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Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP96-517-000]

Algonquin LNG, Inc.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Algonquin LNG Modifications Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

June 24, 1996.

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 construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the Algonquin LNG Modifications Project. This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) is necessary and whether to approve the project.¹

Summary of the Proposed Project

Algonquin LNG, Inc. (ALNG) seeks Commission authorization to expand its existing liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in Providence, Rhode Island and construction of pipeline facilities in East Providence, Rhode Island. The purpose of the proposed facilities are to provide natural gas liquefaction, LNG storage, LNG trucking, and LNG vaporization services on a firm and interruptible, open access, blanket basis.

Existing Facilities

ALNG owns and operates a 600,000-barrel LNG storage facility on the west side of the Providence River. The facility has been in operation for over 20 years, and is exclusively supplied with LNG delivered by truck. Upon demand, LNG is either redelivered in liquid form into trucks supplied by its customers, or vaporized into Providence Gas Company's (PGC) distribution system. ALNG states that the usefulness of the facility is limited by its lack of liquefaction capabilities and direct access to the interstate pipeline grid.

PGC currently receives gas from Algonquin Gas Transmission Company's (AGT) East Providence Meter Station (among other points) which is located on the east side of the

Providence River about 1.7 miles southeast of the site. After delivery at the meter station, PGC transports the gas in a northerly direction in a 12-inch-diameter pipeline to a manifold of three 10-inch-diameter pipelines that cross the Providence River. These three pipelines converge into a 12-inch-diameter pipeline on the west side of the Providence River that ultimately feeds PGC's Allens Avenue Plant located adjacent to the ALNG site.

Proposed Facilities

ALNG's proposes to construct the following facilities on or near its existing LNG storage facility:

- A liquefaction facility with a capacity of 40,000 million British thermal units per day (MMbtu/d);
- LNG pumps and vaporizers with a capacity of 375,000 MMBtu/d;
- Boil-off gas compressors;
- 1.05 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline;
- 0.25 mile of 10.75-inch-diameter pipeline;
- Metering facilities;
- Inspect the existing 600,000-barrel LNG storage tank, and install new instrumentation; and
- Miscellaneous construction including water/glycol system, feed gas compressors, odorant injection, control systems, and fire protection system additions.

ALNG also requests authorization:

- To acquire two existing 0.45-mile-long, 10.75-inch-diameter pipeline crossings of the Providence River;
- To abandon three existing vaporizers and related facilities;
- To abandon its present LNG services;
- To provide an enhanced, open access LNG handling service; and
- For a blanket certificate to construct eligible facilities.

AGT proposes to reconstruct the East Providence Meter Station to accommodate lower natural gas deliveries as a result of PGC transferring volumes to the ALNG Interconnect. Construction would occur under AGT's subpart F Blanket Certificate and associated environmental requirements.

PGC would construct limited non-jurisdictional facilities on its property in association with the proposed project. These include:

- Construction of a regulator station to accept gas from ALNG; and
- Retirement of PGC boil-off compressors and certain structures.

The proposed Algonquin LNG Modifications Project is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

The proposed facilities have been sited within existing industrial areas, and within or along roadway and utility rights-of-way. In general, the construction of the proposed LNG facilities would be confined to the existing 16.5 acre ALNG plant area leased from PGC, and an additional adjacent 4.2 acres to be leased from PGC. A proposed valve site and interconnections to the PGC system would require work immediately adjacent to the ALNG site on PGC properties that are currently used for gas distribution activities. These areas are currently graded and covered with gravel.

The proposed new pipeline in East Providence would typically require a 50-foot-wide permanent right-of-way and a 25-foot-wide temporary construction workspace. A reduced right-of-way and construction workspace would be utilized along the Veterans Memorial Parkway to avoid and/or minimize impacts. The proposed permanent right-of-way would encompass an area of about 3.59 acres. The construction workspace would require an additional 4.53 acres. With exception to the Veterans Memorial Parkway, these areas are all industrial land that has been previously disturbed.

Access to the proposed facilities would be from existing public and private roadways. No new access roads would be required.

The EA Process/Environmental Issues

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 and whether an EIS is necessary. 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.

available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

¹ Algonquin LNG, Inc.'s application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Parts 157 and 284 of the Commission's regulations.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies are

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**
 - Erosion control.
 - Facility site and right-of-way restoration.
 - Soil contamination.
- **Water Resources**
 - Potential to affect water quality and riparian resources.
 - Cooling water discharge into the Providence River.
- **Biological Resources**
 - Effect of facility construction and operation on wildlife and fisheries habitat, including wintering waterfowl.
 - Effect on wetland habitats.
- **Cultural Resources**
 - Effect on historic and prehistoric sites.
 - Native American and tribal concerns.
- **Socioeconomics**
 - Impact of a peak workforce of about 225 workers on the surrounding area.
- **Land Use**
 - Impact on state areas of critical environmental concern.
 - Impact on residences and recreation areas.
- **Air Quality and Noise**
 - Air quality and noise impacts associated with construction.
 - Impact on regional air quality and noise-sensitive areas associated with operation of the proposed LNG facility.
- **Public Safety**
 - Compliance with 49 CFR 193.

We will also evaluate possible pipeline and technology 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.

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 recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

Public Participation/Scoping Meeting

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific

comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative pipeline routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE, Washington, D.C. 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96-517-000;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. Chris Zerby, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE, Room 72-55, Washington, D.C. 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before July 26, 1996.

Beyond asking for written comments, we will hold a public scoping meeting during the week of July 15, 1996 (time, date and location will be noticed at a later date). This public meeting will be designed to provide you with more detailed information and another opportunity to offer your comments on the proposed project.

At a later date (time, date and location will be noticed at a later date) the FERC staff will meet with representatives of ALNG to conduct a cryogenic design and engineering review of the proposed LNG facilities.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an "intervenor". 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 copies of its filings to all other parties. 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).

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 scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Chris Zerby, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-0111.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP96-569-000, et al.]

Michigan Gas Storage Company, et al.; Natural Gas Certificate Filings

June 21, 1996.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. Michigan Gas Storage Company

[Docket No. CP96-569-000]

Take notice that on June 13, 1996, as supplemented on June 20, 1996, Michigan Gas Storage Company (Michigan Gas), 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201, filed in Docket No. CP96-569-000, a request pursuant to Sections 157.211 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.211 and 157.216) for authorization to install two delivery taps and abandon one delivery tap in Oakland County, Michigan, in order to serve Consumers Power Company (Consumers), under the blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP84-451-000, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Specifically, Michigan Gas states it plans to install a 22-inch tap at the Squirrel Road Valve Site in Orion Township, and a 20-inch tap at the Dutton Road Valve Site in Oakland Township, both on its Line 600 in Oakland County, Michigan. Michigan Gas explains that Consumers has requested these delivery taps be constructed in conjunction with a new transmission line being built on Consumers' system under a certificate granted by the Michigan Public Service Commission in Case U-10925.

Michigan Gas explains that deliveries through these taps will be made to and from Michigan Gas' system dependent upon the time of year and whether Consumers is withdrawing or injecting gas from its nearby storage fields. Michigan Gas states that these new delivery taps, in conjunction with Consumers' new transmission line, will increase the peak day capacity of the integrated system by about 400 MMcf/d, in order to meet the design peak loads of Consumers' sales and end use