

and must mail a copy to the applicant and to every other party in the proceeding. Only parties to the proceeding can ask for court review of Commission orders in the proceeding.

However, a person does not have to intervene in order to have comments considered. The second way to participate is by filing with the Secretary of the Commission, as soon as possible, an original and two copies of comments in support of or in opposition to this project. The Commission will consider these comments in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but the filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that persons filing comments in opposition to the project provide copies of their protests only to the party or parties directly involved in the protest.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings of comments, protests, and interventions via the internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the "e-Filing" link. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 5 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

*Comment Date:* 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 3, 2013.

*Dated:* April 12, 2013.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2013-09261 Filed 4-18-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP12-491-000]

#### Trunkline Gas Company, LLC; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Trunkline Mainline Abandonment Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Trunkline Mainline Abandonment Project (Project), proposed by Trunkline Gas Company, LLC (Trunkline) in the above-referenced docket. Trunkline requests authorization to abandon by transfer to a corporate affiliate portions of its existing 100-1 and 100-2 looped pipeline systems and portions of

compressor stations (CS) located in numerous counties in Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Trunkline would also abandon in place 12 compressor units totaling 15,850 horsepower, and abandon minor facilities at 163 sites across the two systems.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the activities associated with the Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC 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.

Trunkline would conduct the following activities as part of the Project:

- Abandon by transfer 45.02 miles of the 24-inch-diameter 100-1 Loopline pipeline extending from mainline valve (MLV) 43-1 near Buna, Texas to the Longville CS near Longville, Louisiana;
- Abandon by transfer 725.46 miles of the 30-inch-diameter 100-2 Loopline pipeline extending from the Longville CS to the Tuscola CS near Tuscola, Illinois;
- Abandon in place a 3,000-hp compressor unit at the Pollock CS (Louisiana); a 1,050-hp compressor unit at the Epps CS, (Louisiana); four compressor units totaling 4,200 hp at the Shaw CS (Mississippi); five compressor units totaling 5,250 hp at the Independence CS (Mississippi); and a 2,350-hp compressor unit at the Joppa CS (Illinois); and
- Abandon minor facilities at 163 sites across the systems, 80 of which would require ground disturbing activities

The FERC staff mailed copies of the EA to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners; newspapers and libraries in the project area; and parties to this proceeding. In addition, the EA is available for public viewing on the FERC's Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) using the eLibrary link. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502-8371.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. 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 the Commission has the opportunity to consider your comments prior to making its decision on this project, it is important that we receive your comments in Washington, DC on or before May 22, 2013.

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to file your comments to the Commission. In all instances, please reference the project docket number (CP12-491-000) 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](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov).

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature on the Commission's Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to Documents and Filings. This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can also file your comments electronically using the eFiling feature on the Commission's Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://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.

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).<sup>1</sup> Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. The Commission grants affected landowners and others with environmental concerns intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which no other party can adequately represent. Simply filing environmental comments will not give you intervenor status, but you do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the project is available from the

<sup>1</sup> See the previous discussion on the methods for filing comments.

Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://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., CP12-491). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto: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 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](http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm).

Dated: April 15, 2013.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013-09258 Filed 4-18-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP13-73-000]

#### **Sierrita Gas Pipeline LLC; Supplemental Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Sierrita Pipeline Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues**

As previously noticed on August 1, 2012, and supplemented herein, the staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impact of the Sierrita Pipeline Project (Project) involving construction and operation of facilities by Sierrita Gas Pipeline LLC (Sierrita) in Pima County, Arizona (the project was previously known as the Sasabe Lateral Project). The Commission will use this EIS in its decision-making process to determine whether the Project is in the public convenience and necessity. The Commission staff began its review of the Project on May 2, 2012, during the pre-filing process under Docket No. PF12-

11-000. The initial scoping period closed on October 27, 2012.

This notice announces the opening of a supplemental scoping period that the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies due to a change in the proposed Project route. Specifically, this notice is requesting comments as they relate to *Sierrita's proposed route modification* filed on March 25, 2013, and detailed below. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues relevant to the route modification need evaluation in the EIS. All previous comments submitted during the pre-filing process and initial scoping period do not need to be resubmitted. Further details on how to submit written comments are in the Public Participation section of this notice. Please note that this supplemental scoping period will close on May 13, 2013.

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

#### **Summary of the Project (as Supplemented)**

The Project would consist of the installation of about 60 miles of 36-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline and construction of two meter stations and various other appurtenant facilities in Pima County, Arizona. The pipeline would link El Paso Natural Gas Company's<sup>1</sup> existing South Mainline System near Tucson to an interconnect with the Sasabe-Guaymas Pipeline at the U.S.-Mexico border near the town of Sasabe, Arizona.

Sierrita's route modification shifts an approximate 10 mile segment of the originally proposed pipeline route eastward to a new location closer to State Highway 286. It would leave the original proposed route at milepost 25.7 and rejoin at milepost 36.3. The route modification would be approximately 12 miles long and would add approximately 1.5 miles of length to the overall project. The general location of the Project facilities and route modification are shown in Appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> El Paso Natural Gas Company is an affiliate of Sierrita.

<sup>2</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the **Federal Register**. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at [www.ferc.gov](http://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.

Updated environmental information concerning the route modification, including field surveys, is pending and Sierrita will file this information with the FERC when completed.

#### **The EIS 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<sup>3</sup> 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 EIS on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues related to the route modification to address in the EIS. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EIS.

In the EIS we will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the Project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils;
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- Vegetation, wildlife, and endangered and threatened species;
- Land use and cumulative impacts;
- Socioeconomics;
- Cultural resources;
- Air quality and noise; and
- Public safety.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the Project or portions of the Project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

The EIS will present our independent analysis of the issues. We will publish and distribute the draft EIS for public comment. After the comment period, we will consider all timely comments and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section below.

Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (both the Arizona Ecological Services Office and the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge), the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection are participating as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS to satisfy their

<sup>3</sup> "We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects.