

application under Sections 203 and 205 of the Federal Power Act in connection with the proposed sale of generation assets by Bangor to PP&L Global, Inc. or its wholly owned assignee, Penobscot Hydro, L.L.C.. Pursuant to Section 203 of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 824b, Bangor requests Commission approval of the sale of minimal jurisdictional facilities. Pursuant to Section 205 of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 824d, Bangor also seeks approval of certain agreements, including an interconnection agreement, made in connection with the sale of generation assets.

Comment date: February 4, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraphs

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,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-978 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-102-000]

Wyoming Interstate Company, Ltd.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Medicine Bow Lateral Project, Request for Comments on Environmental issues and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings and Site Visit

January 11, 1999.

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 143 miles of 24-inch-

diameter pipeline and about 7,200 horsepower (hp) of compression, proposed in the Medicine Bow Lateral Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the environmental impact statement (EIS) is necessary and whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

The application and other supplemental filings in this docket are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The pipeline company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law. A fact sheet addressing a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain, is attached to this notice as appendix 1.²

Additionally, with this notice we are asking Federal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA. These agencies may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their agencies' responsibilities.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Wyoming Interstate Company, Ltd. (WIC) proposes to build new pipeline and compression facilities to increase the transportation capacity of its current system in Colorado and Wyoming. The

¹ Wyoming Interstate Company, Ltd.'s application was filed with the Commission on December 3, 1998 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.

new facilities would enable WIC to transport an additional 269 million cubic feet of natural gas per day from the Powder River Basin. Specifically, WIC seeks Commission authority to construct and operate the following facilities:

- 143 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline extending from WIC's existing mainline in Weld County, Colorado, to Converse County, Wyoming, where it would interconnect with nonjurisdictional gathering facilities;
- A new compressor station in Converse County, Wyoming, which would consist of one turbine-driven, centrifugal compressor unit rated at either 6,937 or 7,200 hp (depending on the exact model finally chosen);
- Two new meter stations in Converse County, Wyoming; and
- A new check meter and side valve in Weld County, Colorado, at the interconnection with WIC's mainline, about 7.5 miles west of WIC's existing Cheyenne Compressor Station.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 3.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 1,953 acres of land. Following construction, about 9 acres would be maintained as new aboveground facility sites, and 867 acres would be maintained as permanent right-of-way for the pipeline. The remaining 1,077 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 and whether an EIS is necessary. 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
- Endangered and threatened
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Air quality and noise
- 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 make our recommendations to the Commission.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section on pages 4 and 5 of this notice.

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

- Twenty-five perennial streams between 10 and 100 feet wide, and 59 wetlands would be crossed.
- Five federally listed endangered or threatened species may occur in the proposed project area.
- Portions of the Oregon Trail, which is listed as a National Historic Landmark, would be crossed.
- About 5.2 miles of agricultural land would be crossed, which is mostly hay fields and pasture.
- About 25 miles of public land would be crossed, of which almost 8 miles is administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Also, WIC's proposes to interconnect in Converse County with the nonjurisdictional gathering facilities of Western Gas Resources, Inc. and Devon

Energy Corporation. Although these facilities are not under the jurisdiction of the FERC, they will be discussed in the EA.

Public Participation and Scoping Meetings

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentor, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. 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 carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.1.
- Reference Docket No. CP99-102-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before February 12, 1999.

In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments, we invite you to attend the public scoping meetings the FERC will conduct in the project area. The locations and times for these meetings are listed below.

Schedule of Public Scoping Meetings for the WIC Medicine Bow Lateral Project

Tuesday, January 26, 1999, 7:00 pm—
Douglas, Wyoming, Best Western
Douglas Inn & Conference Center,
1450 Riverbend Dr., 307-358-9790

Wednesday, January 27, 1999, 7:00
pm—Wheatland, Wyoming, Platte
County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building,
59 Antelope Gap Rd., 307-322-
9504

The public meetings are designed to provide you with more detailed information and another opportunity to offer your comments on the proposed project. WIC representatives will be present at the scoping meetings to describe their proposal. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and to present comments on the environmental issues they believe should be addressed in the EA. A transcript of each meeting will be

made so that your comments will be accurately recorded.

