



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

for

Lake to River: Oil & Gas Pipeline Feasibility Study

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

100 E. Federal St.

Suite 1000

Youngstown, OH 44503

Proposals accepted via email until September 24, 2025 at 2:00 PM ET

Attn: James Kinnick, P.E. - Executive Director

jkinnick@eastgatecog.org

LEGAL NOTICE

Electronic proposals in PDF format will be accepted until **September 24, 2025 by 2:00 PM ET**, and shall be submitted via email to jkinnick@eastgatecog.org

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

BY ORDER OF THE
Executive Director, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

James Kinnick, P.E.

NEWS PRESS/POSTED **Thursday, September 4, 2025**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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Lake to River: Oil & Gas Pipeline Feasibility Study

INTRODUCTION

The Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is issuing a Request for Proposals seeking the services of a consultant/firm to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study to advance the development of a pipeline to carry natural gas, oil, and associated by-products across Eastern Ohio's Lake to River region. The feasibility study will entail a two-prong analysis that includes: (i) an economic assessment and (ii) a technical assessment. The Scope of Services is included as ATTACHMENT A.

The study will focus on the four-county region between Lake Erie and the Ohio River, along the SR11/SR7 corridor, comprised of Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull Counties. The Study Area Map is included as ATTACHMENT B.

A selection committee, comprised of stakeholders from the region, will review proposals and select the best proposal based on the scoring criteria. The Project Schedule is included as ATTACHMENT C.

The goal of the study is to build the business case to support private investment in the pipeline, establish its technical feasibility, and identify the conceptual framework of a public-private partnership to implement the project.

The project is being funded primarily through an earmark in the State of Ohio Operating Budget. Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is also contributing funding to the project. The **project budget is set at \$300,000.**

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals shall be submitted in a single PDF file adhering to the following requirements:

- A **maximum of 15 pages** each sized at 8.5 x 11-inch.
- A minimum font size of 12-point.
- Margins of 1-inch on all four sides.
- Page numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.

Proposals shall include the following sections:

Section A. Cover Letter

Provide an introductory letter, signed by an officer of the firm, providing a brief overview of the consultant team, roles, and relevant experience. The cover letter should identify the consultant's project manager and point of contact for all communications with Eastgate.

Section B. Vendor's Experience/ Available Staff's Experience

In this section of the Proposal, provide information regarding the Consultant's experience with oil and gas-related development, with an emphasis on economic impact analysis, technical planning, and public-private partnership (P3) implementation.

Summarize the relevant experience of the key personnel (prime and/or subcontractor) capable of providing services across each scope of work item and project deliverable. Please also include an organizational chart identifying the name, title, and firm for each key staff member and how the project team will interact with Eastgate.

Section C. Project Scope of Work

In this section of the Proposal, describe your proposed approach to the project and your methodology for providing the services. Please include a timeline for each activity. Take this opportunity to specify any unique characteristics that may distinguish you from other potential consultants for these services, including specialized software, datasets, or proprietary tools. Share any innovative ideas on how to build the business case for private investment in the project.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

A selection committee will rank each item of the Proposals based on the maximum possible points listed below. Listed categories will be evaluated by each member of the selection committee.

A. (Up to 50 points) "Consultant's Experience" / "Available Staff's Experience"

Consider the Consultant's experience relative to oil and gas-related economic assessments, technical feasibility planning, and P3 development. Review the references provided by the consultant and evaluate the firm in each of the following categories:

- Quality of services provided and relevance of the services provided to the project's Scope of Work
- Experience of the key personnel in each applicable area of services
- Track record of the project manager or task leads
- Additional experience relevant to the outlined scope of work and project deliverables

B. (Up to 50 points) “Project Methodology”

Evaluate each firm based on its proposed methodology for the execution of this project. Consider each firm's understanding of the purpose and scope of this project. Evaluate the soundness of the strategy and actionable items and assess how achievable the deliverables are for the contract period. Consider the value of the consultant's innovative ideas proposed or their specialized knowledge of the regional economy and energy sectors applied to the project scope.

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ATTACHMENT A: Scope of Services

Overview

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is conducting a comprehensive feasibility study to advance the development of a pipeline to carry natural gas, oil, and associated by-products across Eastern Ohio along the SR 11/SR 7 corridor. The project aligns with Governor DeWine's recognition of the strategic importance of Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana counties and will create catalytic economic development opportunities across the recently established four-county Lake to River region. The bipartisan state legislative Lake to River Caucus is working to introduce legislation to establish a Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP) for the four-county corridor that will facilitate and help finance future pipeline development.

The feasibility study will entail a two-prong assessment that includes: (i) an economic assessment and (ii) a technical assessment.

