

## Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program Gas Board of the City of Fultondale, AL Tier 2 Site Specific Environmental Assessment NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-16

PHMSA Approval:

PHMSA Office of Planning and Analytics Environmental Policy and Justice Division Matt Fuller <u>Matt.Fuller@dot.gov</u>

> Gas Board of the City of Fultondale Don Cochran gasmeter@bellsouth.net

#### **Overview:**

The purpose of this Tier 2 Site Specific Environmental Assessment (Tier 2) is to (1) document the proposed action (the Project) and the need for the action (2) identify existing conditions; (3) assess the social, economic, and environmental effects using appropriate tools and agency coordination to comply with local, state, and federal environmental laws, regulations, and ordinances; to (4) document applicable mitigation commitments that would avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential effects; and (5) seek comments from the public. This Tier 2 analysis informs PHMSA's assessment as to whether the Project is consistent with the impacts described in the Tier 1 Nationwide Environmental Assessment for the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program.<sup>1</sup>

As part of this Tier 2, PHMSA is soliciting public comments through a public comment period. This Tier 2 is available on PHMSA's website where comments can be submitted to the contact noted below. PHMSA will accept public comments for 30 days on this Tier 2. PHMSA will consider comments received and incorporate them in the decision-making process. Consultation with appropriate agencies on related processes, regulations, and permits is ongoing. Please submit all comments to: PHMSABILGrantNEPAComments@dot.gov and reference NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-16 in your response.

At the conclusion of the EA process, PHMSA will either issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact," further supplement this EA with additional analysis, mitigation measures or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

#### I. <u>Project Description/Proposed Action</u>

Project Title	Gas Board of the City of Fultondale
Project Location	Birmingham, Alabama

#### **Project Description/Proposed Action:**

The project consists of the replacement of cast iron piping in the Gas Board of the City of Fultondale gas system specifically in the Lewisburg community within the city limits of Birmingham Alabama. The proposed action includes the replacement of a total of 2.38 miles of cast iron mains and all bare steel service lines that were installed in the 1960s. All meter components such as riser, meter stop, regulator, meter bars, meters, and applicable fittings would also be replaced. See Appendix A, Project Maps.

The vulnerable pipeline to be replaced is located within Alabama Department of Transportation, Jefferson County Roads and Transportation Department and City of Birmingham existing right- of- ways (ROW). The existing ROW encompasses various roads, signage, sidewalks, and grassy areas throughout the city of Birmingham.

The existing pipelines being replaced are between two to four inches in diameter and would be replaced with equivalent diameter polyethylene (PE) plastic pipes. At most locations, the new gas lines would be located next to the existing gas lines. The intended location of the replacement pipe would be offset of the existing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/11/09/2022-24378/pipeline-safety-notice-of-availability-of-the-tier-1-nationwide-environmentalassessment-for-the

pipe approximately 3-5 feet depending upon field conditions, existing utilities and ROW width. The replacement gas lines would be installed at a depth of 36 inches below grade. The following construction methods would be used: directional boring; cut and cover (trenching); replacement adjacent to existing pipe; and abandonment of an existing pipe for a new location. The Tier 1 EA described that the majority of site-specific projects would utilize the insertion method of pipe replacement. As described in this document, Fultondale would utilize an open trench method, which generally involves greater soil disturbance and use of heavy equipment and related impacts than the insertion method. No new right-of-way or easement is needed to replace and/or repair the 12,585 linear feet of pipe.

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would abandon the legacy pipe in place after utility services have been moved to the new pipeline. Abandonment of the existing pipeline (versus excavation and removal) would minimize ground disturbance and facilitate the replacement process in a more efficient manner. PHMSA has specific requirements for gas and hazardous liquid pipeline abandonment, found in 49 CRF 192.727 and 195.402(c)(10). These requirements include disconnecting pipelines from all sources and supplies of gas, purging all combustibles and sealing the facilities left in place. By complying with PHMSA requirements for purging and sealing abandoned pipelines, the Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would ensure that the abandoned pipelines pose no risk to safety in their abandoned state.

#### No Action:

The No Action alternative, as required under NEPA, serves as a baseline, and is used to compare impacts resulting from the Proposed Action. Under the No Action alternative, PHMSA would not fund this pipeline replacement project. Additionally, PHMSA would not be able to reduce the inventory of methane leaks and reduce safety risks by replacing pipe prone to leakage. Under this alternative, the Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would continue to use legacy cast iron, bare steel, and other leak prone pipeline material, and conduct repairs or replacements in the future using non-federal sources of funding, and potentially on an emergency basis, when a pipeline fails. Impacts and benefits associated with replacing the leak prone pipeline within the Lewisburg community with updated material would not be undertaken or would be undertaken at a later, uncertain date. The safety risks and methane leaks would persist. Impacts and benefits associated with replacement of leak would not be seen and the safety risks and methane leaks would continue, along with the associated existing economic losses.

#### Need for the Project:

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale has estimated that the total 2.38 miles (12,585 LF) of cast iron pipelines identified for replacement for this project are vulnerable to leaks. (See Appendix A) The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would replace the high-risk natural gas mains with Polyethylene piping. The overall needs addressed by this project would include (1) improving upon the safe delivery of energy by reducing incidents, as well as methane leaks; (2) avoiding economic losses caused by pipeline failures; and (3) protecting our environment and reducing climate impacts by remediating aged and failing pipelines and pipe prone to leakage.

#### Description of the Environmental Setting of the Project Area:

The affected community includes the community of Lewisburg, a community within the city of Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. The existing land use of the project is mostly residential with some light commercial. The affected community is an environmental justice community.

#### II. <u>Resource Review</u>

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases (GHG)		
Question	Information and Justification	
Is the project located in an area designated by the EPA	Yes, based on a review of the EPA Greenbook. <sup>2</sup>	
as non-attainment or maintenance status for one or		
more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards		
(NAAQS)?		
Will the construction activities produce emissions that	No	
exceed de minimis thresholds (tons per year)?		
Will mitigation measures be used to capture	No	
blowdown <sup>3</sup> ?		
Does the system have the capability to reduce pressure	No.	
on the segments to be replaced? If yes, what is the		
lowest psi your system can reach prior to venting?		
Will project proponent commit to reducing pressure on	The existing system operates at 30 PSI. Based on the	
your line to this psi prior to venting? Please calculate	size of the existing pipe, it is estimated that 1.06	
venting emissions based on this commitment and also	thousand cubic feet (MCF) of methane would be	
provide comparison figure of venting emissions volume	vented during construction.	
without pressure reduction/drawdown based on the		
calculation provided in Appendix B.		
Using Table 1 in Appendix 6, estimate the current leak	The existing leak rate is estimated to be 10,942	
rate per mile based on the type of pipeline material.	kg/year. Replacement would result in a leak rate of	
Based on mileage of replacement and new pipeline	approximately 69 kg/year or a reduction of	
material, estimate the total reduction of methane.	approximately 217,465 over a 20-year timeframe. <sup>4</sup>	
Conclusion:		

The project area is located within the City of Birmingham in Jefferson County, Alabama. Based on EPA's Green Book, the project area is a maintenance area for PM 2.5 (2006 standard) and lead (1978; designated to maintenance in 1995). Additionally, it is also noted that EPA's Green Book identifies Jefferson County as a maintenance area for the following national ambient air quality standards that were revoked:

1-hr ozone (1979 NAAQS revoked) 8-hr ozone (1997 NAAQS revoked) PM 2.5 Annual (1997 NAAQS revoked)

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing and planned pipeline activities, including construction and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://www.epa.gov/green-book/green-book-national-area-and-county-level-multi-pollutant-information</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Blowdown refers to the venting of natural gas in current facilities, in order to begin rehabilitation, repair, or replacement activities. https://www.epa.gov/green-book

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Leak rates are based on Pre-1990 Installation emission factors found in *Table 1 Average methane emission factors for natural gas pipelines (adopted from EPA GHG Inventory, Annex 3.6, Table 3.62)* in the November 9, 2022, PHMSA: Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program Programmatic Environmental Assessment, Tier 1 Nationwide Environmental Analysis.

maintenance activities, would continue unchanged. The project proponent would continue to use legacy leak prone cast iron pipe material. The total methane emissions for the pipelines within the project area were extrapolated over 20 years to represent the continuation of methane release under the No Action alternative. Under the No Action alternative, PHMSA estimates that 10,942 kg of methane would be released each year from the existing pipelines within the project area. This amounts to 218,836 kg of methane over a 20-year time frame. See Appendix B, Methane Calculations, for estimated methane leak rate calculations.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The Proposed Action alternative consists of replacing 2.38 miles which would result in minor air quality impacts associated with construction activities, including the intentional venting of methane contained in the existing pipelines prior to replacement. Pipeline blowdowns are typically necessary to ensure that construction and maintenance work can be conducted safely on depressurized natural gas facilities and pipelines. Venting methane is required when service is switched from the existing line to the newly constructed line, but the volume of vented gas can depend on ability to reduce pressure on the pipe segment or other mitigation actions. Therefore, some methane would be vented into the atmosphere during construction. Based on an operating pressure of 30 PSI and an average inside pipe diameter of 2-4 inches, PHMSA estimates 1.06 MCF of methane (or 32 kg) would be vented into the atmosphere during construction. See Appendix B for the methane blowdown calculations.

As described in the Tier 1 EA, methane leaks from natural gas distribution pipelines increase with age and are considerably higher for cast iron and steel pipelines, as compared with plastic. Replacing leak prone pipe with newer, more durable materials would reduce leaks and methane emissions. Based on the current leak rate of the existing pipe within the project area, this project would reduce overall emissions by 10,837 kg in the first year (when considering the methane that would be released from blowdown that would occur during construction) and would reduce 10,873 kg of methane per year thereafter. This amounts to a total reduction of approximately 217,465 kg of methane emissions over a 20-year timeframe, post construction. See Appendix B for the methane reduction calculations. Therefore, it is PHMSA's assessment that the proposed project would provide a net benefit to air quality and from the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and that no indirect or cumulative impacts would result from the Proposed Action.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale shall implement the following mitigation measures:

- Efficient use of on-road and non-road vehicles, by minimizing speeds and vehicles;
- Minimizing excavation to the greatest extent practical;
- Use of cleaner, newer, non-road equipment as practicable;
- Minimizing all vehicle idling and at minimum, conforming with local idling regulations;
- Ensuring that all vehicles and equipment are in proper operating condition;
- On-road and non-road engines must meet EPA exhaust emission standards (40 CFR Parts 85, 86, and 89);
- Covering open-bodied trucks while transporting materials;
- Watering, or use of other approved dust suppressants, at construction sites and on unpaved roadways, as necessary;
- Minimizing the area of soil disturbance to those necessary for construction;
- Minimizing construction site traffic by the use of offsite parking and shuttle buses, as necessary.

Water Resources	
Question	Information and Justification
Are there water resources within the project area, such as wetlands, streams, rivers, or floodplains? If so, would the project temporarily or permanently impact wetlands or waterways?	No, according to USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette maps and National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey.
Under the Clean Water Act, is a Section 401 State certification potentially required? If yes, describe anticipated permit and how project proponent will ensure permit compliance.	Νο
Under the Clean Water Act, is a USACE Section 404 Permit required for the discharge of dredge and fill material? If yes, describe anticipated permit and how project proponent will ensure permit compliance.	Νο
Under the Clean Water Act, is an EPA or State Section 402 permit required for the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the United States? Is a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) required?	Yes, construction activities are anticipated to exceed soil disturbance thresholds and a 402 permit may be required prior to construction.
Will work activities take place within a FEMA designated floodplain? If so, describe any permanent or temporary impacts and the required coordination efforts with state or local floodplain regulatory agencies.	Νο
Will the proposed project activities potentially occur within a coastal zone or affect any coastal use or natural resource of the coastal zone, requiring a Consistency Determination and Certification?	Νο

PHMSA reviewed NWI maps to assist in identifying aquatic features including wetlands, streams, and other water resources in or near the project area. Based on a review of the NWI, water resource maps, and information provided by the Gas Board of the City of Fultondale, there are no wetlands or waters of the United States in the project area of this project.

PHMSA also reviewed FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer to identify any Special Flood Hazard Areas potentially impacted by the project. The FIRMette map indicates the project includes areas designated as Zone X. Areas designated as Zone X are outside of any designated special flood hazard areas. See Appendix C, Water Resources.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, the existing pipeline would remain in the current location and normal maintenance activities would continue.

#### Proposed Action:

PHMSA has not identified any water resources within the project area where the planned replacement of natural gas pipeline would occur. The new pipeline placement and abandonment of the existing pipeline is not anticipated to cause any reasonably foreseeable indirect effects or cumulative effects to water resources as none have been identified in the area. Therefore, it is PHMSA's assessment that there would be no adverse impacts to water resources.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale shall utilize best management practices to control sediment and erosion during construction to prevent any migration of soils into adjacent waterways.

Groundwater and Hazardous Materials/Waste		
Question	Information and Justification	
Does the project have potential to encounter and impact	No	
groundwater? If yes, describe potential impacts from		
construction activities.		
Will the project require boring or directional drilling that	Yes, vacuum trucks, wattles, hay bales will be used to	
may require pits containing mud and inadvertent return	prevent loss of drilling fluids.	
fluids? If yes, describe measures that will be taken during		
construction activities to prevent impacts to		
groundwater resources.		
Will the project potentially involve a site(s)	No	
contaminated by hazardous waste? Is there any		
indication that the pipeline was ever used to convey		
coal gas? If yes, PHMSA will work with the project		
proponent for required studies.		
Does the project have the potential to encounter or	No	
disturb lead pipes or asbestos?		
Conducion		

### Conclusion:

PHMSA reviewed EPA's NEPAssist website to identify any brownfields properties, hazardous waste sites, and superfund sites. No sites were identified within the project area. (See Appendix D, Hazardous Materials)

PHMSA obtained a custom soil report for the project area from the USDA, NRCS's web soil survey which indicates that the project area is comprised of soils classified as loamy residuum weathered from shale and siltstone (Montevallo-Nauvoo Map Unit), and Clayey residuum weathered from shale (Townley Map Unit). The majority of these soils are well-drained soils where the depth to the water table is found somewhere at or greater than 80 inches.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, the cast iron pipes would remain in their current location and ongoing and

routine maintenance activities would occur. Pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances. While there are no adverse impacts to groundwater anticipated by the No Action alternative, increased methane emissions are likely to occur if cast iron pipes remain (EPA, PRO Fact Sheet No. 402[1]) and risks of failure is higher among this type of pipe. Therefore, under the No Action Alternative, PHMSA anticipates an increased risk for the release of methane resulting from leaks or pipeline failure, which could then result in ground disturbances from construction activities, potentially impacting ground water.

#### **Proposed Action:**

Under the proposed action the Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would replace a total of 2.38 miles of existing cast iron pipeline within the existing City of Birmingham and Jefferson County ROW. The existing gas line would be abandoned, in accordance with PHMSA requirements, and would be purged of natural gas and sealed on each end. The new gas lines would be installed at a depth of 32 inches below grade and would be installed by either directional drilling or cut and cover (trenching). All excavated trench materials would be stored on site and used to back fill, unless otherwise deemed unsuitable. In these cases, unsuitable soils would be hauled offsite, and the trench would be backfilled with clean soils. All disturbed areas would be re-seeded or paved (as appropriate) and restored to preexisting conditions. Should groundwater be intercepted by construction activities, dewatering may be required during construction. In these cases, groundwater would be kept to just below the work area so that the proposed work to be completed would not be compromised.

With the inclusion of mitigative measures to assist in the prevention of potential impacts, PHMSA's assessment is that there would be no adverse impacts to groundwater associated with the project. Trenching and/or directional drilling work is not likely to intercept groundwater but if this occurs, the Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would use appropriate dewatering methods. Additionally, there are no hazardous waste or brownfield, or superfund sites identified in the area where work would occur that could be potentially impacted by the Proposed Action alternative. While there are identified sites that contain, store or dispose of hazardous materials, these are not within the construction areas as work is limited to existing ROW and no RCRA sites would be impacted by the proposed project. PHMSA has not identified any indirect or cumulative effects to groundwater or hazardous materials.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

In the event of a release of hazardous materials/waste into the environment during construction, the Gas Board of the City of Fultondale shall notify the appropriate emergency response agencies, potentially impacted residents, and regulatory agencies of the release or exposure.

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale shall utilize a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan which will identify appropriate construction and restoration activities to minimize the potential impacts to groundwater. All impacted areas would be restored to pre-construction conditions.

Soils	
Will all bare soils be stabilized using methods using	Yes, the contractor would utilize erosion and sediment
methods identified in the initial Tier 2 EA worksheet?	control while trenching/ open cutting. If the bottom of
Will additional measures be required?	the excavation is found to be unsuitable or unstable
	the material shall be removed at least 6 inches below
	the trench bottom and backfilled using suitable

	materials for stabilizations. All backfill and grading must ensure adequate drainage and prevent formation of depressions where water may collect.
Will the project require unique impacts related to soils?	No

PHMSA obtained a custom soil report for the project area from the USDA, NRCS's web soil survey which indicates that the project area is comprised of loamy residuum weathered from shale and siltstone (Montevallo-Nauvoo Map Unit), and Clayey residuum weathered from shale (Townley Map Unit). The majority of these soils are well-drained soils where the depth to the water table is found somewhere greater than 80 inches. It is noted that the project area is an urban residential area where ground disturbance activities have already occurred and there are very few areas, if any, that remain in a natural state. Therefore, while the soils report provides valuable information, the soils have been disturbed and likely contain some degree of fill material brought in as a suitable base for construction.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, the cast iron and steel pipes would remain in their current location and soils would remain in their current state and condition. Normal maintenance activities would occur, and pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances. Some soil disturbance would occur during emergency repairs and the affected areas would be restored upon completion. Under either scenario, no adverse impacts to soils would be anticipated under the No Action alternative.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would replace 2.38 miles (12,585 LF) of cast iron pipelines within the existing ROW. The new gas lines would be installed at a depth of 36 inches below grade and would be installed by either directional drilling or cut and cover (trenching). All disturbed areas would be re-seeded or paved (as appropriate) and restored to pre-existing conditions. Therefore, PHMSA's assessment is that there would be no adverse impact to soils resulting from the Proposed Action alternative. Additionally, there are no indirect or cumulative impacts anticipated as the Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would restore all areas to preconstruction conditions.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale shall utilize best management practices, as appropriate, to control sediment and erosion during construction which may include silt fencing, check dams, and promptly covering all bare areas. All impacted areas shall be restored to pre-construction conditions.

Biological Resources		
Question	Information and Justification	
Based on review of IPaC and NOAA Fisheries database,	Yes, based on review of the USFWS's Information for	
are there any federally threatened or endangered	Planning and Consultation (IPaC) and NOAA Fisheries	
	website. <sup>[1]</sup> Additionally, Alabama state resources were	
	inventoried to identify potential state listed species.	

species and/or critical habitat within the project area? <sup>5</sup> If no, no further analysis is required.	
Will the project impact any areas in or adjacent to habitat for Federally, listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat? If no, provide justification and avoidance measures. If yes, PHMSA will work with the project proponent to conduct necessary consultation with resource agencies.	No

PHMSA requested an official species list through the USFWS's IPaC website. See Appendix F, Biological Resources for the list of federally threatened, endangered, proposed endangered and candidate species. No critical habitat occurs within the project area.

Additionally, the list of Alabama state protected species was reviewed. A list of state protected species can be found in Appendix F, Biological Resources.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing conditions would remain, and normal maintenance activities would occur. The project area is in an urbanized environment and therefore has very limited biological resources present. Maintenance activities would not have any effect on the species identified above.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The project area is in a mixed rural environment where the areas of disturbance would be mainly within existing transportation corridors, along roadsides. Because these areas are within ROW that has been previously impacted (pipeline laid in the ground in close proximity to the location where new pipes would be laid and subsequently paved), the immediate project area has very limited biological resources present and does not contain suitable habitat for either federal or state listed species. Therefore, PHMSA's assessment is that the project would have no adverse impacts to state listed species or other biological resources and that there are no indirect or cumulative impacts anticipated as no impacts to habitat or species would occur.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale is responsible for abiding by all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

Cultural Resources	
Question	Information and Justification

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species-directory/threatened-endangered</u>

https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/

https://www.auburn.edu/cosam/natural history museum/alnhp/data/index.htm

Does the project include any ground disturbing	Yes, the project includes ground disturbing activities.
activities, modifications to buildings or structures, or	No modifications to building or structures or new
construction or installation of any new aboveground	aboveground components are required.
components?	
Is the project located within a previously identified	No
local, state, or National Register historic district or	
adjacent to any locally or nationally recognized historic	
properties? This information can be gathered from the	
local government and/or State Historic Preservation	
Office. <sup>6</sup>	
Does the project or any part of the project take place	No
on tribal lands or land where a tribal cultural interest	
may exist? <sup>7</sup>	
Are there any nearby properties or resources that	No
either appear to be or are documented to have been	
constructed more than 45 years ago? <sup>8</sup> Does there	
appear to be a group of properties of similar age,	
design, or method of construction? Any designed	
landscapes such as a park or cemetery? Please provide	
photographs to show the context of the project area	
and adjacent properties.	
Has the entire area and depth of construction for the	Yes, the project includes work within the existing
project been previously disturbed by the original	disturbed ROW.
installation or other activities? If so, provide any	
documentation of prior ground disturbances.	
Will project implementation require removal or	No
disturbance of any stone or brick sidewalk, roadway, or	
landscape materials or other old or unique features?	
Please provide photos of the project area that include	
the roadway and sidewalk materials in the project and	
staging areas.	

PHMSA must consider the impact of projects for which they provide funding on historic and archeological properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this project to encompass the existing ROW, which includes the limits of disturbance, staging areas, and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to any potential vibration effects. See Appendix G, Cultural Resources, for a map of the APE.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing conditions would remain, and normal maintenance activities would occur. These activities could result in ground disturbance that might affect historic resources. However, no federal

funding would be applied and therefore Section 106 would not be required.

#### **Proposed Action:**

PHMSA identified properties based on available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and data received from the Alabama Historical Commission. PHMSA also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP. This research revealed no NRHP-listed or eligible properties within the APE or within a half-mile.

A letter was sent on December 29, 2023, to the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and all consulting parties outlining the Section 106 process, including a description of the undertaking, delineation and justification of the APE, identification of historic properties and an evaluation and proposed finding of effects. Based on this consultation, PHMSA proposed a finding that the Proposed Action would not adversely affect historic properties. See Appendix G, Cultural Resources, for the consultation letter.

PHMSA also invited the following federally recognized tribes to participate in consultation by separate letter on December 29, 2023:

- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The Gas Board for the City of Fultondale shall notify PHMSA immediately of any changes to the scope of work that may change the impacts to historic properties or the areas that may be impacted, including location of work, depth of construction, or change in construction methods.

If, during project implementation, and features or human remains are discovered or effects to historic properties occur that were not anticipated during the Section 106 process, PHMSA must be immediately notified and all construction in the area of the discovery must halt until further direction is provided.

Section 4(f)	
Question	Information and Justification
Are there Section 4(f) properties within or immediately	No
adjacent to the project area? If yes, provide a list of	
properties or as an attachment.	
Will any construction activities occur within the property	No
boundaries of a Section 4(f) property? If so, please detail	
these activities and indicate if these are temporary or	
permanent uses of the Section 4(f) property. Further	
coordination with PHMSA is required for all projects that	
might impact a Section 4(f) property.	
Conclusion:	

Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Act of 1966 as amended (Section 4(f)) (49 U.S.C. § 303(c)); is a federal law that applies to transportation projects that require funding or other approvals by the USDOT. Section 4(f) prohibits the Secretary of Transportation from approving any program or project which requires the use of any publicly owned land from a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge of national, state, or local significance, or any land from an historic site of national, state, or local significance unless:

- There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the land;
- The program or project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to such park, recreational area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or historic site, resulting from such use.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no change to existing pipeline infrastructure pursuant to federal funding provided by the Program. Therefore, there would be no use of Section 4(f) property under the No Action alternative.

#### **Proposed Action:**

Under the Proposed Action alternative, construction activities would not occur within or adjacent to 4(f) properties. Therefore, there would be no use of Section 4(f) resources.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

There are no 4(f) resources identified in the project area and therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

Land Use and Transportation		
Question	Information and Justification	
Will the full extent of the project boundaries remain	Yes	
within the existing right-of-way or easements? If no,		
please describe any right-of-way acquisitions or		
additional easements needed.		
Will the project result in detours, transportation	Yes, temporary traffic impacts may consist of traffic	
restrictions, or other impacts to normal traffic flow or	congestion and minor disruptions to street parking.	
to existing transportation facilities during construction?	The project would not result in a permanent change to	
Will there be any permanent change to existing	existing transportation facilities.	
transportation facilities? If so, what are the changes,		
and how would changes affect the public?		
Will the project interrupt or impede emergency	No	
response services from fire, police, ambulance or any		
other emergency or safety response providers? If so,		
describe any coordination that will occur with		
emergency response providers?		

The project is located in the City of Birmingham, specifically in the Lewisburg Community, both urbanized areas consisting of rural and residential areas.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, the cast iron and steel pipes would remain in their current location and no changes to land use would occur. Normal maintenance activities would occur, and pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale is proposing to replace pipeline infrastructure within the existing ROW and would not include adding pipeline to serve new areas. During construction, there may be short-term impacts to adjacent residences, businesses and normal traffic patterns. Potential impacts include an increase in noise, dust, and transportation accessibility, as a result of construction and construction staging. Local and state regulations guide the transport of machinery, equipment, and automobiles around the construction areas. Temporary traffic impacts may occur on the local road network and adjacent pedestrian routes. The project may result in detours. Consideration of emergency response vehicles, travel restrictions, and other impacts to local transportation are anticipated to be temporary and would only last for the duration of construction. Minor disruptions to on street parking may occur, but access to existing residences and businesses is not anticipated. The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would coordinate with the appropriate local and state agencies regarding interruptions to traffic and detours and appropriate protocol would be used where traffic would be temporarily diverted to one-lane. Normal traffic flow would be maintained to the extent possible and traffic control measures would be utilized to assist traffic negotiating through construction areas, as needed. Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would notify emergency services of the scheduled work and traffic implications of the work that would be conducted and would use various methods of communication to notify any potentially impacted residents, business owners, and the general public. Therefore, because the work consists of the replacement of existing pipeline, would not convert any new areas into a different use and impacts would only occur during construction, PHMSA's assessment is that there would be no impact to land use.

