

Company filed an application, under 204 of the Federal Power Act, seeking authorization to issue short-term debt, from time to time, in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$750 million outstanding at any one time, during the period October 1, 1996 through September 30, 1998, with a final maturity date no later than September 30, 1999. This authorization would supersede the authority granted by the Commission in Docket No. ES96-22-000 (75 FERC ¶ 62,125 (1996)) to issue up to \$300 million of short-term debt during the period July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1998, with final maturities not later than June 30, 1999.

Comment date: October 11, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

23. Glacier Electric Cooperative

[Docket No. OA96-152-000]

Take notice that on August 8, 1996, Glacier Electric Cooperative, tendered for filing an application for small public utility waiver of the requirements of Parts 35 and 37.

Comment date: September 30, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

24. City of Dover, Delaware

[Docket No. OA96-228-000]

Take notice that on September 10, 1996, the City of Dover, Delaware tendered for filing an application for waiver from the requirements of Order No. 888 to submit a transmission open access tariff and of Order No. 889 to maintain an Open-Access Same Time Information System and comply with associated standards of conduct.

Comment date: October 15, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

25. Soyland Power Cooperative, Inc.

[Docket No. OA96-229-000]

Take notice that Soyland Power Cooperative, Inc. (Soyland), on September 12, 1996, tendered for filing a request for waiver of the Commission's Order No. 889 Open Access Same-Time Information System (OASIS) requirements and Standards of Conduct. The requested waivers would exempt Soyland from filing an open access transmission tariff and from developing its own OASIS and would waive the requirement that Soyland separate its wholesale merchant personnel from its transmission personnel. Soyland, a small public utility, requests these waivers because it owns no transmission facilities, because it is not a control area operator, and because full compliance with Order Nos. 888 and

889 would be unduly burdensome. Soyland also seeks waiver of the Commission's sixty-day prior notice filing requirement.

Comment date: October 15, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said 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 18 CFR 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 this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-24333 Filed 9-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

[Project No. 1494-094]

Grand River Dam Authority; Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

September 17, 1996.

A draft environmental assessment (DEA) is available for public review. The DEA was prepared for an application filed by Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) that requests authorization to grant a dredging permit to a private landowner (applicant) for the excavation of shoreline and lake bottom material from Grand Lake O' The Cherokees (Grand Lake) for a boat launch and channel. The applicant was granted approval by Order Approving Non-Project use of Project Lands, 68 FERC 62,094, issued July 27, 1994, to dredge an area 90 feet long, 90 feet wide, and 10 feet deep. The applicant's new proposal is to extend the excavation shoreward 310 feet, making the boat launch and channel excavation site approximately 400 feet long, 90 feet wide, and up to a maximum depth of 10 feet. Approximately 4,444 cubic yards of material from the lake bottom and shoreline will be excavated from the site. The excavation would occur on project lands in the Horse Creek area (north shore) of Grand Lake, in

Delaware County, just north of the town of Bernice, Oklahoma.

The DEA finds that GRDA's proposed amendment is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The DEA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the DEA can be obtained by calling the Commission's Public Reference Room at (202) 208-1371.

Comments on the DEA must be filed with the Commission within 30 days from the date of this notice. Comments should be addressed to: Ms. Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Please include the project number (1494-094) on any comments filed.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-24259 Filed 9-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP96-690-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Mississippi River Crossing—Minnesota Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

September 17, 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 Mississippi River Crossing—Minnesota Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) wants to increase its pipeline system's reliability by looping a crossing of the Mississippi River in Dakota and Washington Counties, Minnesota. Northern seeks authority to construct and operate about 3.03 miles of new 30-inch-diameter pipeline. This pipeline would interconnect with Northern's existing system that is already looped on the north and south sides of the

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

river. The 3.03 miles of pipeline would include:

- 7,425 feet in Dakota County;
- 4,750 feet in an open cut crossing of the Mississippi River; and
- 3,825 feet in Washington County.

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

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed loop would require about 48.6 acres of land. Following construction, about 36.7 acres would be maintained as permanent right-of-way. The remaining 11.9 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

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 could 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
- Public safety

We will also evaluate possible 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.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed loop and the environmental information provided by Northern. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Three Federally listed endangered or threatened species may occur in the proposed project area.
- Northern plans to open cut the Mississippi River for 4,750 feet.
- The Mississippi River at the crossing location is designated as the Mississippi National River & Recreational Area.

Public Participation

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 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, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96-690-000;
- Send a copy of your letter to:
Ms. Dawn Deibert Neumann, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., PR-11.2, Washington, DC 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before October 21, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Ms. Deibert Neumann at the above address.

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 Ms. Dawn Deibert Neumann, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-1046.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-24256 Filed 9-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Notice of Issuance of Decisions and Orders; Week of July 8 Through July 12, 1996

During the week of July 8 through July 12, 1996, the decisions and orders summarized below were issued with respect to appeals, applications, petitions, or other requests filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals of the Department of Energy. The following summary also contains a list of submissions that were dismissed by the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

Copies of the full text of these decisions and orders are available in the Public Reference Room of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Room 1E-234, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0107, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., except federal holidays. They are also available in *Energy Management: Federal Energy Guidelines*, a commercially published loose leaf reporter system. Some decisions and orders are available on the Office of Hearings and Appeals World Wide Web site at <http://www.oha.doe.gov>.

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