

TRANS-PECOS PIPELINE FACT SHEET

- Energy Transfer Partners' proposed 42" high-pressure TRANS-PECOS PIPELINE would carry gas 143 miles from the Waha Hub at Coynosa to the border near Presidio/Ojinaga, cutting through the heart of the Big Bend.
- Pipeline construction would disrupt or destroy delicate Chihuahuan Desert ecology on both side of the border. The Chihuahuan Desert is one of the three most biologically diverse arid regions in the world¹. In 2010, President Obama and then president of Mexico Filipe Calderon signed a bi-national agreement to protect and preserve the Big Bend/Rio Bravo region.²
- The Big Bend region of far West Texas is one of the last areas in the state that has remained untouched by major infrastructure for the oil and gas industry.³
- A 42" ETP-owned pipeline built in 2012 exploded in Cuero, TX in June 2015 due to "material failure".⁴ In 2011, a fire started by an electrical spark near Marfa, TX burned nearly 315,000 acres, including 25 homes⁵. The remote Big Bend region does not have the emergency response capacity to handle a pipeline explosion or rupture.⁶
- Only 1093' of the pipeline as it would cross the international border is under federal jurisdiction. The other 143 miles – considered "intra-state" and therefore not subject to federal oversight – are regulated by the Texas Railroad Commission, which requires no environmental, archeological, socioeconomic, safety, routing, or other studies or impact assessments.
- The project is being billed as part of Mexico's effort to reform its energy system and switch to "cleaner burning" sources of fuel⁷. Not only is the extraction, transportation, and combustion of natural gas not necessarily cleaner, only one tenth of the gas in the pipeline would go to fuel new power plants in Mexico. The bulk of the gas in the pipe will be liquefied and shipped overseas to Asian markets. ⁸
- The pipeline is intended to carry gas derived by hydraulic fracturing in the US to markets in Mexico and abroad. The gas in the line will serve NO DOMESTIC CUSTOMER.
- 34 local landowners (as of March 21, 2016) have been served with eminent domain lawsuits so far. Under Texas law, a pipeline company is not required to prove that its facilities will be in the "public good", nor is there any means for a landowner to challenge the eminent domain ruling.
- The TRANS-PECOS PIPELINE could provide infrastructure necessary to open this area to fracking.^{9,10}
- The local economy depends mainly on ecotourism and the rare intact natural environment. The famed Marfa Mystery Lights and the research being conducted at the world-renowned McDonald Observatory are under immediate threat from increased industrialization.¹¹

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- ¹ <http://www.worldwildlife.org/ecoregions/na1303>
 - ² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/joint-statement-president-barack-obama-and-president-felipe-calder-n>
 - ³ <http://www.eia.gov/state/maps.cfm?src=home-f3>
 - ⁴ <http://marfapublicradio.org/blog/material-failure-caused-pipeline-explosion-near-cuero-tx/>
 - ⁵ <http://bigbendnow.com/2012/04/rock-house-fire-sparked-a-year-ago/>
 - ⁶ <http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/102767-texas-county-seeking-federal-oversight-of-trans-pecos-pipeline>
 - ⁷ http://www.bigbendconservationalliance.org/_clean_burning_natural_gas_for_mexico
 - ⁸ <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/34820-as-fossil-fuel-industry-staggers-a-massive-gas-pipeline-project-endures-in-texas>
 - ⁹ <http://defendbigbend.blogspot.com/2015/07/in-early-2014-when-mexico-first.html>
 - ¹⁰ eaglefordtexas.com/news/id/164628/chevron-shifts-focus-texas-shale
 - ¹¹ <http://www.truth-out.org/speakout/item/35150-astronomical-research-star-crossed-by-oil-and-gas>