PHMSA considered the cumulative effects of this action with ongoing and planned transportation related construction projects that could cumulatively impact land use and transportation. Gas Board of the City of Fultondale has various maintenance, drainage improvement, and other projects on going within or near the project area. All municipalities and businesses must abide by the same requirements and coordinate with state and local agencies on any disruptions to normal traffic patterns. Through this coordination, the overall cumulative effects of multiple projects occurring would be minimized by planning and scheduling efforts with responsible agency oversight. Land use changes are not anticipated as the projects are occurring in an urbanized area that is built out and therefore would not change the existing residential or commercial use.

#### Mitigation Measures:

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale shall maintain traffic flows to the extent possible and use traffic control measures to assist traffic negotiating through construction areas, as needed.

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale shall coordinate with state and local agencies regarding detours and/or routing adjustments during construction and will notify any potentially impacted residents and/or business owners.

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale shall have a traffic control plan in place, prior to construction, and coordinate with the appropriate agency well in advance of any impacted emergency services or essential agency functions.

Noise and Vibration		
Question	Information and Justification	
Will the project construction occur for longer than a	No	
month at a single project location?		
Will the project location be in proximity (less than 50-	Yes, the project would adhere to state and local noise	
ft.) to noise sensitive receivers (residences, schools,	regulations, limit construction activities to normal	
houses of worship, etc.)? If so, what measures will be	weekday business hours, and make sure equipment	
taken to reduce noise and vibration impacts to	mufflers have proper maintenance.	
sensitive receptors?		
Will the project require high-noise and vibration	Yes, directional drills and trenching equipment.	
inducing construction methods? If so, please specify.		
Will the project comply with state and local	Yes, the Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would	
ordinances? If so, identify applicable ordinances and	comply with the City of Birmingham noise ordinance in	
limitations on noise/vibration times or sound levels.	the project area which limits noise between 10 pm and	
	7 am except for an exemption for emergency repairs or	
	maintenance.	
Will construction activities require large bulldozers, hoe	No	
ram, or other vibratory equipment within 20 feet of a		
structure?		

#### Conclusion:

The project is located in the City of Birmingham, specifically in the Lewisburg Community. The ambient noise in the project area consists of a combination of environmental noise from road traffic, construction, industry, the built environment, population density and other sources. There are several sensitive noise receptors (residences, schools, etc.) located adjacent to the streets where work would occur.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action, the project would not move forward and the pipelines along the designated streets in the project area would not be replaced at this time, and likely would not be replaced all at once. It is likely that these pipelines would need to be repaired or replaced due to leaks or deteriorating conditions in the future. If replacement or repairs occur under emergency conditions, noise from construction equipment would add to that of the current ambient noise and would be of a shorter duration.

#### **Proposed Action:**

Excavators, dump trucks, skid steers, rollers, pavers, and other similar construction equipment would be used to

excavate a trench, lay pipe, compact soils and re-pave the affected areas. Pipeline may be installed in some areas via directional bore methods where drill rigs, excavators, reamers, and similar equipment would be used to install pipeline by horizontal directional drilling. Sensitive noise receptors are likely to experience temporary noise impacts while outdoors in the vicinity of the work; however, PHMSA's assessment is that the noise impacts would be minor and temporary and no adverse vibration impacts would result from the proposed work.

PHMSA considered the cumulative effects of this action with ongoing and planned transportation related construction projects that could cumulatively have an impact on the noise and vibration impacts within the City of Birmingham, specifically in the Lewisburg Community. Rural areas often have paving, drainage improvement, and other construction or maintenance projects on going which could occur within or near the project area which would contribute to increased noise. These construction and maintenance projects could occur at the same time as the Proposed Action alternative and would contribute to an increase in cumulative noise effects during construction. However, adhering to state and local noise ordinances would ensure the project does not cause cumulatively more than minor adverse noise or vibration impacts.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale will comply with the City of Birmingham noise ordinance.

Environmental Justice		
Question	Information and Justification	
Using the EPA EJScreen or census data <sup>9</sup> , is the project located in an area of minority and/or low-income individuals as defined by USDOT Order 5610.2(c)? If so, provide demographic data for minority and/or low- income individuals within ½ mile from the project area as a percentage of the total population.	Based on review of socioeconomic data using the EPAs EJScreen, the population residing within the general project area for City of Birmingham, specifically in the Lewisburg Community contains 65% low income and 68% minority populations.	
Will the project displace existing residents or workers from their homes and communities? If so, what is the expected duration?	No	
Will the project require service disruptions to homes and communities? If so, what is the expected communication and outreach plan to the residents and the duration of the outages?	No, minor service disruptions lasting less than one hour may be required to connect businesses and residences to the new pipeline. All affected parties would be notified of the temporary outage in advance by gas department personnel and service restored as quickly as possible.	
Are there populations with Limited English Proficiency located in the project area? If so, what measures will be taken to provide communications in other languages?	No	

#### Conclusion:

Executive Order (E.O.) 14096—"Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All" was enacted on April 21, 2023. E.O. 14096 on environmental justice does not rescind E.O. 12898 – "Federal Actions"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>https://ejscreen.epa.gov/

to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," which has been in effect since February 11, 1994 and is currently implemented through DOT Order 5610.2C. This implementation would continue until further guidance is provided regarding the implementation of the new E.O. 14096 on environmental justice.

PHMSA reviewed socioeconomic data using the EPAs EJScreen and found the population residing within the project area City of Birmingham, specifically in the Lewisburg Community contains 65% low income and 68% minority populations. The percentage of these populations is above the Jefferson County average of 33% low income and 51% minority populations. See Appendix 7, Environmental Justice, for socioeconomic data.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing and planned pipeline activities, including construction and maintenance activities, would continue unchanged. The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale would continue to use leak prone pipe material that could lead to safety incidents and service disruptions. Additionally, if a pipeline segment is not repaired or replaced prior to failure, it is likely to be associated with even more emissions under the No Action alternative. Thus, emissions benefits to the community associated with repairing or replacing existing pipelines with updated material would not be achieved and the incident risks and leaks would remain. There may be some degree of air pollution associated with construction activities for maintenance and repairs of existing pipelines under the No Action alternative, either through planned repair or replacement efforts or unplanned, emergency repairs or replacements.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The Proposed Action alternative would result in an overall reduction in GHG emissions. Construction activities would result in minor temporary air quality impacts, including the intentional venting of existing distribution lines prior to replacement. Noise impacts associated with construction are anticipated to be minor. Traffic impacts would be temporary and only minor disruptions or delays would occur. However, removal of leak prone pipe would reduce leaks and the potential for incidents, resulting in an increase in pipeline safety across the system while also improving operation and reliability. Therefore, consistent with Executive Order 12898 and DOT Order 5610.2(c), PHMSA's assessment is that the project would not result in disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations, or other underserved and disadvantaged communities and would not result in indirect or cumulative impacts.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale shall provide advanced notification of service disruptions and construction schedule to all affected parties including residents and businesses adjacent to the project area.

Safety		
Question	Information and Justification	
Has a risk profile been developed to describe the condition of the current infrastructure and potential safety concerns?	Yes, as described in the Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP).	
Has a public awareness program been developed and implemented that follows the guidance provided by the American Petroleum Institute (API) Recommended Practice (RP) 1162?	Yes	
Does the project area include pipes prone to leakage?	Yes	
Will construction safety methods and procedures to protect human health and prevent/minimize hazardous materials releases during construction, including personal protection, workplace monitoring and site- specific health and safety plans, be utilized? If yes, document measures and reference appropriate safety plans.	Yes, construction safety measures would be implemented to protect health and minimize hazardous releases during construction. Safety would include personal protection, site monitoring, and site- specific safety plans.	
Has an assessment of the project been performed to analyze the risk and benefits of implementation?	Yes, an assessment has been performed to analyze the risk and benefit of implementation.	

The proposed project would replace historic, cast-iron pipes. Pipelines that are known to leak based on the material include cast iron, bare steel, wrought iron, and historic plastics with known issues (PIPES Act of 2020). PHMSA establishes safety regulations for all pipelines (49 CFR Parts 190-199). In 2011, following major natural gas pipeline incidents, DOT and PHMSA issued a Call to Action to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of the highest-risk pipeline infrastructure. Among other factors, pipeline age and material are significant risk indicators. Pipelines constructed of cast and wrought iron, as well as bare steel, are among the pipelines that pose the highest risk. This is reflected in the Gas Board of the City of Fultondale's DIMP plan. PHMSA continues to encourage legacy pipeline repair or replacement to increase the safety of these segments of the gas distribution systems. Pipeline incidents can result in death, injury, property damage, and environmental damage.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, the cast iron pipes would remain in their current location, state, and condition. Normal maintenance activities would occur, and pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances. Safety risks resulting from existing leak prone pipes remaining in place would persist until the existing leak-prone pipes are replaced.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The proposed project is necessary to replace leak prone pipes. This replacement is in alignment with the Gas

Board of the City of Fultondale's DIMP plan, increasing the overall safety of the community.

The project would reduce the risk profile of existing pipeline systems prone to methane leakage and would also benefit disadvantaged rural and urban communities with the safe provision of natural gas. The project responds to the need to address the potentially unsafe condition of the natural gas distribution system of pipelines. The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of pipelines would be constructed in accordance with industry best practices and would comply with all local, state, and federal regulations, including those for safety.

