

from April 1 through June 15. The exemptee proposes a year round release of five cfs. The Koyle Ranch Power Project is located on the Big Wood River, near Gooding, Idaho. A Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) was prepared for the proposed modification in flow. The FEA finds that approving the exemptee's proposal would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The FEA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the FEA can be viewed in the Public Reference Room, Room 2-A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. The EA can also be viewed on the web at www.ferc.fed.us. Please call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

Lindwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP98-761-000 and CP99-140-000]

Viking Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 1999 Expansion Project

February 3, 1999.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Viking Gas Transmission Company (Viking) in the above-referenced docket. 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.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major

Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The purpose of the proposed facilities is to provide additional firm transportation service of approximately 28 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd) of natural gas during the winter months and approximately 22 MMcfd of natural gas during the summer months along Viking's existing route between the Canada-United States border near Emerson, Manitoba and North Branch, Minnesota. The proposed facilities would also provide reliability and system flexibility benefits to Viking's existing customers.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following proposed natural gas transmission facilities:

- The construction of five pipeline loops¹ of 24-inch-diameter pipeline totaling 45.0 miles;
- The construction of eight crossover valves and other minor aboveground facilities to connect the loops to Viking's existing pipelines;
- The construction of one new meter station; and
- The removal of the existing valve.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371. Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded.

- Send two copies of your comments to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR11.1;
- Reference Docket Nos. CP98-761-000 and CP99-140-000; and

¹ A pipeline loop is a segment of pipeline installed parallel to an existing pipeline and connected to it at both ends in order to increase the volume of gas that can be transported through the pipeline system.

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before March 4, 1999.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).

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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-3063 Filed 2-8-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2017-011]

Southern California Edison, Inc., Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

February 3, 1999.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) received an application for a new license for the continued operation and maintenance of the existing Big Creek No. 4 Hydropower Project (BC#4) on February 26, 1997. BC#4 is located on the San Joaquin River, in Fresno, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California. The project would have an installed capacity of 98.8 megawatts.

Following the public scoping process, the Commission staff determined that

licensing of BC#4 could constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the staff intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for BC#4 in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The staff's EIS will objectively consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts of the project and reasonable alternatives, and will include economic and engineering analyses.

A draft EIS (DEIS) will be issued and circulated for review by all interested parties. All comments filed on the DEIS will be analyzed by the staff and considered in the final EIS (FEIS). The staff's conclusions and recommendations will then be presented for the consideration of the Commission in reaching its final licensing decision.

This notice informs all interested individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns, that: (1) the Commission staff has decided to prepare an EIS; (2) the scoping meetings held December 15 and 16, 1997, at the offices of the Sierra National Forest in North Fork and Clovis, California, and comments filed with the Commission by February 20, 1997—still apply; and (3) additional comments for BC#4 that may result from the change from an EA to an EIS may be filed with the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, within 30 days from the date of this notice.

All written correspondence should clearly show the following caption of the first page: Big Creek No. 4 Hydropower Project, (FERC Project No. 2017-011)

Intervenors—those on the Commission's service list for this proceeding (parties)—are reminded of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, requiring parties filing documents with the Commission, to serve a copy of the document on each person whose name appears on the official service list.¹ Further, if a party or intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to John Ramer,

Environmental Coordinator, at (202) 219-2833 or John.Ramer@FERC.Fed.US.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-3069 Filed 2-8-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Applications Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Soliciting Additional Study Requests

February 3, 1999.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric applications have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection:

a. *Type of applications:* Two New Major Licenses and Three Subsequent Licenses.

b. *Project Nos.:* 2897-003, 2931-002, 2932-003, 2941-002, and 2942-005.

c. *Date filed:* January 22, 1998.

d. *Applicant:* S.D. Warren Company.

e. *Name of Projects:* Saccarappa Project, Gambo Project, Mallison Falls Project, Little Falls Project, and Dundee Project.

f. *Location:* On the Presumpscot River, near the towns of Windham, Gorham, and Westbrook, in Cumberland County, Maine. These projects do not utilize any federal lands.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a)-825(r)).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Tom Howard, S.D. Warren Company, 89 Cumberland Street/P.O. Box 5000, Westbrook, ME 04098-1597, (207) 856-4286.

i. *FERC Contact:* Any questions on this notice should be addressed to Bob Easton, E-mail address robert.easton@ferc.fed.us or telephone at (202) 219-2782.

j. *Deadline for filing additional study requests:* March 23, 1999.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. *Status of environmental analysis:* These applications are not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. *Brief Description of the Projects:*

Saccarappa: The project consists of the following existing facilities: (1) a 322-foot-long diversion dam consisting of two concrete overflow structures separated by an island; (2) two bypassed reaches measuring 475 and 390 feet long; (3) a 380-foot-long and 36-foot-wide intake canal; (4) a 49-foot-wide by 71-foot-long masonry powerhouse; (5) three turbine generator units, each with a rated capacity of 450 kilowatts (KW) for a total project installed capacity of 1,350 KW; (6) a 345-foot-long tailrace formed by a 33-foot-high guard wall; (7) a 1-mile-long 2.3 KV transmission line/generator lead; and (8) other appurtenances.

Gambo: The project consists of the following existing facilities: (1) A 250-foot-long, 24-foot-high concrete overflow section and 50-foot-long intake structure; (2) a 737-foot-long and 15-foot-deep concrete lined intake canal; (3) a 47-foot-wide by 78-foot-long reinforced concrete and brick powerhouse; (4) two turbine generator units, each with a rated capacity of 950 KW for a total project installed capacity of 1,900 KW; (5) a 300-foot-long bypassed reach; (6) an 8-mile-long 11 KV transmission line; and (7) other appurtenances.

Mallison Falls: The project consists of the following existing facilities: (1) a 358-foot-long and 14-foot-high reinforced concrete, masonry, and cut granite diversion dam; (2) a 70-foot-long headgate structure; (3) a 675-foot-long, 41-foot-wide, and 6-foot-deep bedrock lined intake canal; (4) a 33-foot-wide by 51-foot-long reinforced concrete and masonry powerhouse; (5) two turbine generator units, each with a rated capacity of 400 KW for a total project installed capacity of 800 KW; (6) a 675-foot-long bypassed reach; (7) an 11 KV transmission line tied into the Gambo Project transmission line; and (8) other appurtenances.

Little Falls: The project consists of the following existing facilities: (1) a 330-foot-long and 14-foot-high reinforced concrete and masonry dam incorporating a 70-foot-long intake structure; (2) a 25-foot-wide by 95-foot-long masonry powerhouse which is integral to the dam; (3) four turbine generator units, each with a rated capacity of 250 KW for a total project installed capacity of 1,000 KW; (4) a 300-foot-long bypassed reach; (5) an 11 KV transmission line tied into the Gambo Project transmission line; and (6) other appurtenances.

¹ The official service list can be obtained by calling the Office of the Secretary, Dockets Branch, at (202) 208-2020.