

for this project will document findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

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 is within certain distances of proposed aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the project. Commission staff will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that Commission notices related to this environmental review are sent to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the project.

If the Commission issues the EA for an allotted public comment period, a *Notice of Availability* of the EA will be sent to the environmental mailing list and will provide instructions to access the electronic document on the FERC's website (www.ferc.gov). If you need to make changes to your name/address, or if you would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached "Mailing List Update Form" (appendix 2).

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 website at www.ferc.gov using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number in the "Docket Number" field, excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP19-118). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

Public sessions 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: May 13, 2019.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-10299 Filed 5-16-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM93-11-000]

Notice of Annual Change in the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods: Revisions to Oil Pipeline Regulations Pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 1992

The Commission's regulations include a methodology for oil pipelines to change their rates through use of an index system that establishes ceiling levels for such rates. The Commission bases the index system, found at 18 CFR 342.3, on the annual change in the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods (PPI-FG), plus one point two three percent (PPI-FG + 1.23). The Commission determined in an *Order Establishing Index Level*,¹ issued December 17, 2015, that PPI-FG + 1.23 is the appropriate oil pricing index factor for pipelines to use for the five-year period commencing July 1, 2016.

The regulations provide that the Commission will publish annually an index figure reflecting the final change in the PPI-FG after the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes the final PPI-FG in May of each calendar year. The annual average PPI-FG index figures were 198.0 for 2017 and 204.1 for 2018.² Thus, the percent change (expressed as a decimal) in the annual average PPI-FG from 2017 to 2018, plus 1.23 percent, is positive 0.043108.³ Oil pipelines must multiply their July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, index ceiling levels by positive 1.043108⁴ to compute their index ceiling levels for July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, in accordance

¹ 153 FERC 61,312, at P 52 (2015).

² Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) publishes the final figure in mid-May of each year. This figure is publicly available from the Division of Industrial Prices and Price Indexes of the BLS, at 202-691-7705, and in print in August in Table 1 of the annual data supplement to the BLS publication *Producer Price Indexes* via the internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ppi/home.htm>. To obtain the BLS data, scroll down to PPI Databases and click on Top Picks of the Commodity Data including headline FD-ID indexes (Producer Price Index—PPI). At the next screen, under the heading PPI Commodity Data, select the box, Finished goods—WPUFD49207, then scroll to the bottom of this screen and click on Retrieve data.

³ $[204.1 - 198.0] / 198.0 = 0.030808 + 0.0123 = +0.043108$.

⁴ $1 + 0.043108 = 1.043108$.

with 18 CFR 342.3(d). For guidance in calculating the ceiling levels for each 12-month period beginning January 1, 1995,⁵ see *Explorer Pipeline Company*, 71 FERC 61,416, at n.6 (1995).

In addition to publishing the full text of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print this Notice via the internet through FERC's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) and in FERC's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time) at 888 First Street NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426. The full text of this Notice is available on FERC's Home Page at the eLibrary link. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field and follow other directions on the search page.

User assistance is available for eLibrary and other aspects of FERC's website during normal business hours. For assistance, please contact the Commission's Online Support at 1-866-208-3676 (toll free) or 202-502-6652 (email at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), or the Public Reference Room at 202-502-8371, TTY 202-502-8659. Email the Public Reference Room at public.referenceroom@ferc.gov.

Dated: May 10, 2019.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-10297 Filed 5-16-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP19-125-000]

Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Index 99 Expansion 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 Index 99 Expansion Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Gulf South Pipeline Company (Gulf South) in San Augustine and Sabine Counties, Texas and

⁵ For a listing of all prior multipliers issued by the Commission, see the Commission's website, <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/oil/gen-info/pipeline-index.asp>.

Bienville Parish, Louisiana. 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 about issues regarding the project. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires the Commission to discover 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 issues to address in the EA. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 12, 2019.

You can make a difference by submitting 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. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EA. Commission staff will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

If you sent comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on March 29, 2019, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. CP19–125–000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

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.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable easement agreement. You are not required to enter into an agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if you and the company do

not reach an easement agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in court. In such instances, compensation would be determined by a judge in accordance with state law.

Gulf South 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 website (www.ferc.gov) at <https://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/gas/gas.pdf>.