PART 1: Economic Assessment

The first prong of the study will:

- With production volumes on the rise for both natural gas, oil, and associated byproducts, determine the best and most practical transport mechanisms to deliver these products to market
- Quantify the economic impact of providing pipeline access to potential megasites along the SR 11 corridor, including economic activity, job creation, and capital investment, and conduct a benefit-cost analysis

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- Establish a public-private partnership framework to maximize private investment in the construction, operation, and maintenance, including potential revenue-sharing to state and local governments
- Based on the proposed alignment along the state-owned SR 11 limited access freeway corridor, determine the most appropriate real property ownership or easement structure

Key Tasks of the economic assessment will include:

- *Stakeholder Interviews* – Conduct targeted stakeholder interviews with industry partners identified by the LTR team.
- *Review of RFI responses* – Review responses from an industry partner RFI for development of a potential P3 pipeline framework released by Eastgate and LTR.
- *Current Landscape* - Evaluate the location and target industries of the region, the business and economic planning outlook, the existing natural gas infrastructure, the customers and the need for the project. The current landscape will identify subregions that currently lack natural gas service or have inadequate capacity for industrial users.
- *Demand Estimation* - Present a forecast model for the potential demand for the LTR region. The model will forecast the demand for industrial, commercial, residential, and other sectors. Demand should account for potential new gas-fired power plants (including the conversion of former coal-burning power plans) and associated data centers.
- *Export Market* – Evaluate the potential for LNG exports out of the two Great Lakes deepwater ports or Wellsville Intermodal Facility along the Ohio River

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and what associated facilities (e.g. liquefaction plants) would be required to facilitate such an operation.

- *Emerging Technologies* – Summarize new and emerging energy technologies being developed and explored in the region (e.g. renewable natural gas, hydrogen hub, blue hydrogen, pyrolysis) and potential end uses (e.g. fuel for hybrid-powered electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVOTL) aircraft and how they could capitalize on LTR pipeline development.
- *Supply Analysis* - Describes basins' characteristics and pricing where natural gas could potentially be sourced from, explains the existing natural gas supply infrastructure in the area and explains the local distribution network.
- *Supply Alternatives* - Evaluate the project's supply alternatives from other pipelines (e.g. RH energytrans Risberg pipeline in Ashtabula County; National Fuel and Gas Line N in Western Pennsylvania; etc.), and modes of transport (e.g. over land LNG trucks).
- *Commodity Types* – Determine what commodity type(s) (e.g. gas, oil, etc.) will drive market demand and dictate pipeline design.
- *Return on Investment* - Assess the project's feasibility from the perspectives of finance, supply, and demand, and quantify the estimated savings of switching to natural gas when compared to the alternative options.
- *P3 Framework* – Establish potential P3 framework to develop, finance, operate, and maintain the pipeline and associated infrastructure, including leasing structure and payment schedule for use of state right-of-way, and potential innovative financing sources (e.g. RTIP, US DOE Loans Program Office, etc.)

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PART 2: Technical Assessment

The second prong of the study will:

- Determine a preferred alignment for the pipeline, including logical termini, that enhances access to potential megasites, maximizes productive economic use of underutilized state lands, and minimizes impacts on private property and environmental resources
- Identify transmission specifications including capacity, material types, diameter, and compressor station spacing based on upstream production supply and downstream user demand
- Develop initial cost estimates, environmental screening, and a projected development timeline.

Key Tasks of the technical assessment will include:

- *Conceptual Network Layout* – Propose a conceptual overview map of the system including upstream gathering (anticipated to be at south end of corridor in Columbiana County and adjacent areas), proposed transmission pipeline along SR 11 corridor, interconnections, and projected location of city gates to local distribution company (LDC) lines
- *Regulatory Requirements* - Explain the different regulatory requirements for what is projected to be an intrastate transmission pipeline.
- *Routing and Conceptual Design* - Provide information on the conceptual background, the pipeline diameter calculation, layout and proposed route, the pipeline sizing and considerations, based on applicable design standards (e.g.

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DOT Code of Federal Regulations Part 192 and ASME Code B31.8), including, but not limited to:

- Gas chemical composition
 - Sizing Considerations including Peak Demand
 - Pipeline Layout and Proposed Route
 - Pipeline Grade and required thickness and pressure
 - Pipeline Diameter Calculation
 - Bi-directional flow and/or looping
 - Approximate Pump or Compressor Station spacing
 - Pipe depth and required cover
 - Easement and clear zone dimensions requirements
 - Standard alignment details (typical section, plan view, and profile) for overhead and mainline bridges and culverts
 - Detailed alignment planning in the area where pipeline will cross and parallel Interstate 80 corridor along a cosigned segment of I-80/SR 11
- Preparation of *Initial Cost Estimates* for materials and installation
- *Environmental Assessment*- Describes the key environmental resources (e.g. ecological, wetland/riparian, cultural/historical, etc.) and the anticipated impacts of the pipeline on various resources.
- Establish a *Proposed Development Timeline* based on key schedule milestones (e.g. preliminary engineering, environmental studies, easement procurement, permitting, detailed design, and construction)

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ATTACHMENT B: Study Area Map



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ATTACHMENT C: Project Schedule

Procurement Process

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|------------------------|--|
| September 4, 2025: | Request for Proposals (RFP) posted |
| September 24, 2025: | RFP responses due |
| September 25-26, 2025: | Review of RFP Responses |
| October 6-7, 2025: | Consultant Interviews (if necessary) |
| October 8, 2025: | Consultant notice of selection |
| October 15, 2025: | Consultant under contract with notice to proceed |

Project Schedule

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|--------------------|--|
| November 14, 2025: | Initial Data Collection complete |
| December 12, 2025: | Initial Industry Partner Outreach complete |
| February 13, 2026: | Economic & Technical Assessments complete |
| February 27, 2026: | Request for Information (RFI) released |
| March 27, 2026: | RFI responses due |
| April 24, 2026: | Identification of Potential P3 Frameworks |
| June 30, 2026: | Final Report complete |