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Bolivia: Construction Of 557-km. Gas Pipeline Delayed

by Barbara Khol

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On April 30, Coordination and Planning Minister Enrique Garcia told reporters that construction of the 557-km. gas pipeline between Santa Cruz and Puerto Suarez will be delayed for a year. Loan requirements for construction of the pipeline and a thermoelectricity plant on the border with Brazil are estimated at \$610 million. The project was conceived primarily for supplying electricity to Brazil. Garcia said the government has proposed that Japan's Export-Import Bank provide \$200 million in loans for the project, while the Inter-American Development Bank would provide the rest of the financing. The Japanese Eximbank has postponed consideration of loan approval until after the next G-7 meeting (the world's most advanced capitalist nation governments). According to initial plans, said Garcia, the construction would have commenced in August 1991, and the pipeline enter into operations early next year. (Basic data from EFE, 03/30/91)

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