The project would reduce the risk profile of existing pipeline systems prone to methane leakage and would also benefit disadvantaged rural and urban communities with the safe provision of natural gas. The project responds to the need to address the potentially unsafe condition of the natural gas distribution system of pipelines. The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of pipelines would be constructed in accordance with industry best practices and would comply with all local, state, and federal regulations, including those for safety.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale shall ensure their DIMP procedures are updated as necessary, the work is constructed in accordance with industry best practices and the project will comply with all local, state, and federal regulations, including those for safety.

The Gas Board of the City of Fultondale shall use standard construction safety methods and procedures; and conduct regular safety audits of crews performing work in the field and subsequent follow-up reporting and/or training, as required.

#### III. <u>Public Involvement</u>

On November 9, 2022, PHMSA published a Federal Register notice (87 FR 67748) with a 30-day comment period soliciting comments on the "Tier 1 Nationwide Environmental Assessment for the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program." During the 30-day comment period, PHMSA received one comment letter from the APGA on various aspects of the program and air quality related analysis in the EA on December 9, 2022. This APGA letter is available for public review at the Docket No: PHMSA-2022-0123.<sup>10</sup> PHMSA reviewed the comment letter and determined the comments were not substantial and did not warrant further analysis. One comment provided by the APGA indicated that the majority of construction methods used for pipe replacements would be replacement by open trenching and that some may want to abandon the existing pipe rather than removing it for replacement. Any departures from methods described in the Tier 1 EA will require additional documentation from the project proponent, as reflected in this Tier 2.

As part of this Tier 2, PHMSA is soliciting public comments through a public comment period. This Tier 2 is available on PHMSA's website where comments can be submitted to the contact noted below. PHMSA will accept public comments for 30 days on this Tier 2. PHMSA will consider comments received and incorporate them in the decision-making process. Consultation with appropriate agencies on related processes, regulations, and permits is ongoing. Please submit all comments to: PHMSABILGrantNEPAComments@dot.gov and reference NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-16 in your response.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://www.regulations.gov/document/PHMSA-2022-0123-0002/comment

Appendix A

Project Maps

# Project Map



Appendix B Methane Calculations

## Methane Leak Rate pre/post Construction

Table 1 No Action Leak Rate

Pipeline Material Type	Average Rate (kg/mile/year)	Miles	Current Methane Leak Rate (kg/year)
Cast Iron	4,597.40	2.38	10942
Unprotected steel	2,122.30	0	0
Protected steel	59.1	0	0
Plastic	0		
Total Annual Methane Leak Rate			10942
20-year Methane Emissions			218836

#### Table 2 Proposed Action Leak Rate

Pipeline Material Type	Average Rate (kg/mile/year)	Miles	New Methane Leak Rate (kg/year)
Plastic	28.8	2.38	69
Year 1 Methane Reduction			10837
Annual Methane Reduction			10873
20-year Methane Reduction			217465

### **Methane Blowdown Estimate**

Equation 1 was used to estimate blowdown emissions in MCF, assuming a pipeline diameter (d) and pressure (P).

$$E_{blowdown} = V \times \frac{P_{pipe} + P_{atm}}{P_{atm}}$$
(1)

Where the pipeline volume (V) is calculated by multiplying the cross-sectional area of the pipe by the length of pipeline (L):

$$V = \pi \times \frac{d^2}{4} \times L \tag{2}$$

Table 3 Proposed Action - Methane Blowdown

Equation Inputs	Pipe Section
Inside Diameter = in	2.25
Blowdown Pressure	30
Length of Blowdown = ft	12,585
Blowdown MCF	1.06
Total	1.06 MCF (32 kg)

Appendix C

Water Resources

### GAS BOARD OF CITY OF FULTONDALE WATER RESOURCES







Flood Hazard Zones

1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

Regulatory Floodway

Special Floodway
Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard

0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

Streams Water Bodies

Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee

Area with Risk Due to Levee

Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau,

Appendix D

Hazardous Materials

### Hazardous Materials



October 31, 2023



Brownfields (ACRES)



Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)

Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau,

Appendix E: Soil Map

33° 35' 8" N

### Soil Map—Jefferson County, Alabama (Gas Board of the City of Fultondale - Soil Map)

33° 35' 8" N

266 56th Ave N 31 47th Ct N oil Map may not be valid at this scale

33° 34' 14" N



33° 34' 14" N

86° 48' 12" W



Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey National Cooperative Soil Survey

MAP	LEGEND	MAP INFORMATION
Area of Interest (AOI) Area of Interest (AOI)	<ul><li>Spoil Area</li><li>Stony Spot</li></ul>	The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.
Area of Interest (AOI)         Soils         Soil Map Unit Polygons         ✓       Soil Map Unit Points         Special Point Features         ✓       Blowout         ⊠       Borrow Pit         ✓       Clay Spot         ✓       Closed Depression         ✓       Gravel Pit         ✓       Gravel Pit         ✓       Landfill         ▲       Lava Flow         ▲       Marsh or swamp         ✓       Mine or Quarry         ✓       Perennial Water         ✓       Rock Outcrop         ↓       Saine Spot         ✓       Sainy Spot         ✓       Severely Eroded Spot	<ul> <li>Stony Spot</li> <li>Very Stony Spot</li> <li>Wet Spot</li> <li>Other</li> <li>Special Line Features</li> </ul> Water Features Water Features Interstate Highways <ul> <li>US Routes</li> <li>US Routes</li> <li>Local Roads</li> </ul> Background Aerial Photography	<ul> <li>1:24,000.</li> <li>Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.</li> <li>Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.</li> <li>Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.</li> <li>Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL: Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)</li> <li>Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.</li> <li>This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.</li> <li>Soil Survey Area: Jefferson County, Alabama Survey Area Data: Version 16, Sep 11, 2023</li> <li>Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.</li> <li>Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Dec 8, 2020—Mar 8, 2021</li> <li>The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.</li> </ul>
Slide or Slip		

### Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
28	Montevallo-Nauvoo-Urban land complex, 10 to 40 percent slopes	64.2	42.3%
41	Townley-Urban land complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	75.7	49.9%
44	Urban land	11.8	7.8%
Totals for Area of Interest		151.7	100.0%



Appendix F

**Biological Resources** 



### United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Alabama Ecological Services Field Office 1208 B Main Street Daphne, AL 36526-4419 Phone: (251) 441-5181 Fax: (251) 441-6222 Email Address: <u>alabama@fws.gov</u>



November 01, 2023

In Reply Refer To: Project Code: 2024-0011493 Project Name: Gas Board of the City of Fultondale

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Project consultation requests may be submitted by mail or email (Alabama@fws.gov). **Ensure** that the <u>Project Code</u> in the header of this letter is clearly referenced in any request for consultation or correspondence submitted to our office.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered

species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/whatwe-do.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds.
We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. **Ensure that the <u>Project Code</u>** in the header of this letter is clearly referenced with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

## **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Alabama Ecological Services Field Office** 1208 B Main Street

Daphne, AL 36526-4419 (251) 441-5181

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project Code:2024-0011493Project Name:Gas Board of the City of FultondaleProject Type:Distribution Line - Maintenance/Modification - Below GroundProject Description:Natural Gas Pipeline ReplacementProject Location:Value of the City of Fultondale

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@33.573722450000005,-86.81623070399272,14z</u>



Counties: Jefferson County, Alabama

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

There is a total of 13 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Gray Bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329</u>	Endangered
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</u>	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</u>	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</u>	Proposed Endangered

### BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane Grus americana	Experimental
Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC,	Population,
NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY)	Non-
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	Feential
Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758</u>	LSSCIIIIai

## REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658</u>	Proposed Threatened
Flattened Musk Turtle Sternotherus depressus Population: Black Warrior R. system upstream from Bankhead Dam No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6961</u>	Threatened
AMPHIBIANS NAME	STATUS
Black Warrior (=sipsey Fork) Waterdog <i>Necturus alabamensis</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5426</u>	Endangered
FISHES	STATUS
Rush Darter <i>Etheostoma phytophilum</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2779</u>	Endangered
Watercress Darter <i>Etheostoma nuchale</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1838</u>	Endangered
CLAMS NAME	STATUS
Finelined Pocketbook <i>Hamiota altilis</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1393</u>	Threatened
Ovate Clubshell <i>Pleurobema perovatum</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5430</u>	Endangered
INSECTS NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</u>	Candidate

## **CRITICAL HABITATS**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Department of Transportation

Name: Jason Holloman

Address: 220 Binney Street

City: Cambridge

- State: MA
- Zip: 02142

Email jason.holloman@dot.gov

Phone: 6174943048

## LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

ALABAMA STATE LISTED SPECIES			
GROUP	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COUNTY
Amphibians	Plethodon websteri	Webster's Salamander	Jefferson (AL)
Caddisflies	Cheumatopsyche cahaba	Caddisfly	Jefferson (AL)
Caddisflies	Hydropsyche hageni	A Caddisfly	Jefferson (AL)
Crayfishes	Cambarus Iudovicianus	Painted Devil Crayfish	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Berberis canadensis	American Barberry	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Bigelowia nuttallii	Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Cladrastis kentukea	Yellowwood	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Clinopodium glabellum	Ozark Savory	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Cuscuta harperi	Harper's Dodder	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Dalea foliosa	Leafy Prairie Clover	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Delphinium alabamicum	Alabama Larkspur	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Euonymus atropurpureus	Wahoo	lefferson (AL)
Dicots	Erasera caroliniensis	Carolina Gentian	lefferson (AL)
Dicots		Pasture Glade-cress	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Noviusia alabamonsis	Alabama Snow wroath	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Reviusia alabamensis	Mongo's Formo flower	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots		Reveten's Sand Post Oak	Jefferson (AL)
Dicols		Boyilton's Salid Post Oak	Jefferson (AL)
	Quercus georgiana		Jefferson (AL)
	Rudbeckia auriculata	Eared Coneflower	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Scutellaria alabamensis	Alabama Skullcap	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Triosteum angustifolium	Yellowleaf Tinker's-weed	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Sedum nevii	Nevius' Stonecrop	Jefferson (AL)
Dicots	Monarda clinopodia	Basil Bee-balm	Jefferson (AL)
Dragonflies and Damselflies	Argia plana	Springwater Dancer	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous; Lampreys	Cyprinella caerulea	Blue Shiner	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous; Lampreys	Etheostoma chermocki	Vermilion Darter	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous; Lampreys	Etheostoma douglasi	Tuskaloosa Darter	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous; Lampreys	Etheostoma nuchale	Watercress Darter	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous; Lampreys	Etheostoma phytophilum	Rush Darter	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous; Lampreys	Etheostoma rupestre	Rock Darter	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous: Lampreys	Hybopsis winchelli	Clear Chub	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous: Lampreys	Ichthyomyzon castaneus	Chestnut Lamprey	Jefferson (AL)
Eishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous; Lampreys	Notropis asperifrons	Burrhead Shiner	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous: Lampreys	Notropis cababae	Cahaba Shiner	lefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous: Lampreys	Percina brevicauda	Coal Darter	lefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous: Lampreys	Percina shumardi	Biver Darter	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous: Lampreys	Etheostoma rupestre	Rock Darter	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous, Lampreys	Ethoostoma rupostro	Rock Darter	Jefferson (AL)
Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous, Lampreys		Threeridge	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels		Alabama Orb	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels		Alabama Orb	Jefferson (AL)
		Butterny	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Elliptio arctata	Delicate Spike	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Elliptio crassidens	Elephantear	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Epioblasma metastriata	Upland Combshell	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Fusconaia cerina	Gulf Pigtoe	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Hamiota altilis	Finelined Pocketbook	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Lampsilis ornata	Southern Pocketbook	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Lampsilis teres	Yellow Sandshell	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Lasmigona alabamensis	Alabama Heelsplitter	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Leptodea fragilis	Fragile Papershell	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Ligumia recta	Black Sandshell	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Obliguaria reflexa	Threehorn Wartyback	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Pleurobema decisum	Southern Clubshell	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Potamilus purpuratus	Bleufer	Jefferson (AL)
Ereshwater Mussels	Ptychobranchus foremanianus	Bayed Kidneyshell	lefferson (AL)
Ereshwater Mussels	Pyganodon grandis	Giant Floater	lefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Quadrula aniculata	Southern Manleleaf	lefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Enioblasma metastriata		Lefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels			Lofforcer (AL)
Freshwater Mussels		Riugea Mapleleat	Jefferrer (AL)
IFreshwater Mussels		Pistolgrip	Jefferson (AL)
IFreshwater Mussels		Southern Rainbow	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Mussels	Ptychobranchus foremanianus	Rayed Kidneyshell	Jetterson (AL)
Freshwater Snails	Elimia cahawbensis	Cahaba Elimia	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Snails	Elimia carinifera	Sharp-crest Elimia	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Snails	Elimia carinocostata	Fluted Elimia	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Snails	Elimia clara	Riffle Elimia	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Snails	Elimia carinocostata	Fluted Elimia	Jefferson (AL)
	1	1	. ,

Freshwater Snails	Elimia clara	Riffle Elimia	Jefferson (AL)
Freshwater Snails	Elimia cahawbensis	Cahaba Elimia	Jefferson (AL)
Horsetails	Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail	Jefferson (AL)
Mammals	Spilogale putorius	Eastern Spotted Skunk	Jefferson (AL)
Monocots	Carex decomposita	Cypress-knee Sedge	Jefferson (AL)
Monocots	Hymenocallis coronaria	Shoals Spider-lily	Jefferson (AL)
Monocots	Listera australis	Southern Twayblade	Jefferson (AL)
Monocots	Trillium decumbens	Decumbent Trillium	Jefferson (AL)
Reptiles	Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus	Northern Pinesnake	Jefferson (AL)
Spiders and other Chelicerates	Aphrastochthonius pecki	A Cave Obligate Pseudoscorpion	Jefferson (AL)
Spiders and other Chelicerates	Appaleptoneta jonesi	A Cave Spider	Jefferson (AL)
Turtles	Sternotherus depressus	Flattened Musk Turtle	Jefferson (AL)

Appendix G

**Cultural Resources** 



U.S. Department of Transportation **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration** 

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

December 29, 2023

Lisa D. Jones Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer Alabama Historical Commission 468 South Perry Street PO Box 300900 Montgomery, AL 36130-0900

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in Fultondale, Alabama Grant Recipient: Gas Board of the City of Fultondale Project Location: City of Fultondale, Jefferson County, Alabama

Dear Lisa D. Jones:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the Gas Board of the City of Fultondale (City) for the replacement of pipelines (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The information provided below supplements the Alabama Historical Commission's (AHC) Section 106 Project Review Consultation Form, which is enclosed in **Attachment A**.

### **Project Description/Background**

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 2.38 miles of cast iron pipelines that was installed in the 1960s in the Lewisburg Community within the Fultondale gas system. The pipelines to be replaced are located within the existing right-of-way (ROW), which encompasses various roads, signage, sidewalks, and grassy areas throughout the City of Birmingham and Jefferson County.

The existing pipelines being replaced are between 2 to 4 inches in diameter and will be replaced with equivalent diameter polyethylene (PE) plastic pipes. At most locations, the new gas lines will be located adjacent to, and approximately 3 to 5 feet from, the existing gas lines, depending on field conditions, existing utilities, and ROW width. The replacement gas lines will be installed at a depth of 36 inches below grade. Ground disturbance for the replacement of pipeline will include a maximum depth of 4 feet and a trench width of 12 to 18 inches. Construction methods will include directional boring and cut and cover (trenching) in the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway. The existing pipelines will be abandoned in place after utility services have been moved to the replacement pipelines.

The Undertaking will also include the replacement of existing service lines to active customers, which will take place within existing utility easements along grassy areas leading up to the front or side of the building. Service lines will be installed at a depth of 3 feet in the roadway ROW and 2 feet outside the roadway ROW.

The staging area for the Undertaking will be the Fultondale Gas Board Warehouse at 1615 Old New Castle Road in Fultondale, which includes paved and gravel areas. Project location maps are enclosed in **Attachment B**. Photographs showing the overall character of the project areas are included in **Attachment C**.

### Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this Undertaking to encompass the existing ROW where the pipeline replacements will take place, adjacent parcels where the service line work will take place, and the staging area at 1615 Old New Castle Road in Fultondale. The ROW width varies throughout the project area between 30 to 60 feet wide and includes the roadway, some curb and gutter, driveways to residences, mailboxes, trees and shrubs, drainage pipes, and other utilities. The APE extends to the depth of proposed ground disturbance of up to 4 feet. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE map is shown on the map in **Attachment B**.

### **Identification and Evaluation**

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database, AHC's Historic Preservation GIS Map, Alabama Cultural Resources Online Database (ACROD), University of Alabama's Cemeteries Web Atlas, Find a Grave online database, historic aerials, topographic maps, and the USDA Web Soil Survey. SOI-qualified individuals also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP.

### Historic Architecture

There are no NRHP-listed above-ground resources within the APE. Additionally, a search of the AHC's Historic Preservation GIS Map found no known potentially significant above-ground resources within the APE. Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of existing pipelines and service lines within existing ROW and utility easements, the identification effort for previously unknown above-ground resources within the APE focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to the effects of pipeline and service line replacements and could experience diminished integrity as a result of the Undertaking. While the service line replacements will take place leading up to buildings, the project will be limited to below-ground construction, and no alterations to the buildings are anticipated. Furthermore, the work will not have any lasting visual or audible effects. A review of the APE found no potentially significant above-ground resources that have the potential to be affected by the Undertaking.

