

Commission's Regulations and a copy has been served on the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

Comment date: April 4, 2000, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

12. Duke Energy Corporation

[Docket No. ER00-1880-000]

Take notice that on March 14, 2000, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke), tendered for filing a Service Agreement with El Paso Merchant Energy, L.P., for Firm Transmission Service under Duke's Open Access Transmission Tariff.

Duke requests that the proposed Service Agreement be permitted to become effective on February 24, 2000.

Duke states that this filing is in accordance with Part 35 of the Commission's Regulations and a copy has been served on the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

Comment date: April 4, 2000, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

13. Duke Energy Corporation

[Docket No. ER00-1881-000]

Take notice that on March 14, 2000, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke), tendered for filing a Service Agreement with Southern Company Energy Marketing L.P., for Firm Transmission Service under Duke's Open Access Transmission Tariff.

Duke requests that the proposed Service Agreement be permitted to become effective on February 24, 2000.

Duke states that this filing is in accordance with Part 35 of the Commission's Regulations and a copy has been served on the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

Comment date: April 4, 2000, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

14. Entergy Services, Inc.

[Docket No. ER00-1882-000]

Take notice that on March 14, 2000, Entergy Services, Inc., on behalf of Entergy Arkansas, Inc. (Entergy Arkansas), tendered for filing a Notice of Cancellation of the Electric Peaking Power Agreement between City of Thayer, Missouri and Entergy Arkansas.

Comment date: April 4, 2000, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

15. New England Power Pool

[Docket No. ER00-1874-000]

Take notice that on March 14, 2000, the New England Power Pool Participants Committee submitted changes to Market Rules and Procedures 2, 2-A, 3, 3-A, 3-E and 17.

The NEPOOL Participants Committee states that copies of these materials were sent to the New England state governors and regulatory commissions and the Participants in the New England Power Pool.

Comment date: April 4, 2000, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

16. Texas-New Mexico Power Company v. Public Service Company of New Mexico

[Docket No. EL00-53-000]

Take notice that on March 15, 2000, Texas-New Mexico Power Company (TNMP), tendered for filing a Complaint against Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM). TNMP requests that the Commission: (1) Issue an injunction that releases 30MW of firm point-to-point transmission service from Four Corners to southern New Mexico to TNMP; and (2) establish a hearing to address the policy issues raised in this Complaint and ascertain the appropriate monetary damages to be awarded to TNMP.

Comment date: April 4, 2000, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice. Answers to the Complaint shall also be filed on or before April 14, 2000.

Standard Paragraphs

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such 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 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. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-7174 Filed 3-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-64-000]

CNG Transmission Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Capstone Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Site Visit

March 17, 2000.

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 Capstone Project involving construction and operation of facilities proposed by CNG Transmission Corporation (CNG) in Elk, Jefferson, Armstrong and Potter Counties, Pennsylvania, and in Montgomery County, New York.¹

CNG would:

- Construct approximately 13.6 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline loop (the TL474x2 pipeline) and 800 feet of 30-inch-diameter connector pipeline in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania;
- Construct a 4,450-horsepower (hp) compressor at the Punxsutawney Compressor Station in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania;
- Construct two 3,200-hp compressors alongside the existing Little Greenlick Relay Station in Potter County, Pennsylvania;
- Construct a new 7,000-hp Brookman Corners Compressor Station in Montgomery County, New York;
- Upgrade the Ardell Compressor Station in Elk County, Pennsylvania by replacing a 12,600-hp engine with a 15,000-hp engine; and
- Abandon approximately 13 miles (11.2 miles in-place and 1.8 miles by removal) of the 12-inch-diameter LN-9 Pipeline in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania.

The facilities would allow CNG to provide service on CNG's system that is comparable to service currently provided under a contract with Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company.

Our EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you should have been contacted by the pipeline company about the

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

acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. You should also have been contacted by CNG if you reside within 1/2 mile of a compressor station. 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 prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" was attached to the project notice CNG provided to landowners. This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us).

