

Transmission Co-operative, tendered for filing an executed umbrella non-firm point-to-point service agreement with Williams Energy Services Company under its open access transmission tariff. Deseret requests a waiver of the Commission's notice requirements for an effective date of December 17, 1997. Deseret's open access transmission tariff is currently on file with the Commission in Docket No. OA97-487-000. Williams Energy Services Company has been provided a copy of this filing.

Comment date: January 29, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

23. New England Power Pool

[Docket No. ER98-1140-000]

Take notice that on December 18, 1997, the New England Power Pool (NEPOOL or Pool), Executive Committee filed a request for termination of membership in NEPOOL, with an effective date of January 1, 1998, of Wheeled Electric Power Company (Wheeled Electric). Such termination is pursuant to the terms of the NEPOOL Agreement dated September 1, 1971, as amended, and previously signed by Wheeled Electric. The New England Power Pool Agreement, as amended (the NEPOOL Agreement), has been designated NEPOOL FPC No. 2.

The Executive Committee states that termination of Wheeled Electric with an effective date of January 1, 1998, would relieve Wheeled Electric, at its request, of the obligations and responsibilities of Pool membership and would not change the NEPOOL Agreement in any manner, other than to remove Wheeled Electric from membership in the Pool. Wheeled Electric owns no generation or transmission facilities in the New England Control Area.

Comment date: January 29, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

24. Washington Water Power

[Docket No. ER98-1141-000]

Take notice that on December 19, 1997, Washington Water Power, tendered for filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pursuant to 18 CFR 35.13, an executed Service Agreement under WWP's FERC Electric Tariff First Revised Volume No. 9, with Engage Energy US, L.P. (Superseding an Unexecuted Service Agreement previously assigned as Service Agreement No. 65 under FERC Docket No. ER97-1252-000 for Coastal Electric Services Company, now doing business as Engage Energy US, L.P.). WWP requests waiver of the prior notice

requirement and requests an effective date of December 1, 1997.

Comment date: January 29, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

25. Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

[Docket No. ER98-1203-000]

Take notice that on December 24, 1997, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison), tendered for filing a Supplement to its Rate Schedule, Con Edison Rate Schedule FERC No. 2, a facilities agreement with Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation (CH). The Supplement provides for a decrease in the monthly carrying charges. Con Edison has requested that this decrease take effect as of October 1, 1997.

Con Edison states that a copy of this filing has been served by mail upon CH.

Comment date: January 29, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

26. Consolidated Edison Company Of New York, Inc.

[Docket No. ER98-1212-000]

Take Notice that on December 24, 1997, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison), tendered for filing a Supplement to its Rate Schedule FERC 117, an agreement to provide transmission and interconnection service to Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO). The Supplement provides for an increase in the annual fixed rate carrying charges. Con Edison has requested that this increase take effect as of November 1, 1997.

Con Edison states that a copy of this filing has been served by mail upon LILCO.

Comment date: January 29, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

27. New York State Electric & Gas Corporation

[Docket No. ER98-1267-000]

Take notice that on December 31, 1997, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG), tendered for filing a Clarification with the transmission services provided under Niagara Mohawk Power Corporations FERC Rate Schedule No. 165 and New York State Electric & Gas Corporation's FERC Rate Schedule No. 115.

NYSEG requests waiver of the Commission's sixty-day notice requirements and an effective date of November 27, 1997, for the Clarification. NYSEG has served copies of the filing on The New York State

Public Service Commission and on the Customers.

Comment date: January 29, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

28. Public Service Company of New Mexico

[Docket No. ER98-1285-000]

Take notice that, on December 18, 1997, Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM), submitted tariff sheets under its open access transmission service tariff (tariff), incorporating provisions for rights of first refusal for tariff and pre-tariff transmission service and bundled service customers. Copies of PNM's filing have been posted and are available for inspection in PNM's office in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This filing is also available in the Open Access Tariff Filings directory of the FERC Electric Power Data Bulletin Board.

Comment date: January 29, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. 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 these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-1586 Filed 1-22-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2612-005]

Central Maine Power Company; Notice of Extension of Time

January 16, 1998.

The Commission issued a Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the above-docketed project on December 17, 1997

(62 FR 67070, December 23, 1997), with a comment period ending on January 16, 1998. On January 13, 1998, Central Maine Power Company (CMP) filed a motion requesting a 30-day extension of the review period because of unexpected emergency conditions CMP is presently experiencing due to unusually harsh weather.

Upon consideration, notice is hereby given that an extension of time for CMP and all interested parties to review the DEA is granted. Comments on the DEA shall be filed on or before February 17, 1998.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-1585 Filed 1-22-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-100-000]

Algonquin Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed ANP Bellingham Lateral Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

January 16, 1998.

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, about 1.1 miles of 14-inch-diameter pipeline, a new meter station and appurtenant facilities, proposed in the ANP Bellingham Lateral Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin) proposes to expand the capacity of its facilities in Massachusetts to transport an additional 110,000 dekatherms per day of natural gas to the planned American National Power Bellingham Power Company (ANP) plant. Algonquin seeks authority to construct and operate:

- 1.1 miles of 14-inch-diameter pipeline in the town of Bellingham, Massachusetts;

- A new meter station at the planned ANP power plant in Bellingham; and
- A tap and valving in Bellingham.

ANP would construct a 580 megawatt power plant in the town of Bellingham. ANP would construct about 200 feet of nonjurisdictional pipeline to connect the meter station with the power plant and appurtenant facilities.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.² If you are interested in obtaining procedural information, please write to the Secretary of the Commission.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 9.43 acres of land. Following construction, about 4.12 acres would be maintained as permanent pipeline right-of-way. The remaining 5.31 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; and

- Hazardous waste.

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 make our recommendations to the Commission.

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 Algonquin. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Potential effect on the Charles River during crossing by directional drilling.
- Potential effect on two water supply wells close to the proposed lateral.
- Potential effect on two archeological sites.

Also, we have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts of the nonjurisdictional facilities. We will briefly describe their location and status in the EA.

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 proposal, 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:

- Send *two* copies of your letter to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label *one* copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.2;
- Reference Docket No. CP98-100-000; and

¹ Algonquin Gas Transmission Company's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

² 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.