### Archaeology

Alabama's archaeological site file database, ACROD, was examined to identify the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted archaeological surveys within a half-mile of the APE. Two sections, a northern section and southern section, comprise the APE and their half-mile search radiuses. The northern section APE is the proposed staging area, and the southern section APE is comprised of the pipeline installation corridor. As a result of the site file search, no archaeological sites were identified, and only one archaeological survey was located within a half-mile radius. The survey boundary does not intersect the APE. In 2003, the Office of Archaeological Research conducted a reconnaissance of an existing borrow pit in Fultondale north of the southern portion of the APE (Musselman 2003). No sites were identified during the survey.

An examination of Web Soil Survey data within the APE reveals three soil types within the APE (see Table 1). Well drained and moderately well drained soils can be indicative of human habitation during both the pre-contact and historic periods. All soils within the APE are well draining soil types. Typically slopes greater than 15 percent are not suitable for human occupation, and soil types within the APE vary from 6-45 percent slope. The Montevallo-Nauvoo soils exceed the 15 percent slope threshold, but they comprise only approximately 12 percent of the APE. The APE is mostly comprised of Townley soils, which are well drained and suitable for human habitation in both the pre-contact and historic periods. However, 98% of the APE is urban land complex. Additionally, topographic maps reveal that no waterways intersect the APE. Proximity to water generally indicates a suitable environment for both precontact and historic human activity.

Table 1. Soil Types within the APE

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Slope	Percent of APE
Montevallo-Nauvoo-Urban land complex	Well drained	10-40 percent	10.7
Montevallo-Nauvoo association	Well drained	6-45 percent	1.4
Townley-Urban land complex	Well drained	8-15 percent	87.9

The University of Alabama's Cemeteries Web Atlas, the Find a Grave online database, and topographic maps were reviewed to identify the presence of historic-age cemeteries within the APE. No previously recorded cemeteries were noted within the APE. It is possible that smaller family plots, not always included in such databases, may exist within the APE. Additionally, the National Park Service Cultural Resource GIS website was consulted to identify any NRHP-listed properties within the APE. A review of this database revealed no NRHP-listed or eligible properties within the APE or within a half-mile.

Historic topographic maps and historic aerials were examined for archaeological resource sensitivity within the APE. The presence of structures on historic maps and aerial photography may indicate the likelihood of historic period archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of these structures. The APE is comprised of suburban portions north of Birmingham. On the 1895 topographic map, the northern section APE is located on an upland area above Black Creek and is approximately a half-mile west of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The southern section of the APE shows the historic-age town of Lewisburg within a half-mile, though no features or buildings are noted within the APE. A 1907 topographic map shows two mining operations (Graves Mines and Morrow Mines) within a half-mile of the southern section of the APE. Several residential developments appear on the 1907 map within this southern section. Their proximity may suggest housing for miners and their families.

Historic aerial imagery of the APE from 1947 shows the northern section of the APE as a cleared but grassed section of land between the road and a railroad. By 1970, this section of the APE appears to be comprised of a storage area for equipment, timber, building materials, or road materials. Modern imagery shows this section to be a paved storage area for equipment. Imagery from 1947 shows the southern section of the APE to be comprised of residential streets off the main road. This section remains a residential area until the present day.

Background research revealed no archaeological sites or surveys within a half-mile of the APE. While the APE has not been previously surveyed for archaeological resources, there is a low potential for intact significant archaeological deposits to exist within the areas of proposed ground disturbance. No known cemeteries or NRHP-listed or eligible properties were identified within the APE. Modern aerial imagery shows the northern section of the APE, which will be used for staging, to be fully paved and currently used as equipment storage. The southern section of the APE is comprised of residential areas and ROW that has

been previously disturbed by utility installation and road construction. The Undertaking includes replacement of 2.38 miles of cast iron piping in existing roadways, and ground disturbance will take place within areas of previous disturbance by original installation of the existing utilities, driveway construction, and drainage pipes. The replacement pipeline will be installed at a maximum vertical depth of 4 feet, and from 3 to 5 feet horizontally from the original pipeline installation. While no archaeological surveys have been conducted within the APE, there is a low to moderate potential for archaeological deposits within the APE. However, the ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation and road and sidewalk construction has likely compromised the integrity and context of any previously intact archaeological deposits that may exist within the ROW. Due to the limited scope of work and the low likelihood of encountering intact significant archaeological deposits, no additional survey is recommended at this time.

### **Determination of Effect**

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, PHMSA finds that there are no historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(1) within the APE. Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), PHMSA has determined the Undertaking will result in No Historic Properties Affected.

### **Consulting Party Outreach**

PHMSA identified parties that may be interested in the Undertaking and its effects on historic properties. PHMSA invites the individuals/organizations copied on this letter to participate as Section 106 consulting parties. Invited parties should indicate their willingness to participate as a consulting party and provide comments on the enclosed form (**Attachment D**) within 30 calendar days from the date on this letter. Note that a nonresponse is considered to be a declination to participate; however, interested parties can request to join consultation at any time in the process. If any invited party expresses concerns about the Undertaking's potential effects to historic properties, PHMSA will consult with the party to resolve those concerns prior to project implementation.

PHMSA will also invite the following federally recognized tribes to participate in consultation by separate letter:

- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation

### **Request for Section 106 Concurrence**

Based on the information presented above, PHMSA finds that the Undertaking will result in No Historic Properties Affected. PHMSA is submitting this Undertaking to your office for your review and comment. PHMSA requests your concurrence with this determination of effect within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter. Should you need additional information, please contact Amy Hootman, Section 106 specialist, at PHMSASection106@dot.gov or 857-998-9981.

Sincerely,

Mart Tult

Matt Fuller Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ah

cc: Jason Holloman, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center Damond Smith, PHMSA Grant Coordinator Brian Bookout, City of Fultondale Carl H. Marbury, Chairman, Jefferson County Historical Commission

Enclosures:

Attachment A: Section 106 Project Review Consultation Form Attachment B: Project Location and APE Maps Attachment C: Project Area Photographs Attachment D: Consulting Party Response Form

### ATTACHMENT A

Section 106 Project Review Consultation Form



### ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE SECTION 106 PROJECT REVIEW CONSULTATION FORM

Federal laws exist to ensure that federal agencies or their designated applicants carefully consider historic preservation in federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended directs this review. <a href="http://www.achp.gov/106summary.html">http://www.achp.gov/106summary.html</a>. At a minimum, submission of this completed form and attachments constitutes a request for review by the Alabama Historical Commission, which is the Alabama State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The responsibility for preparing documentation, including the identification of archaeological and architectural properties and the assessment of potential effects resulting from the project, rests with the federal or state agency, or its designated applicant. The role of the Alabama SHPO is to review, comment, and consult with federal/state agencies or their designees. The Alabama SHPO's ability to complete a timely project review largely depends on the quality of the material submitted. Some applicants may find it advantageous to hire a professional consultant with expertise in archaeology, history and/or architectural history.

PROJECT NAME

FEDERAL AGENCY PROVIDING FUNDS, LICENSE, OR PERMIT

FEDERAL PROJECT NUMBER

FEDERAL AGENCY CONTACT NAME AND E-MAIL/PHONE NUMBER

STATE AGENCY PROVIDING FUNDS, LICENSE, OR PERMIT (IF APPLICABLE)

STATE AGENCY CONTACT NAME AND E-MAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, MAILING ADDRESS

AHC NUMBER (If project has been previously submitted)

APPLICANT NAME:

APPLICANT MAILING ADDRESS:

APPLICANT TELEPHONE:

APPLICANT EMAIL:

CONTACT NAME (if different than applicant):

CONTACT MAILING ADDRESS:

CONTACT TELEPHONE:

CONTACT EMAIL (Person to whom AHC should email response letter):

CONTRACTOR TYPE: ARCHAEOLOGIST; ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN; NONE; OTHER:

CONTRACTOR NAME:

CONTRACTOR MAILING ADDRESS:

CONTRACTOR TELEPHONE:

CONTRACTOR EMAIL:

PROJECT LOCATION	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY
COUNTY	ZIP CODE
LATITUDE / LONGITUDE: USE DECIMAL DEGREES EXAMPLE: 32.3722N, -86.3083W	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Will the project involve any of the following? Check all that apply.	
exterior rehabiliation work;	
interior rehabilitation work;	
cellular equipment located on buildings;	
streetscapes/sidewalks/lighting;	
new construction; and/or	
demolition	
Describe the overall project in DETAIL. Be sure to describe any items checked above	e. Use additional pages if necessary.

### AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT (APE)

The APE varies with project types and can be direct or indirect (physical, visual, auditory, etc.). The APE is defined as "the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character of use of historic properties, if any such properties exist." Factors to consider when determining the APE include; topography, vegetation, existing development, orientation of an existing resource to the project, physical siting of a resource, and existing and planned future development. For example:

- 1) Rehabilitation, renovation, and/or demolition of a historic building or structure, or new construction: the APE might include the building itself and the adjacent setting.
- 2) Streetscapes: the APE might include the viewshed from the street.
- 3) Pedestrian/bicycle facilities: the APE might extend the length of the corridor and for some distance on both sides of the corridor.
- 4) Underground utilities: the APE would usually be limited to the area of ground disturbance.

Attach a map indicating the precise location of the project and the boundaries of the APE, preferably a clear color copy of a USGS topographic quadrangle map (7.5 minute). For projects in urban areas, also include a city map that shows more detail. USGS topographic maps can be printed from this website: <u>https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/</u>. City maps can be printed using <u>www.google.com/maps</u>.

Provide current, high resolution color photographs that illustrate the project area and the entire APE as defined above.

### **ARCHAEOLOGY** (Ground Disturbing Activities)

Has the ground in the project area been disturbed other than by agriculture (i.e. grading, grubbing, clear cutting, filling, etc.)? Yes Don't know N/A

If yes, describe in detail. Use additional pages as necessary. Photographs are helpful.

Describe the present use and condition of the property. Use additional pages as necessary.

To your knowledge, has a Cultural Resource Assessment (CRA) been conducted in the proposed project area?

If yes, attach a copy of the cultural resources assessment report.

### ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Above-ground properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) should be evaluated for the eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. It is the federal agency's (or their designee) responsibility to identify properties in the APE, apply the National Register (NR) criteria, and determine whether a property is eligible or not. Those determinations are sent to our office for review and comment. All properties evaluated should be accompanied by current photographs, and these locations should be keyed to a good quality USGS topographic map. Some applicants may find it advantageous to hire a historic preservation professional with expertise in history and/or architectural history to complete the identification and evaluation of historic properties. The Alabama Historical Commission publishes a GIS map of properties that have been documented by or through our office. The map includes properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, county architectural surveys, and other files. The GIS map can be accessed here: https://ahc.alabama.gov/historicpreservationmap.aspx The GIS map should function as a research tool, not an up-to-the-minute inventory about every historic and/or architecturally significant property in the state. This tool allows researchers to investigate and review potentially significant properties according to the best data that is available in the Alabama Historical Commission's files. The absence of a property from the map does not imply that an unidentified property lacks historic or architectural importance.

- I) Within the APE, are there properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places?
  - YES If yes, identify the properties by name, address, and photo number.

NO If no, identify the properties by name, address, and photo number. Provide an explanation as to why properties identified are not eligible for the National Register. A discussion of the National Register seven aspects of integrity and the applicable National Register criteria must be included. Refer to the National Park Service's website: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/<u>nationalregister/upload/NRB-15 web508.pdf</u> Use additional pages as necessary.

### **EFFECTS DETERMINATION**

An effect occurs when an action alters the characteristics of a property that may qualify it for the National Register of Historic Places. How will this project affect any of the properties identified in the previous section? Will the project take away or change anything within the boundaries of a historic property? Will the project change the view from or the view to any historic properties? Will the project introduce any audible or atmospheric elements? Will the project result in the transfer, lease, or sale of any of the identified properties? Use additional sheets as necessary.

CHECKLIST: Did you provide the following informatio	n?
Completed form.	Photographs* of current site conditions and all identified historic properties keyed to a site map
Maps with project area, APE, and any historic properties marked and identified.	For new construction, rehabilitations, etc., attach work plans, drawings, etc.
Other supporting documents (if necessary to explain the	Description of present use and condition of the project
projecty.	al Ca.

\*A note about photographs: Digital photos must be current, high resolution, and adequately show the resource. Take photographs of the overall property and the exterior of each building on the property, including outbuildings. Include views of the overall setting, views of the building in its immediate surrounding showing the relationship of the building to neighboring buildings, and views of significant landscape features (i.e. tree lined approaches, stone walls, formal gardens, etc.). Exterior views of the building should include full views of each side (if possible) and views of important architectural details. Key all photographs to a site map.

If the project involves rehabilitation, include photographs of the building(s) involved and especially the areas of the building slated for rehab work. Label each exterior view to a site map and label all interior views. If the project involves new construction, include photographs of the surrounding area looking out from the project site. Include photographs of any buildings that are located on the project property or on adjoining property.

## NOTE: Section 106 regulations provide for a 30-day response time by the Alabama SHPO from the <u>date of</u> receipt. Project activities may not begin until our office has reviewed this information and issued comments.

Upon receipt, applications and attachments become the property of the State of Alabama.

For questions regarding this form or the Section 106 Review Process, contact Amanda McBride, Section 106 Coordinator, at 334.230.2692 or <u>Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov</u>.

### All projects must be submitted digitally

E-mail this form and supporting documents to <u>Section.106@ahc.alabama.gov</u> This is the only approved e-mail address for project submission. Projects sent to any other e-mail address will not be accepted. The attachment size cannot exceed 19 MB. Alternatively, you may submit projects with larger attachments through an online system to be determined by the

AHC.

Please limit your submission to cultural resources information only.

#### Contact Amanda McBride for any questions on digital submissions

### ATTACHMENT B

**Project Location and APE Maps** 

## Area of Potential Effects Map



## Area of Potential Effects Map



## Area of Potential Effects Map



Total Acreage: 53.73 Fultondale, AL, Jefferson County Staging Area

## ATTACHMENT C

**Project Area Photographs** 



Photo 1. View looking north down APE along Lewisburg Road.



Photo 2. View looking west down APE along 53<sup>rd</sup> Court N.



Photo 3. View looking north at the Lewisburg Road and 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave N intersection.



Photo 4. View looking east down 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Lewisburg Road intersection.



Photo 5. View looking east down 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.



Photo 6. View looking south down Tyler Street and 48<sup>th</sup> Ave N intersection.



Photo 7. View looking north down Lewisburg Road.



Photo 8. View looking north down US Highway 31.

### ATTACHMENT D

**Consulting Party Response Form** 

## Section 106 Consulting Party Response Form

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program

### **Project Name/Location:**

Date:	Organization:	Organization:		
Name:	Affiliation:			
Address:	Phone Number:			
	E-mail:			

### Please check one of the following:

Yes, I, or my organization, would like to participate in consultation on the project's potential effects to historic properties. I, or my organization, has a legal or economic relation to the project or affected properties or have a concern with the project's effects on historic properties.

**No,** I, or my organization, do(es) not wish to participate as a consulting party for the project.

Do you know of any other potential consulting parties that should be contacted? If so, please list the name, email, or other contact information below.

Comments:

Please return by:

Please return to: Kathering Giraldo USDOT Volpe Center 220 Binney Street, Cambridge, MA E-mail: PHMSASection106@dot.gov Appendix H: Environmental Justice

# **EJScreen Community Report**

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

## Jefferson County, AL

<section-header>

#### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	93%
Spanish	4%
French, Haitian, or Cajun	2%
Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	1%
Total Non-English	7%

### .5 miles Ring around the Area Population: 1,183 Area in square miles: 2.18

#### **COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

**€PA**



### LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN

From Ages 65 and up

Speak Spanish	0%
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	0%
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	0%
Speak Other Languages	0%

Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2017-2021. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

19%

## **Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes**

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the EJScreen website.

### **EJ INDEXES**



## SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES



#### SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION

These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or nation.

Report for .5 miles Ring around the Area

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## **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
POLLUTION AND SOURCES					
Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	10.3	9.17	95	8.08	94
Ozone (ppb)	67.6	60.8	94	61.6	87
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.501	0.189	98	0.261	91
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	60	34	99	25	94
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.5	0.44	56	0.31	92
Toxic Releases to Air	12,000	21,000	86	4,600	94
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	110	79	79	210	59
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.5	0.19	89	0.3	73
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.63	0.051	99	0.13	96
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.2	0.31	93	0.43	90
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	2	0.43	95	1.9	74
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	2.9	1.9	78	3.9	66
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.11	0.3	89	22	82
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index	67%	38%	85	35%	88
Supplemental Demographic Index	26%	16%	90	14%	90
People of Color	68%	38%	78	39%	77
Low Income	65%	38%	87	31%	91
Unemployment Rate	8%	6%	72	6%	74
Limited English Speaking Households	0%	1%	0	5%	0
Less Than High School Education	23%	14%	83	12%	85
Under Age 5	6%	6%	62	6%	62
Over Age 64	19%	18%	61	17%	65
Low Life Expectancy	32%	23%	99	20%	99

\*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update.

#### Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	0
Water Dischargers	3
Air Pollution	1
Brownfields	2
Toxic Release Inventory	0

#### Other community features within defined area:

Schools 0
Hospitals 0
Places of Worship 0

#### Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	Yes
Impaired Waters	Yes

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands*	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community	Yes
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community	Yes

Report for .5 miles Ring around the Area
## **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

HEALTH INDICATORS									
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE				
Low Life Expectancy	32%	23%	99	20%	99				
Heart Disease	10.1	7.4	95	6.1	97				
Asthma	12.7	10.2	94	10	94				
Cancer	5.9	6.4	29	6.1	43				
Persons with Disabilities	33.5%	17%	98	13.4%	99				

CLIMATE INDICATORS								
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE			
Flood Risk	19%	13%	83	12%	84			
Wildfire Risk	0%	12%	0	14%	0			

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS								
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE			
Broadband Internet	33%	20%	80	14%	91			
Lack of Health Insurance	17%	10%	86	9%	87			
Housing Burden	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Food Desert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			

Footnotes

Report for .5 miles Ring around the Area

www.epa.gov/ejscreen