On January 27, 1999, we will also be conducting a limited site visit to the project area. The site visit will be an aerial inspection, by helicopter, of the proposed route and the currently identified alternative routes. If weather conditions preclude an overflight, we will attempt to conduct the inspection by automobile (locations to be determined). Anyone interested in participating in the site visit may contact the Commission's Office of External Affairs identified at the end of this notice for more details and must provide their own transportation.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor". Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. 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 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. 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). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

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 environmental comments considered. Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222. Access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission with regard to this docket, such as orders and notices, is also available on the FERC website using the "CIPS" link. For assistance

with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-977 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6221-7]

Notice of Oxygenate Use in Gasoline Panel Meeting

SUMMARY: On November 30, 1998, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol M. Browner announced the creation of a blue-ribbon panel of leading experts from the public health and scientific communities, automotive fuels industry, water utilities, and local and State government to review the important issues posed by the use of MTBE and other oxygenates in gasoline. EPA created the panel to gain a better understanding of the public health concerns raised by the discovery of MTBE in some water supplies. The panel will be chaired by Mr. Daniel Greenbaum, President of the Health Effects Institute (HEI) of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Mr. Robert Perciasepe, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, US EPA.

This notice announces the time and place for the first meeting of the panel.

DATES: The blue-ribbon panel reviewing the use of oxygenates in gasoline will conduct its first meeting on Friday, January 22, 1999, in Washington DC beginning at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Marriott Crystal City, 1999 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Smith at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Air and Radiation, 401 M Street, SW (6406J), Washington, D.C. 20460, (202) 564-9674, or John Brophy at (202) 564-9068.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This will be the first of several meetings at locations around the country to hear from regional and national experts on the facts concerning oxygenate use in fuel. In addition to invited presentations, the panel has set aside time for public comment. A sign-up sheet will be available at the registration table the morning of the meeting and any person desiring to make a brief statement should sign-up by 11:00 a.m. These statements will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis and may be limited in length to allow for

participation by all parties. The panel will also be accepting written submissions. Written submissions can be mailed to US EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Mail Code 6406J (Attn: Blue-Ribbon Panel), Washington, DC 20460.

Dated: January 13, 1999.

Michael G. Shields,

Acting Director, Office of Mobile Sources.

[FR Doc. 99-1106 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5498-7]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 OR (202) 564-7153.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements Filed January 04, 1999 Through January 08, 1999 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 990000, FINAL EIS, AFS, UT, South Spruce Ecosystem Rehabilitation Project, Implementation, Dixie National Forest, Cedar City Ranger District, Iron and Kane Counties, UT, Due: February 15, 1999, Contact: Phillip G. Eisenhauer (435) 865-3200.

EIS No. 990001, DRAFT EIS, AFS, ID, St. Joe Ranger District Noxious Weed Control Project, Implementation, Proposal from Control Noxious Weeds on 131 Sites, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, St. Joe Ranger District, Benewah, Latah and Shoshone Counties, Idaho, Due: March 01, 1999, Contact: Dennis Griffith (208) 245-2531.

EIS No. 990002, DRAFT EIS, DOE, MN, Snake River Watershed Plan, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, NPDES Permit and COE Section 404 Permit, Marshall Pennington and Polk Counties, MN, Due: March 01, 1999, Contact: Vic Ruhland (612) 602-7900.

EIS No. 990003, FINAL SUPPLEMENT, AFS, ID, Thompson Creek Molybdenum Project, Cyprus Mines Corporation, Custer County, ID, Due: February 15, 1999, Contact: Tom Buchta (801) 625-5663.

EIS No. 990004, DRAFT EIS, BLM, CO, Yankee Gulch Sodium Minerals Project, To Produce Sodium Products, Piceance Basin, Right-of-Way Permit and COE Section 404 Permit, Rio Blanch County, CO, Due: March 08, 1999, Contact: Larry Shutts (970) 878-3601.

EIS No. 990005, FINAL EIS, NOA, Monkfish Fishery Regulations Northeast Multispecies Fishery (FMP), Fishery Management Plan, Amendment 9, Implementation, Exclusive Economic Zone, off the New England and Mid-Atlantic Coast, Due: February 15, 1999, Contact: Kathi Rodrigues (978) 281-9300.

EIS No. 990006, FINAL EIS, COE, Santa Maria and Sisquoc Rivers Specific Plan, Mining and Reclamation Plans, (MRPs), Coast Rock Site and S.P. Milling Site, Conditional Use Permits, Approval of Reclamation Plans, and Section 404 Permits, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County, CA, Due: February 15, 1999, Contact: Ms. Tiffany Welch (805) 641-2935.

Dated: January 12, 1999.

William D. Dickerson,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 99-1016 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5498-8]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared December 28, 1998 through January 01, 1999 pursuant to the Environmental Review

Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 10, 1998 (62 FR 17856).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-L65311-ID Rating EC2, North Fork St. Joe River Project, Implementation, Idaho Panhandles National Forest, St. Joe Ranger District, Shoshone County, ID.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns. EPA requested