

Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. All such motions or protests must be filed as provided in Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-17859 Filed 7-12-96; 8:45 am]

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**[Docket No. CP96-541-000]**

**Southern Natural Gas Company;  
Notice of Intent To Prepare an  
Environmental Assessment for the  
Proposed Zone III Expansion Project  
and Request for Comments on  
Environmental Issues**

July 9, 1996.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the Zone III Expansion Project.<sup>1</sup> This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.

**Summary of the Proposed Project**

Southern Natural Gas Company (Southern) wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi to transport an additional 45,880 cubic feet per day of natural gas to nine companies and two municipalities. Southern seeks authority to construct and operate:

- 4.6 miles of 30-inch-diameter loop in Crawford and Monroe Counties, Georgia;
- 5.1 miles of 16-inch-diameter loop in Jones and Twiggs Counties, Georgia;
- 5.9 miles of 30-inch-diameter loop in Lee County, Alabama;
- 7.3 miles of 24-inch-diameter loop in Pickens and Tuscaloosa Counties, Alabama; and

- 4.6 miles of 30-inch-diameter loop in Walthall, Lawrence, and Marion Counties, Mississippi.

Southern has also proposed to upgrade four turbine compressor engines which are located within the Selma Compressor Station in Dallas County, Alabama and the Bay Springs Compressor Station in Jasper County, Mississippi.

In addition, Southern would place an existing 104.6 mile 20-inch-diameter pipeline back in service. The Wrens-Savannah Pipeline is in Jefferson, Burke, Jenkins, Screven, Effingham, and Chatham Counties, Georgia.

The general location of the project facilities and specific locations for facilities on new sites are shown in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

**Land Requirements for Construction**

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 83.38 acres of land. Following construction, about 19.52 acres would be maintained as new right-of-way. The remaining 63.86 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

**The EA Process**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils.
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands.

- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Air quality and noise.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Public safety.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

**Currently Identified Environmental Issues**

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Southern. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Two federally listed endangered species may occur in the proposed project area.
- Three residences are located within 50 feet of the proposed construction right-of-way.

**Public Participation**

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposals, alternatives to the proposal including alternative routes, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Washington, DC 20426.
- Reference Docket No. CP96-541-000.

- Send a copy of your letter to: Ms. Amy Olson, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., PR-11.1, Washington, DC 20426; and

<sup>1</sup> Southern Natural Gas Company's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

<sup>2</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

• Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before August 19, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Ms. Olson at the above address.

#### Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an "intervenor". Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide copies of its filings to all other parties. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 2).

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Ms. Amy Olson, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-1199.

Lois D. Cashell,

*Secretary.*

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#### Sunshine Act Meeting

July 10, 1996.

The following Notice of Meeting is published pursuant to section 3(A) of the Government in the Sunshine Act (Pub. L. No. 94-409), 5 U.S.C. 552b:

**AGENCY HOLDING MEETING:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**DATE AND TIME:** July 17, 1996, 10:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Room 2C, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

**STATUS:** Open.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Agenda.

\* Note—Items listed on the agenda may be deleted without further notice.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, telephone (202) 208-0400. For a recording listing items stricken from or added to the meeting, call (202) 208-1627.

This is a list of matters to be considered by the Commission. It does

not include a listing of all papers relevant to the items on the agenda; however, all public documents may be examined in the Reference and Information Center.

Consent Agenda—Hydro 656th Meeting—July 17, 1996; Regular Meeting (10:00 a.m.)

CAH-1.

DOCKET# P-5984-005, NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

Consent Agenda—Electric

CAE-1.

DOCKET# ER96-1886-000, ORANGE AND ROCKLAND UTILITIES, INC.

OTHER#S ER96-1887-000, ORANGE AND ROCKLAND UTILITIES, INC.

CAE-2.

DOCKET# ER96-1888-000, ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY

CAE-3.

DOCKET# ER96-1902-000, NORTHEAST UTILITIES SERVICE COMPANY

CAE-4.

DOCKET# ER96-1695-000, FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

OTHER#S ER96-1826-000, FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

ER96-1893-000, FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

ER96-1914-000, FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

CAE-5.

DOCKET# ER96-1905-000, SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

OTHER#S ER96-1906-000, SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

ER96-1907-000, SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

ER96-1908-000, SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

ER96-1909-000, SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

ER96-1910-000, SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

CAE-6.

OMITTED

CAE-7.

DOCKET# FA94-23-001, CONNECTICUT YANKEE ATOMIC POWER COMPANY

CAE-8.

DOCKET# ER96-370-000, MAINE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

OTHER#S ER96-561-000, MAINE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

CAE-9.

DOCKET# ER95-634-000, FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

OTHER#S ER95-634-001, FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

ER95-634-002, FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

ER95-1536-000, FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

ER95-1536-001, FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

CAE-10.

DOCKET# EL96-33-000, ALLEGHENY GENERATING COMPANY

OTHER#S EL96-33-001, ALLEGHENY GENERATING COMPANY

CAE-11.

DOCKET# ER95-222-002, DELMARVA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

OTHER#S ER95-1639-001, DELMARVA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

CAE-12.

DOCKET# EL95-53-000, ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION V. ENTERGY SERVICES, INC.

CAE-13.

DOCKET# EL96-35-000, WABASH VALLEY POWER ASSOCIATION, INC.

V. NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, INC.

OTHER#S ER96-399-000, NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, INC.

CAE-14.

DOCKET# EL95-58-000, ENTERGY SERVICES, INC.

CAE-15.

DOCKET# EL96-32-000, ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AGENCY V. CENTRAL ILLINOIS PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

Consent Agenda—Gas and Oil

CAG-1.

DOCKET# RP96-279-000, TEXAS EASTERN TRANSMISSION CORPORATION

CAG-2.

OMITTED

CAG-3.

DOCKET# RP95-128-002, EAST TENNESSEE NATURAL GAS COMPANY

CAG-4.

DOCKET# RP95-408-010, COLUMBIA GAS TRANSMISSION CORPORATION

CAG-5.

DOCKET# RP95-457-001, ANR PIPELINE COMPANY

CAG-6.

DOCKET# RP96-249-000, TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE COMPANY

CAG-7.

DOCKET# RP94-52-000, NORTHWEST ALASKAN PIPELINE COMPANY  
OTHER#S RP94-52-001, NORTHWEST ALASKAN PIPELINE COMPANY  
RP94-250-000, NORTHWEST ALASKAN PIPELINE COMPANY  
RP94-250-001, NORTHWEST ALASKAN PIPELINE COMPANY

CAG-8.

DOCKET# RP95-125-002, MIDWESTERN GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY

CAG-9.

OMITTED

CAG-10.

DOCKET# RP96-129-000, TRUNKLINE GAS COMPANY

CAG-11.

DOCKET# RP96-137-000, NORTHERN NATURAL GAS COMPANY

CAG-12.

DOCKET# ST88-2555-007, LOUISIANA INTRASTATE GAS COMPANY L.L.C.

OTHER#S PR91-12-000, LOUISIANA INTRASTATE GAS COMPANY L.L.C.

PR92-7-000, LOUISIANA INTRASTATE GAS COMPANY L.L.C.

PR94-8-000, LOUISIANA INTRASTATE GAS COMPANY L.L.C.

PR94-8-001, LOUISIANA INTRASTATE GAS COMPANY L.L.C.

PR94-8-002, LOUISIANA INTRASTATE GAS COMPANY L.L.C.