Public Participation

The Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which makes it easy to stay informed of all issuances and submittals regarding the dockets/projects to which you subscribe. These instant email notifications are the fastest way to receive notification and provide a link to the document files which can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings. To sign up go to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208–3676 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the *eComment* feature, which is located on the Commission’s website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to *Documents and Filings*. Using *eComment* is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically by using the *eFiling* feature, which is located on the Commission’s website (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 will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; a comment on a particular project is considered a “Comment on a Filing”; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP19–125–

000) with your submission: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

Summary of the Proposed Project

The Index 99 Expansion Project would consist of the construction of a new pipeline, new launcher and receiver facilities, and a new mainline valve, and modifications to an existing compressor station. All project components are in Texas and Louisiana. The project would provide about 500,000 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) of new natural gas firm transportation service to markets along the Gulf Coast region, as well as provide for an additional 250,000 Dth/d of capacity to Gulf South’s existing facilities in northern Louisiana, for a total maximum daily quantity of 750,000 Dth/d.

The project would consist of the following facilities:

- Installation of approximately 22 miles of new 30-inch-diameter pipeline (Index 99L), including cathodic protection along the proposed pipeline, in San Augustine and Sabine Counties, Texas.
- Installation of a pig¹ receiver at the intersection of the new Index 99L pipeline and Gulf South’s existing Index 99 System, in San Augustine County, Texas.
- Installation of a pig launcher at the intersection of the new Index 99L pipeline and Gulf South’s existing Index 99 System and Index 129 Legacy System, in Sabine County, Texas.
- Installation of one new mainline valve assembly along the new Index 99L pipeline, in San Augustine County, Texas.
- Installation of approximately 250 feet of new 24-inch-diameter station pipe and a 24-inch-diameter pressure control valve along the new 24-inch-diameter station pipe at the existing Hall Summit Compressor Station in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would disturb about 392 acres of land

¹ A “pig” is a tool that the pipeline company inserts into and pushes through the pipeline for cleaning the pipeline, conducting internal inspections, or other purposes.

² 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.

for the pipeline and the aboveground facilities. Following construction, Gulf South would maintain about 162 acres for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses. About 93 percent (20 miles) of the proposed pipeline route parallels existing pipeline, utility, or road rights-of-way.

The EA Process

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 and wetlands;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- threatened and endangered species;
- cultural resources;
- land use;
- air quality and noise;
- public safety; and
- cumulative impacts

Commission staff 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 Commission staffs' independent analysis of the issues. The EA will be available in electronic format in the public record through eLibrary³ and the Commission's website (<https://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/eis.asp>). If eSubscribed, you will receive instant email notification when the EA is issued. The EA may be issued for an allotted public comment period. Commission staff will consider all comments on the EA before making recommendations to the Commission. To ensure Commission staff have the opportunity to address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section, beginning on page 2.

With this notice, the Commission is asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues of this project to formally cooperate in the preparation of the EA.⁴ 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.

³ For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

⁴ The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.6.

Consultation 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, the Commission is using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Offices, and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project's potential effects on historic properties.⁵ The EA for this project will document findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

Environmental Mailing List

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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

⁵ 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.

website at www.ferc.gov using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number in the "Docket Number" field, excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP19-125). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

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Dated: May 13, 2019.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-10238 Filed 5-16-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. EL19-76-000]

Notice of Petition for Partial Waiver: Wabash Valley Power Association, Inc.

Take notice that on May 10, 2019, pursuant to section 292.402 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Rules and Regulations,¹ Wabash Valley Power Association, Inc. (WVPA), on behalf of itself and its four participating electric distribution cooperative member-owners (collectively, the Participating Members),² filed a partial waiver of certain obligations imposed on WVPA and the Participating Members under sections 292.303(a) and 292.303(b) of

¹ 18 CFR 292.402.

² The Participating Members joining in this application include the following electric distribution cooperative member-owners of WVPA who have entered into an all-requirements power supply contract with WVPA to purchase from WVPA substantially all of its electric requirements: Hancock Rural Telephone Corporation, Hendricks County Rural Electric Membership Corporation, Jasper County REMC, and Kankakee Valley REMC.

The Commission has previously granted joint petitions filed by WVPA on behalf of itself and eighteen of its electric distribution cooperative members seeking waiver of WVPA's obligation under section 292.303(b) to make retail sales to qualifying facilities (QFs) and seeking waiver of the members' obligations under section 292.303(a) to make purchases from QFs. See Wabash Valley Power Association, Inc., 161 FERC ¶ 62,142 (2018) (delegated letter order); Wabash Valley Power Association, Inc., 166 FERC ¶ 62,086 (2019) (delegated letter order).