The location of the proposed project facilities is shown in appendix 1, figures 1 through 6.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Constructing the proposed pipeline would generally require a 75-foot-wide corridor. Approximately 5 miles of the route which crosses agricultural land would require an additional 25 feet to stockpile topsoil (a 100-foot-wide easement). The proposed pipeline would parallel existing pipelines for 11.8 miles and would make use of (overlap) 25 feet of existing maintained pipeline easement during construction and only require an additional 25 feet of permanent right-of-way to accommodate the new pipeline. The 1.9 miles of new right-of-way to accommodate the new pipeline. The 1.9 miles of new right-of-way to accommodate the pipeline. The 1.9 miles of new right-of-way at the southern end of the pipeline would require a 50-foot-wide new permanent easement.

Pipeline construction would disturb approximately 140 acres. Following construction, the land disturbed by construction activities would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use. The project would require approximately 47 acres of new

permanent pipeline easement (35.5 acres paralleling existing right-of-way and 11.5 acres of new corridor).

Construction at the proposed Little Greenlick Compressor Station would require about 22.21 acres and at the proposed Brookman Corners Compressor Station about 15.5 acres. After construction these areas would also be restored and revert to previous use except for 6.3 acres that would be maintained at each location as compressor station yards. Construction at the Punxsutawney and Ardell Compressor stations would occur within existing fenced compressor station yards and would involve an acre or less of ground disturbance.

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 would 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 species.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Air quality and noise.
- Public safety.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed 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 below.

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

1. Residences and Wells

- Impacts on 27 wells and 6 springs within 150 feet of the right-of-way.
- Impacts on four residences laying within 50 feet of the centerline of the new pipe; and another eight structures within 100 feet of the edge of the construction right-of-way.

2. Compressor Station Noise

Twenty-six residents near the Punxsutawney Compressor Station have expressed concern about existing noise levels and the potential for the project to result in further increases.

3. Geology and Soils Impacts

- Impacts on 3.3 miles of prime farmland soils.
- Impacts on 6.4 miles of erosion prone soils.

4. Water Resources and Wetlands

- Impacts to 3 perennial streams, 9 intermittent streams, and 10 drainage ways.
- Impacts to 19 wetlands.
- Impact to Crooked Creek from withdrawal of 2.5 million galls of water for hydrostatic testing of the pipeline.

5. Biological Resources

- Impacts on about 45 acres of deciduous forest.
- Impacts on the timber rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus*, a Pennsylvania state candidate for the threatened and endangered list.
- Impacts on the Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*, a New York state threatened species.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's website at the "RIMS" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. For instructions on connecting to RIMS refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, 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, 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 Gas Group 2, PJ-11.2.
- Reference Docket No. CP00-64-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before April 17, 2000.

On April 3 and 4, 2000, the Office of Energy Projects will conduct a precertification site visit of the pipeline route and compressor station sites. All parties may attend. Those planning to attend 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.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. 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. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

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

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-7151 Filed 3-22-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application for Amendment of License and Soliciting Comments

March 17, 2000.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- a. *Type of Application:* Five-year Review and Update of Land Use and Shoreline Management Plan.
- b. *Project No.:* 516-318.
- c. *Date Filed:* February 1, 2000.
- d. *Applicant:* South Carolina Electric & Gas Company.
- e. *Name of Project:* Saluda.
- f. *Location:* The project is located in Saluda, Lexington, Newberry and Richland Counties, SC.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).
- h. *Applicant contact:* Thomas G. Eppink, Esquire Senior Attorney, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company, Legal Department—130, Columbia, SC 29218, (803) 217-9448 or, Tommy Boozer, Lake Manager, (803) 217-9007.
- i. *FERC contact:* John K. Hannula, (202) 219-0016.
- j. *Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene and protest:* 30 days from the issuance date of this notice. Please include the project

number (516-318) on any comments or motions filed. All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

k. *Description of the Application:* South Carolina Electric & Gas Company requests Commission approval of its 5-Year Review and Update of its Land Use and Shoreline Management Plan. The 5-year Review and Update considers recreational use, lake management, and land use management of the project shoreline. Specifically, the 5-year Review and Update addresses park improvements, dock policy, buffer zone and forest management, land sales and environmental resources.

l. *Locations of the application:* A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The application may be viewed on the web at www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm (Call (202) 208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the addresses in item h above.

Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene—Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS," "PROTEST," OR "MOTION TO INTERVENE", as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.