

Pony Express Pipeline Conversion

Kinder Morgan (formerly K N Energy, Inc.)



Willbros provided engineering services to Kinder Morgan, Inc., to decommission, hydrotest, and convert 1,458 km (906 miles) of 8- to 24-inch crude oil pipelines to natural gas service. Willbros' scope of work included engineering, procurement, permitting, cost estimates, due diligence investigations, construction inspection, and field services. Additional engineering services included support to Kinder Morgan for their FERC filing and preparation of decommissioning and conversion plans associated with the existing crude oil pipeline.

This pipeline conversion project, the Pony Express Pipeline, gives Kinder Morgan an unprecedented opportunity to provide cost-effective competition to serve market needs within and beyond the company's current service territory. The pipeline extends from Riverton, Wyoming, southeast through portions of Colorado, Nebraska, and Kansas, terminating in Missouri just south of Kansas City. The initial capacity of 255 MMscfd was designed to accommodate an expansion of up to 300 MMscfd with additional compression.

In conjunction with the crude oil pipeline conversion, Willbros provided engineering, procurement, construction inspection, and field services for an additional 100-km (62-mile), 16-inch natural gas line from Rockport, Colorado, to Kimball Junction, Nebraska, connecting the Pony Express Pipeline with alternate gas markets and supplies. Willbros also provided engineering, procurement, construction inspection, and other field services for a 183-km (114-mile), 12-inch crude oil line from Casper to Ft. Laramie, Wyoming as part of the pipeline purchase agreement between Kinder Morgan and Amoco.

This expansion, along with the conversion of the crude oil pipeline, enables Wyoming natural gas producers to transport their product more efficiently and market their natural gas to a much broader base of customers. The project was completed in January 1998.

*Project Award
February 1996*

*Project Completion
January 1998*

United States

