## Bakken pipeline meetings in Iowa moved to December



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(Photo: Andrew Burton Getty Images)

Energy Transfer Partners, which is planning a 1,100-mile crude oil pipeline that would cross through 17 lowa counties, is pushing back its timetable for public information meetings on the project.

The public meetings, which will be held in each of the 17 lowa counties, were expected to begin in late September and conclude in early October. They are now being moved to December to be respectful of the harvest season in lowa and the Thanksgiving holiday, said Vicki Granado, spokeswoman for the Dallas pipeline company.

"We will continue to reach out to farming communities and community leaders along the proposed route to discuss the details of our project," Granado said. More information about the revised meeting schedule will be

available as soon as the schedule is approved by the Iowa Utilities Board, she added.

Energy Transfer Partners is proposing the Dakota Access pipeline project to transport crude oil from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to Patoka, III., which is east of St. Louis. Thousands of Iowa property owners have received letters from the company seeking permission to conduct surveys for the 30-inch-diameter underground pipeline, which would initially carry 320,000 barrels of crude oil daily.

If the utilities board approves the project, the company could use eminent domain to acquire easements on properties. Property owners would be compensated for the easements, although the amount of payments would vary from property to property. The pipeline is scheduled to be operational by late 2016.

Granado also released additional information on the depth the pipe would be buried as it crosses lowa:

- The pipeline would be covered by a minimum of 36 inches of soil, more if it crossed under roads, rivers, lakes or streams.
- In agricultural fields, the pipe would be buried a minimum of 48 inches.
- All drain tiles would be crossed with a minimum 24-inch separation between the pipe and the tile.

The permanent easement would be 50 feet wide, but the temporary construction corridor would be 100 to 150 feet wide.

The affected counties would be Lyon, O'Brien, Sioux, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Webster, Boone, Story, Jasper, Polk, Mahaska, Keokuk, Wapello, Jefferson, Van Buren and Lee.

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