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PRESS RELEASE

STEP Project: Continuing the dialogue after the consultation

The company behind the STEP project is voluntarily continuing its dialogue with territories following a public consultation that occurred from 21 November 2017 to 23 January 2018 under the aegis of the National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP).

Teréga, the largest independent French operator of gas infrastructure, is following the recommendations of the protectors of public consultations by organising themed workshops on the main points raised by local actors.

During the consultation, three themes were identified: crossing the Albera Massif, water (in the Aude and the Pyrénées-Orientales departments), and fires (in the Aude and the Pyrénées-Orientales departments).

Five coordination workshops have already been held from 22 to 25 May with local experts and entities such as the representatives of the areas involved, chambers of agriculture, joint unions of catchment areas, departmental fire and rescue services (SDIS), and the departmental management of territories and the sea (DDTM), among others.

These initial workshops helped confirm and add to the list of representatives and others involved in the conversation and to identify more precisely which subjects should be covered. A work agenda was also laid out for the next meetings.

The elements shared with the SDIS and the DDTM on the subject of fires will help determine opportunities for fire protection measures along the future route of the pipes and already existing constructions.

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The first conversations on the subject of water helped show that there is no impact on deep groundwater. Teréga will pay particular attention to water tables along waterways, potential perched water tables, and wetlands along waterways.

Safety, natural spaces, agricultural land, the landscape, and the environment are topics that are always important at Teréga. These challenges are the overarching themes uniting the workshops and are being discussed in detail with the appropriate authorities and partners in both departments. Teréga

includes these themes in its projects well in advance with the aim of using a methodology based on avoiding, reducing, and offsetting any issues.

As a reminder, the consultation helped determine that the eastern corridor was the one with the most opportunities for the territories. Studies will continue on that basis. Schedule of workshops:

- Coordination workshops: May 2018
- Data collection and specific workshops: May to September 2018
- First returns: late September 2018

The minutes of the first five meetings are available at <https://www.step.terega.fr/> (Post-consultation rubric)

About Teréga

The company, historically established in the Southwest of France, operates over 5,055 km of pipelines and 2 underground storage reservoirs representing 16% of the French gas transport network and 24.5% of national storage capacities.

In 2017, it posted a turnover of €471M and had over 590 employees.

Teréga meets its public service obligations, transporting natural gas to over 400 delivery stations under optimal safety, cost and reliability conditions.

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