

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. EL13–48–000]

Delaware Division of the Public Advocate, Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation, Inc., Delaware Public Service Commission, Maryland Office of People's Counsel, Maryland Public Service Commission, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel, Office of the People's Counsel of the District of Columbia, Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia v. Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, Pepco Holdings, Inc., Potomac Electric Power Company, Delmarva Power & Light Company, Atlantic City Electric Company;

Notice of Complaint

Take notice that on February 27, 2013, pursuant to Rules 206 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), 18 CFR 385.206 (2013) and section 206 of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 824(e), Delaware Division of the Public Advocate, Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation, Inc., Delaware Public Service Commission, Maryland Office of People's Counsel, Maryland Public Service Commission, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel, Office of the People's Counsel of the District of Columbia, and Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (collectively, Complainants) filed a formal complaint against Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), Pepco Holdings, Inc. (PHI), and affiliates; Potomac Electric Power Company, Delmarva Power & Light Company, and Atlantic City Electric Company (Respondents), seeking a Commission order to reduce the base return equity used in BGE's and PHI Companies' formula transmission rates to 8.7 percent and directing the Respondents to submit compliance filings to implement the changes to the formula transmission rate implementation protocols, as more fully described in the complaint.

The Complainants certify that copies of the complaint were served on the contacts for the Respondents as listed on the Commission's list of Corporate Officials and on parties the Complainants reasonably expect to be affected by this Complaint.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of

the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). 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 notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. The Respondent's answer and all interventions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. The Respondent's answer, motions to intervene, and protests must be served on the Complainants.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 14 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link and is available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an "eSubscription" link on the web site that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

Comment Date: 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on March 19, 2013.

Dated: February 28, 2013.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013–05258 Filed 3–6–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP13–53–000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Garner LNG Offloading Facilities and Utilization Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

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 Garner liquefied natural gas (LNG) Offloading Facilities and Utilization

Project (Project) involving construction and operation of LNG offloading facilities by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) in Hancock County, Iowa. The Commission will use this EA in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the project. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EA. Details on how to submit written comments are in the Public Participation section of this notice. Please note that the scoping period will close on April 1, 2013.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this proposed project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

Northern provided landowners with a fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?". 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 also available for viewing on the FERC Web site (www.ferc.gov).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Northern proposes to construct and operate an LNG offloading facility, immediately adjacent to the existing Garner LNG storage facility that would allow Northern to provide trailer-delivered LNG service to support the operation and maintenance of its pipeline system, and provide LNG to third parties on an interruptible basis.

The Project would consist of the following facilities:

- Offloading station including, LNG pump skid, LNG trailer loading skid, and skid enclosures;
- aboveground transfer piping including, pipe, and concrete and steel pipe support;
- isolation, check, and flow control valves;
- mass flow meter and overpressure protection system;
- spill containment system;
- security fence, an electrical operated security gate, and security monitoring system;
- fire and gas detection system and emergency shutdown system;
- widen the existing driveway of the Garner LNG storage facility; and

- add new access road from the existing driveway.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.¹

Land Requirements for Construction

The property owned by Northern encompasses a total of 169 acres. The existing Garner LNG storage facility occupies approximately 25.6 acres. Construction of the Project would require approximately 49.5 acres, including areas within and outside of the existing Garner LNG storage facility. Operation of the Project would require approximately 1.07 acres. All construction materials and construction equipment would be staged and stored within the Project area.

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 us² to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as “scoping.” The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

In the EA we 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;
- land use;
- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- cultural resources;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- air quality and noise;
- endangered and threatened species;
- cumulative impacts; and
- public safety.

We will also evaluate reasonable 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.

The EA will present our independent analysis of the issues. The EA will be available in the public record through eLibrary. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, we may also publish and distribute the EA to the public for an allotted comment period. We will consider all comments on the EA before making our recommendations to the Commission. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section beginning on page 4.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues of this project to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA³. Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the Public Participation section of this notice.

Consultations Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are using this notice to initiate consultation with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and to solicit its views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project’s potential effects on historic properties.⁴ We will define the project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPO as the project develops. On natural gas facility projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, compressor stations, and access roads). Our EA for this project will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before April 1, 2013.

For your convenience, there are three methods which you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. In all instances please reference the project docket number (CP13–53–000) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (202) 502–8258 or efiling@ferc.gov.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature on the Commission’s Web site (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. This is an easy method for interested persons to submit brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically using the eFiling feature on the Commission’s Web site (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on “eRegister.” You must select the type of filing you are making. If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select “Comment on a Filing”; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

Environmental Mailing List

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission’s regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground

¹ The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the **Federal Register**. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at www.ferc.gov using the link called “eLibrary” or from the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502–8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

² “We,” “us,” and “our” refer to the environmental staff of the Commission’s Office of Energy Projects.

³ The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.6.

⁴ The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the project. We will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that we send the information related to this environmental review to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project.

If we publish and distribute the EA, copies will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the document instead of the CD version or would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Information Request (appendix 2).

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an “intervenor” which is an official party to the Commission’s proceeding. Intervenor play a more formal role in the process and are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission’s final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are located under the Help link on the Commission’s Web site, by clicking on “How to Intervene.”

Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission’s Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208–FERC, or on the FERC Web site at www.ferc.gov using the “eLibrary” link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on “General Search” and enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., CP13–53). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208–3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502–8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm.

Finally, public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission’s

calendar located at www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx along with other related information.

Dated: February 28, 2013.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013–05257 Filed 3–6–13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2277–023]

Union Electric Company (dba Ameren Missouri); Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for a new license for the Taum Sauk Pumped Storage Project (FERC Project No. 2277), located on the East Fork of the Black River in Reynolds County, Missouri, and prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA).

In the draft EA, Commission staff analyzes the potential environmental effects of licensing the project, and concludes that issuing a new license for the project, with appropriate environmental measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

A copy of the draft EA is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission’s web site at www.ferc.gov using the “eLibrary” link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits, in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1–866–208–3676, or for TTY, 202–502–8659.

You may also register online at www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Any comments should be filed within 30 days from the date of this notice. Comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission’s Web site

www.ferc.gov/docfiling/efiling.asp. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, mail an original and seven copies to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Please affix “Taum Sauk Pumped Storage Project No. 2277–023” to all comments.

For further information, please contact Janet Hutzel by telephone at (202) 502–8675, or by email at janet.hutzel@ferc.gov.

Dated: March 1, 2013.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013–05278 Filed 3–6–13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 14447–000—MA]

L.S. Starrett Company; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47879), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for exemption from licensing for the Crescent Street Dam Hydroelectric Project, located on the Millers River, in the Town of Athol, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA). In the EA, Commission staff analyzes the potential environmental effects of the project and concludes that issuing an exemption for the project, with appropriate environmental measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

A copy of the EA is on file with the Commission and is available for public inspection. The EA may also be viewed on the Commission’s Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the “eLibrary” link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the docket number