

protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP96-813-000]

Texas Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

October 1, 1996.

Take notice that on September 24, 1996, Texas Gas Transmission Corporation (Texas Gas), 3800 Frederica Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42401 filed in Docket No. CP96-813-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.212, and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.212, and 157.216) for approval and permission to modify an existing delivery point, construct and operate a new delivery point, and abandon certain facilities by sale to Indiana Gas Company, Inc. (Indiana Gas) in Vigo and Lawrence Counties, Indiana, under the blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-407-000, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Texas Gas states that it proposes to modify its existing Margaret Avenue Delivery Point to Indiana Gas by adding a six-inch orifice run in place of the existing four-inch by-pass and modifying the yard piping at Mile 140 on Texas Gas' Slaughters-Montezuma twelve-inch Line in Vigo County, Indiana. Texas Gas further states that it simultaneously proposes to abandon by sale to Indiana Gas the Terre Haute No. 3 Meter Station and a small section of the Terre Haute ten-inch Line in Vigo County, Indiana. Texas Gas also indicates that it proposes to install a six-inch delivery meter station for Indiana Gas at Texas Gas' