor for liquefaction to occur. As a result, the likelihood of soil liquefaction to occur in the ***special permit inspection area*** is low.

Subsidence

Ground subsidence is the local downward movement of surface material with little or no horizontal movement. Karst is a landscape formed by the dissolution of soluble bedrock that is conducive to land subsidence that exists in many areas in Florida. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Map Direct database includes a public mapping spatial data library with locational information on known subsidence incidents. Review of FDEP's subsidence database indicates no karst features are located within 500 feet of the ***special permit segments*** (FDEP, 2023).

10) **Indian Trust Assets:** Any work associated with the ***special permit segments*** will have no impact on Native Americans or any land owned or otherwise administered by Native American tribes. The scope and duration of the special permit will have little to no effect or impact on the socioeconomics in the vicinity of the project area. No tribal land exists along the ***special permit segments*** thus tribal coordination is not required.

11) **Land Use:** Land use within the ***special permit segment*** consists of maintained pipeline ROW. Land use adjacent to the ROW in the vicinity of the ***special permit segments*** includes road ROW, open space, wetland and waterbodies, agriculture, residential, and commercial/industrial land. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) maintains an inventory of the state's conservation land holdings (FNAI, 2023). None of the ***special permit segments*** cross conservation land holdings.

    The special permit will avoid or minimize construction or ground disturbances in the pipeline ROW that would be necessitated if the special permit was not granted. Therefore, this special

permit request will not impact land use or planning. Further, FGT will avoid disturbing the adjacent property owners to the pipeline ROW.

Any inspection activities associated with the ***special permit segments*** and ***special permit inspection areas*** will be conducted within the boundaries of FGT's existing aboveground facilities (i.e., compressor station and regulator stations) and maintained pipeline ROW. Therefore, this request will not require permitting above and beyond what is required for normal pipeline operation and maintenance activities. However, if the special permit request is not granted, then pipe replacement and pressure testing would be required, which would disturb land uses adjacent to the ***special permit segments***.

There are no land use plans implemented by a local government near the ***special permit segments***. Implementation of the special permit will not require permitting above and beyond what is required for normal pipeline operation and maintenance activities.

12) **Recreation:** The ***special permit segments*** are not located in or adjacent to designated state, county or local park, recreation area, state forest campground, or wildlife management areas. The scope and duration of any activities associated with the ***special permit segments*** and ***special permit inspection areas*** will have little to no impact on recreation in the vicinity of the pipeline. Denial of the special permit would result in greater impacts to any recreational activities within the ***special permit segments.***

13) **Topography:** The topography of the area surrounding the requested ***special permit segments*** is flat, open terrain. The average elevation in the area is approximately 75 feet above sea level (Topographic-Maps.com, 2023).

The topography of the ***special permit segments*** and the ***special permit inspection areas*** will not be changed by the approval of this special permit request. The objective of the special permit is to avoid construction or ground disturbances in the pipeline ROW that would be necessitated if the special permit was not granted.

Denial of the special permit request would require the replacement and pressure testing of the pipeline segment associated with This special permit request. Pipe replacement would require removal of the existing pipe and installation of a new pipe. Effects from construction could include disturbance of the natural topography along the pipeline ROW due to trenching and grading activities. Furthermore, pressure testing would also require disturbances along the pipeline ROW.

However, following construction, all areas would be restored as close as practicable to their preconstruction contours.

14) **Transportation:** If the ***special permit segments*** need to be accessed in order to perform required tasked under the special permit, existing ROW access points will be used. The special permit will not increase traffic or require additional roads to be constructed or more frequently maintained. The special permit will avoid construction or ground disturbances in the pipeline ROW that would be necessitated if the special permit was not granted. Temporary increases in traffic could occur in the area if PHMSA denied the special permit application and FGT was required to replace the pipeline segment that underwent class location change.

15) **Water Resources:**

Wetlands and Waterbodies

According to USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) mapping data, two (2) ***special permit segments*** cross wetlands (USFWS, 2023b). Palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM) are located within the existing maintained pipeline ROW. Palustrine forested (PFO) wetlands are located adjacent to the existing pipeline ROW. No waterbodies are crossed by the ***special permit segments***. **Table 7** lists the wetlands crossed by the ***special permit segments***.

The objective of the special permit is to avoid or minimize construction or ground disturbance in the pipeline ROW. Therefore, wetlands and waterbodies along the ***special permit segments*** and ***special permit inspection area***s will undergo less disturbance by granting the special permit. Some disturbance could occur to more rigorous maintenance and repair activities. However, if the special permit request was not granted then pipe replacement and pressure testing would be required, which would disturb wetlands and waterbodies to a greater extent along the ***special permit segments*** during construction. Furthermore, pressure testing would potentially require withdrawal of hydrostatic test water from surface water sources which could temporarily affect the biological use of the waterbody if the diversion were to constitute a large percentage of the source's total flow or volume. Potential impacts resulting from the discharge of hydrostatic test waters to upland areas would generally be limited to erosion of soils.

TABLE 7 - Wetlands Crossed by the Special Permit Segments

Special Permit Segment Number	Line Name	County, State	Wetland	Approximate Crossing Length (feet)
187440	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	Osceola, FL	PEM/PFO	285

TABLE 7 - Wetlands Crossed by the Special Permit Segments				
Special Permit Segment Number	**Line Name**	**County, State**	**Wetland**	**Approximate Crossing Length (feet)**
187434	30-inch MLV 18-1 to C/S 19	Osceola, FL	PEM/PFO	1,138

Source: USFWS, 2023b

Notes:
PEM – Palustrine Emergent Wetland (i.e., within pipeline ROW)
PFO – Palustrine Forested Wetland (i.e., outside of pipeline ROW)

Drinking Water Aquifers

The ***special permit segments*** traverse three (3) major aquifer systems including the surficial aquifer system, the intermediate aquifer system, and the Floridan aquifer system. The deeper Floridan aquifer system is the primary source of drinking water for central Florida.

Wellhead protection areas have been established by the FDEP to protect drinking water supplies. FGT searched FDEP Map Direct to identify Protected Source Waters. No state-designated well-head protection areas are crossed by the ***special permit segments*** (FDEP, 2023).

The EPA defines a sole source aquifer as where the aquifer supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water for its service area; and there are no reasonably available alternative drinking water sources should the aquifer become contaminated. There are no EPA sole source aquifers located within the vicinity of the ***special permit segments*** (EPA, 2023b).

Temporary and targeted excavations may occur to comply with increased maintenance and repair activities that could have minor and temporary impacts to the superficial aquifer system. However, if the special permit request was not granted then pipe replacement and pressure testing would be required, which could temporarily disturb the surficial aquifer system to a much greater extent during construction than maintenance activities required under the special permit.

X. Consultation and Coordination

The following FGT employees were consulted in the preparation of this document:

FGT

- Eric Amundsen, Senior Vice President (VP) Operations
- Chris Lason, VP of Asset Integrity
- Dave Shellhouse, VP of Operations
- Mike Teal, Director of Technical Operations

- Kenneth McNeese, Senior Manager, Engineering and Construction
- Eric Hildebrand, Senior Engineer, Pipeline Integrity
- Eric Williams, Staff Engineer, Engineering and Construction
- Kristin Benbow, Environmental Scientist

PHMSA

- Amelia Samaras – Attorney, PHMSA, US DOT
- Steve Nanney – Senior Technical Advisor, PHMSA, US DOT

It is not anticipated that the special permit will impact any landowners or entities within or adjacent to the ***special permit inspection areas*** and/or ***special permit segments***. FGT has not engaged in any stakeholder or public communication regarding this request.

XI. Request for Public Comments Placed on Docket PHMSA-2023-0020

PHMSA published the special permit request in the Federal Register (88 FR 24464) for a 30-day public comment period from April 20, 2023, through May 22, 2023. PHMSA sought comments on any potential environmental impacts that could result from the selection of either alternative, including the special permit conditions.

PHMSA received one (1) public comment for Docket PHMSA-2023-0020. The **Anonymous Comment** recommended the special permit to not be issued to protect the environment and speed up the transition to renewable energy.

- PHMSA has conducted a review of the special permit request and has determined that implementation of the special permit conditions will not harm the environment. The request to speed up the transition to renewable energy is beyond the scope of this notice.

The special permit application from FGT, special permit conditions, special permit analysis and findings, FEA and FONSI, **Attachment A - Pipeline Segment Integrity Information**, **Attachment B - Criteria Document**, and FGT's application letter can be found on the FDMS located on the internet for Docket No. PHMSA-2023-0020 at www.regulations.gov.

The special permit conditions, ***special permit segments***, and ***special permit inspection areas*** for PHMSA-2023-0020 are merged into special permit PHMSA-2020-0001. These ***special permit segments*** are in the same pipeline ***special permit inspection areas***, which makes it more efficient to keep up with the integrity assessments in the same special permit.

XII. Finding of No Significant Impact

In consideration of this FEA, including the special permit conditions explained above, and the SPAF, PHMSA finds that no significant negative impact to human health, safety, or the human environment will result from the issuance and full implementation of the above-described special permit to waive the requirements of 49 CFR 192.611(a) for ***special permit segments***, approximately 1.861 miles (9,824 feet) of 26-inch and 30-inch diameter pipelines located in Orange and Osceola counties, Florida. This permit will require FGT to implement additional conditions on the operations, maintenance, and integrity management of the ***special permit segments*** and ***special permit inspection areas***.

XIII. Bibliography

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USFWS. 2023b. National Wetlands Inventory Data. Available at: https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Data-Download.html. Accessed February 2023.

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The special permit conditions, ***special permit segments***, and ***special permit inspection areas*** for PHMSA-2023-0020 are merged into special permit PHMSA-2020-0001. These ***five (5) new special permit segments*** are in the same pipeline ***special permit inspection areas*** that are in Docket PHMSA-2020-0001, which makes it more efficient to keep up with the integrity assessments in the same special permit.

The special permit application from FGT, special permit conditions[4], special permit analysis and findings, FEA and FONSI, **Attachment A - Pipeline Segment Integrity Information**, **Attachment B - Criteria Document**, and FGT's application letter can be found on the FDMS located on the internet for Docket No. PHMSA-2023-0020 at www.regulations.gov.

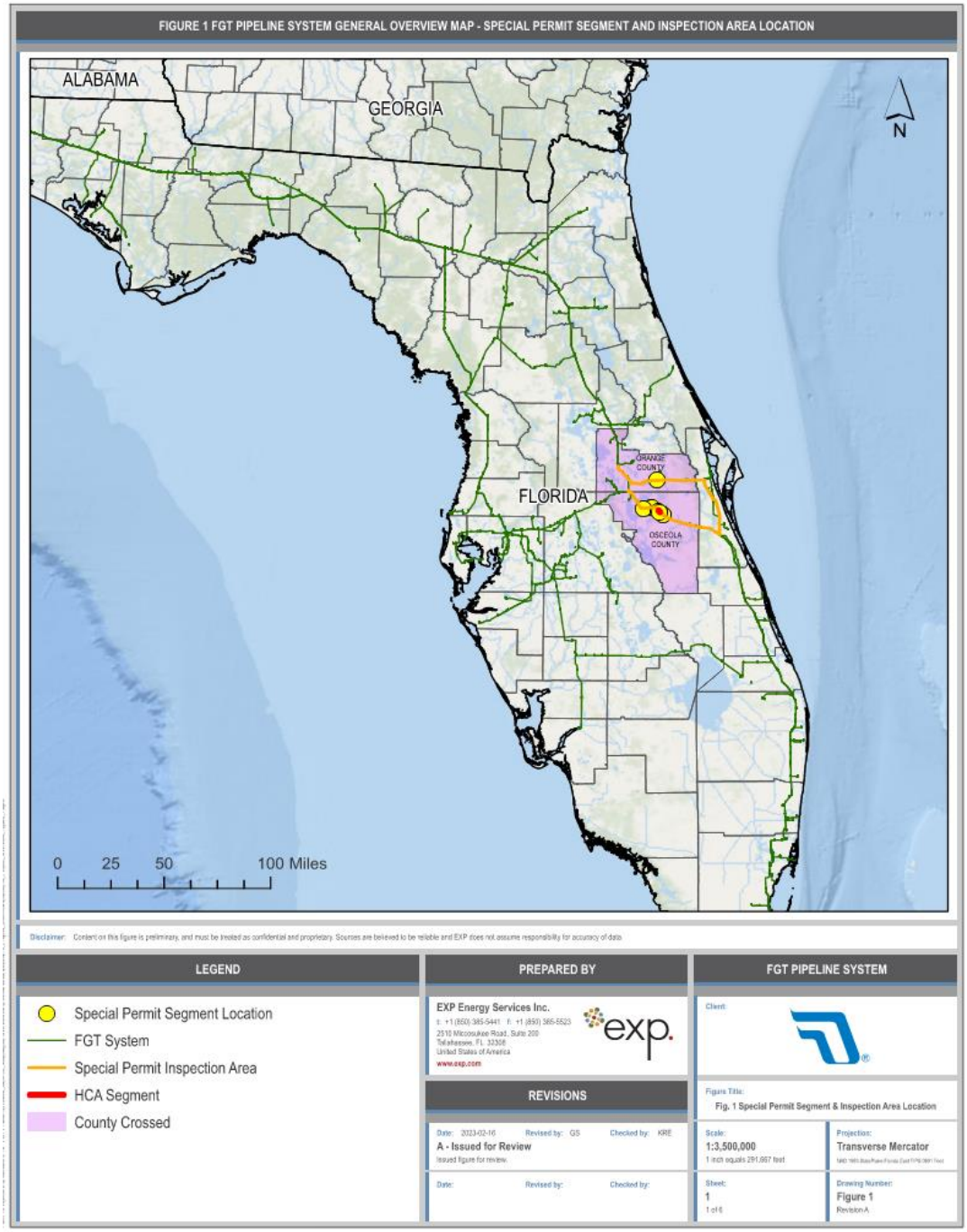
The special permit can be found on the PHMSA website for special permits issued at https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/special-permits-state-waivers/special-permits-issued.

Completed by PHMSA in Washington, DC on: August 22, 2023

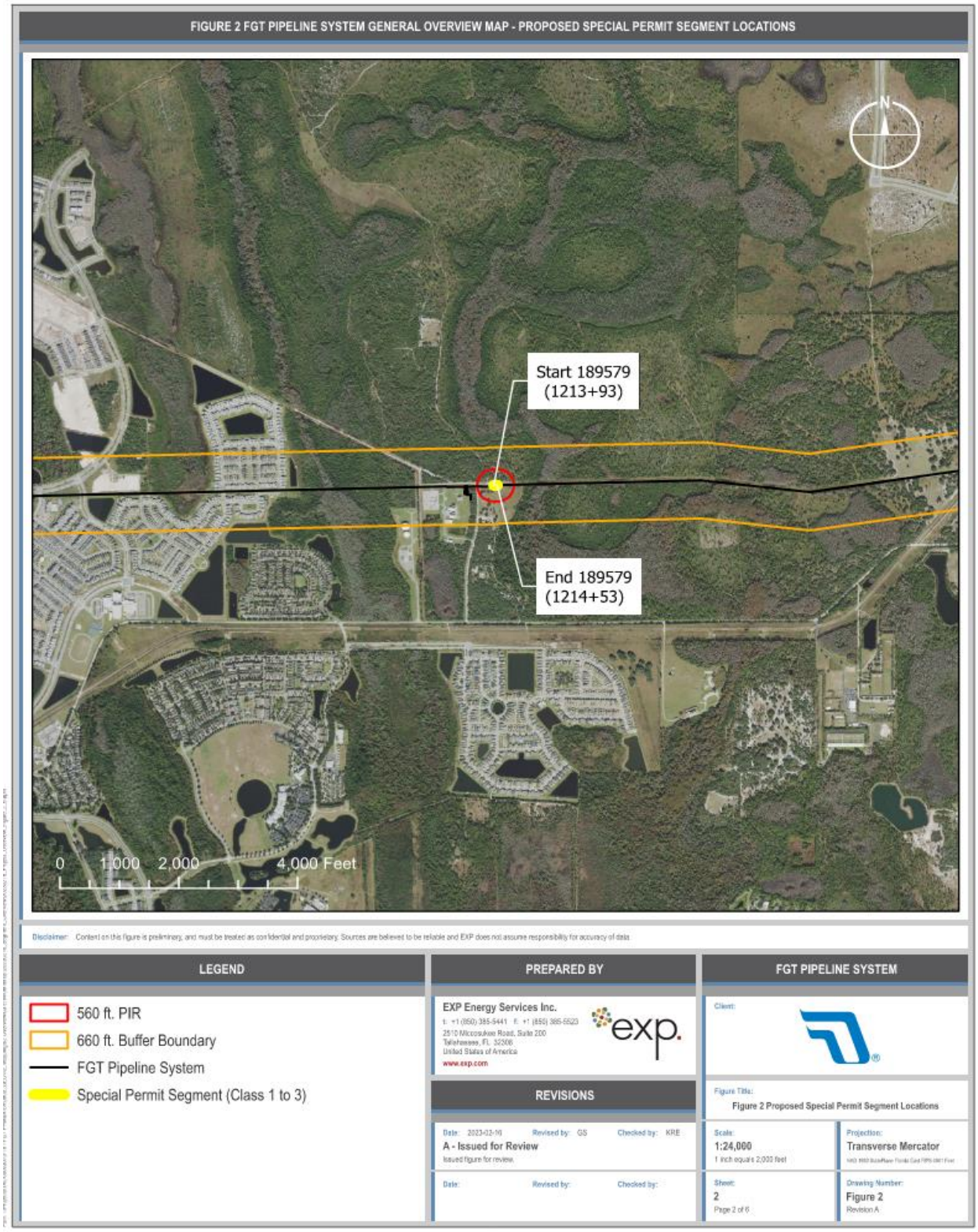
[4] The special permit conditions, ***special permit segments***, and ***special permit inspection areas*** for PHMSA-2023-0020 are merged into special permit PHMSA-2020-0001. These special permits were for the same pipeline ***special permit inspection areas***.

Attachment A-1 – FGT Route Overview Map

Special Permit Segments and Inspection Area



Attachment B-1 – FGT Route Aerial Maps - Special Permit Segments



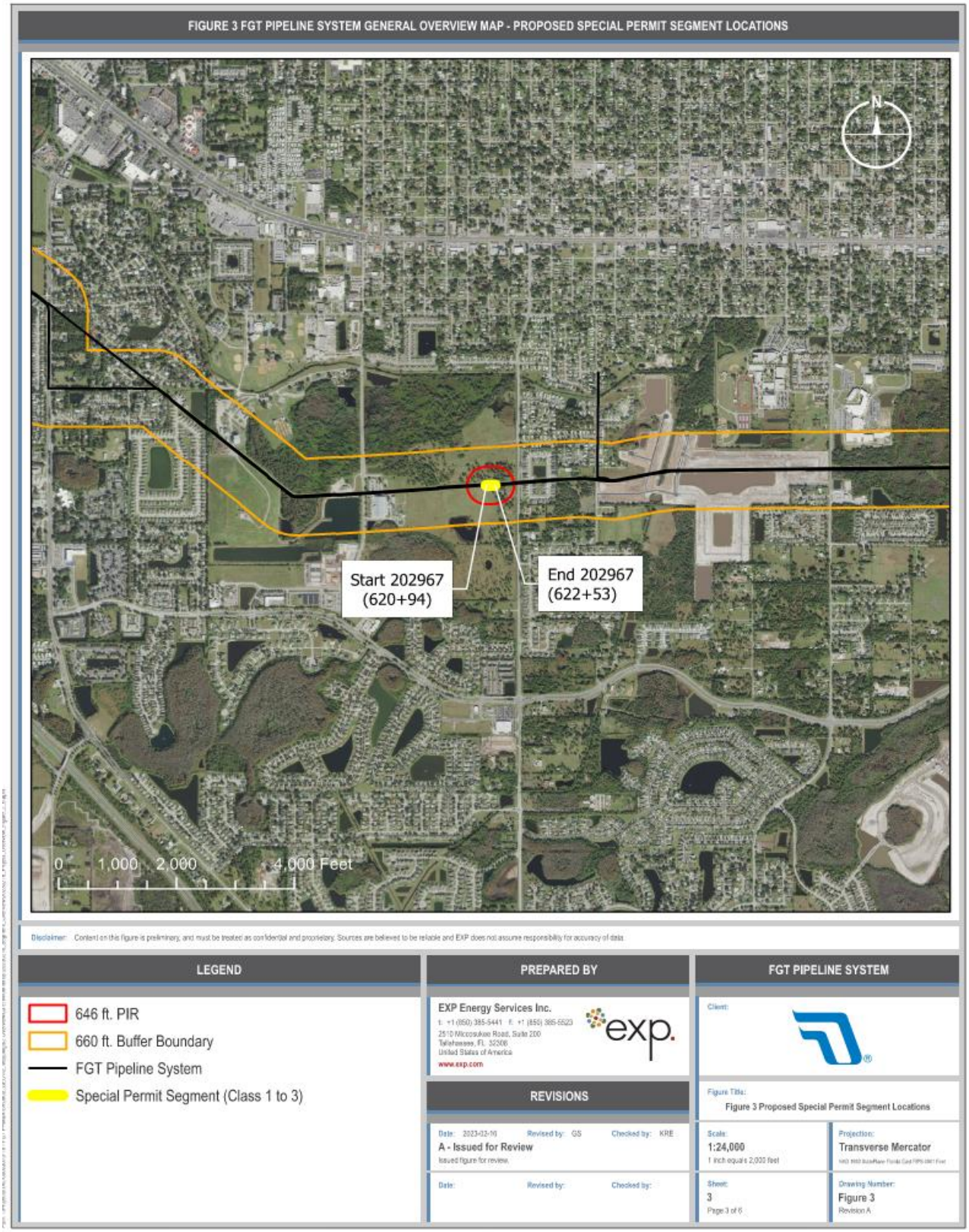
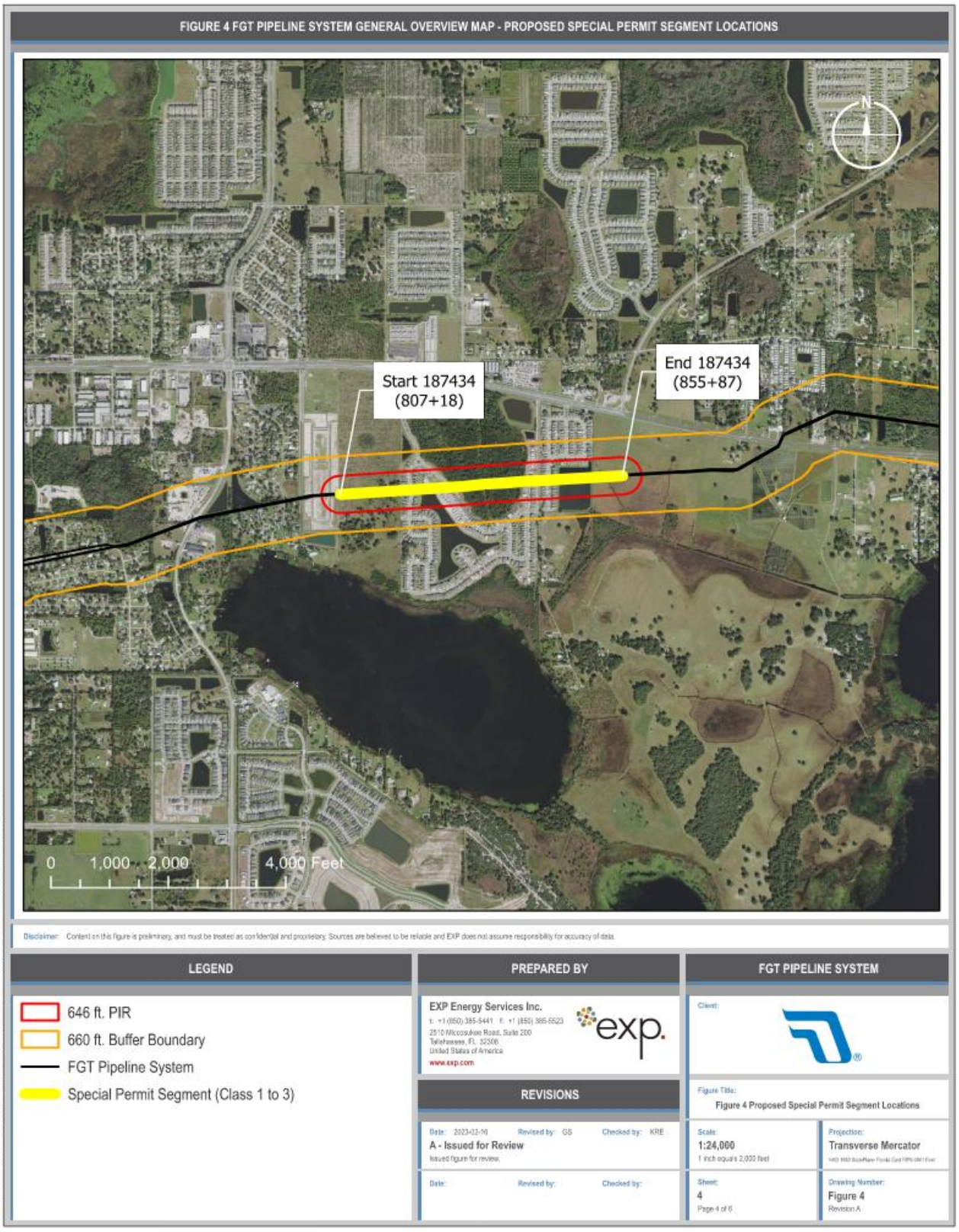
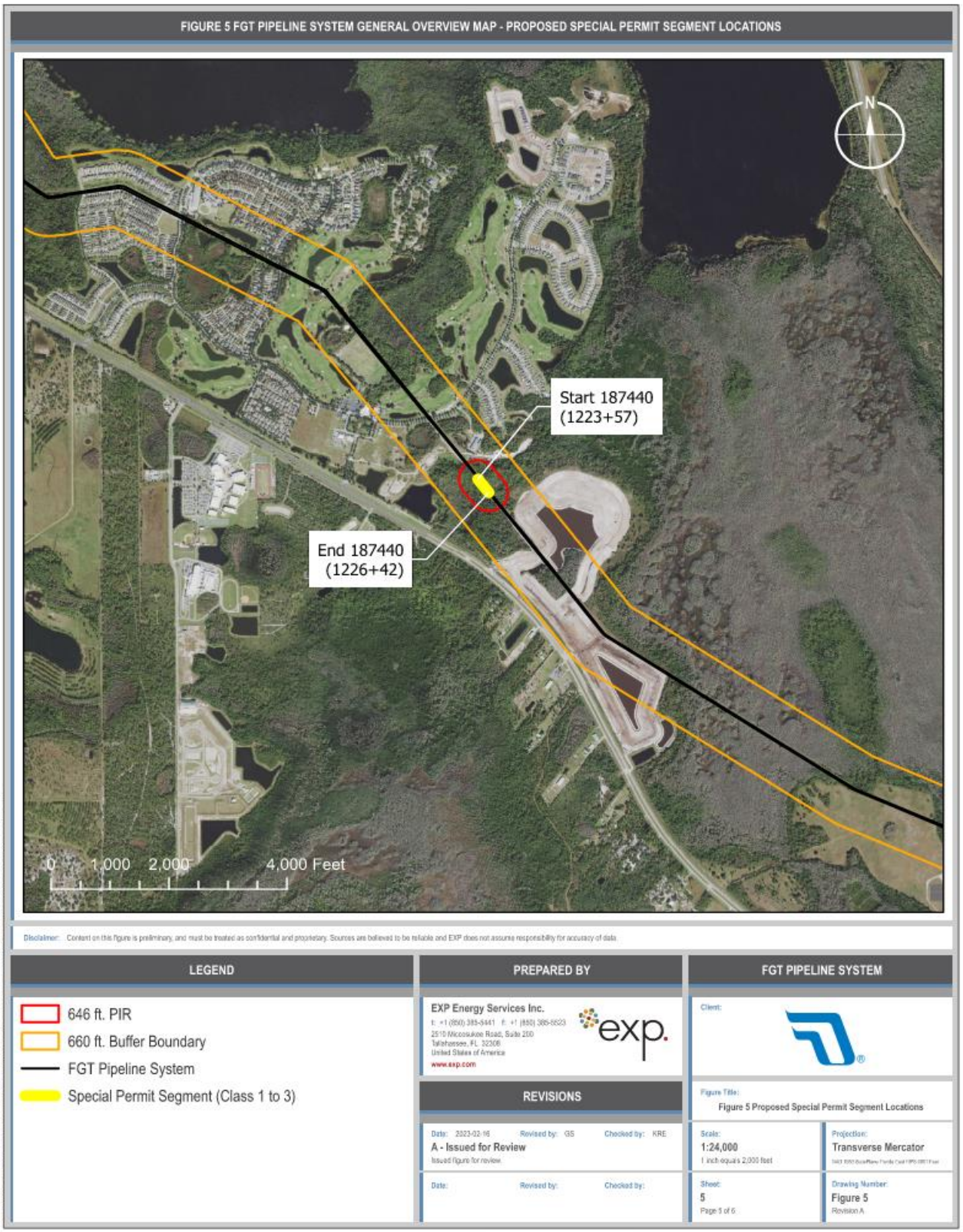


FIGURE 3 FGT PIPELINE SYSTEM GENERAL OVERVIEW MAP - PROPOSED SPECIAL PERMIT SEGMENT LOCATIONS
N
Start 202967
(620+94)
End 202967
(622+53)
0
1,000
2,000
4,000 Feet
Disclaimer: Content on this figure is preliminary, and must be treated as confidential and proprietary. Sources are believed to be reliable and EXP does not assume responsibility for accuracy of data.
LEGEND
646 ft. PIR
660 ft. Buffer Boundary
FGT Pipeline System
Special Permit Segment (Class 1 to 3)
PREPARED BY
EXP Energy Services Inc.
2510 Mitcosukee Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
United States of America
www.exp.com
REVISIONS
Date: 2023-02-10 Revised by: GS Checked by: KRE
A - Issued for Review
Issued figure for review.
Date: Revised by: Checked by:
FGT PIPELINE SYSTEM
Client:
Figure Title:
Figure 3 Proposed Special Permit Segment Locations
Scale:
1:24,000
1 inch equals 2,000 feet
Projection:
Transverse Mercator
Sheet:
3
Page 3 of 6
Drawing Number:
Figure 3
Revision A

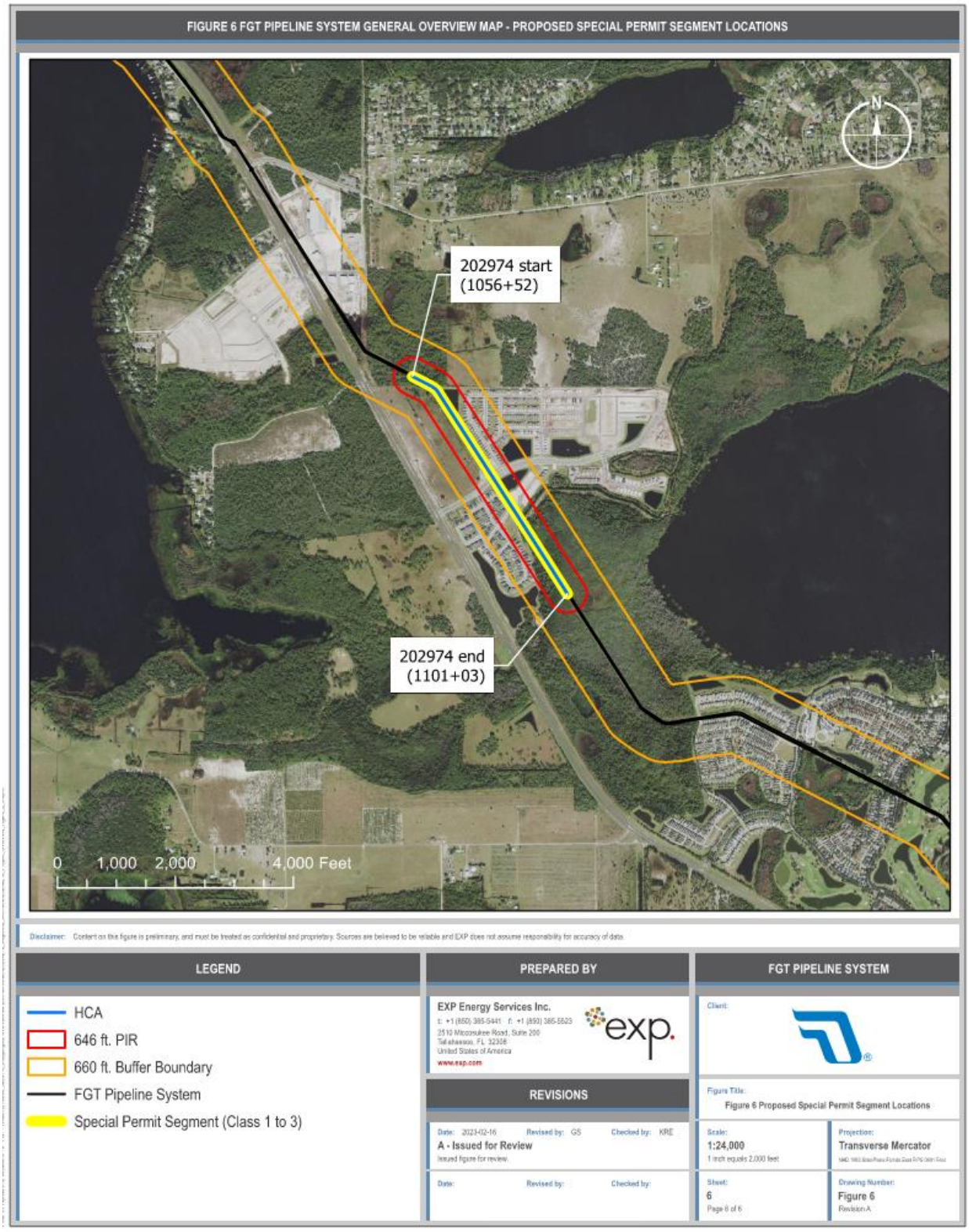
Attachment B-3 – FGT Route Aerial Maps - Special Permit Segments



Attachment B-4 – FGT Route Aerial Maps - Special Permit Segments



Attachment B-5 – FGT Route Aerial Maps - Special Permit Segments



<u>Last Page of the FEA and FONSI</u>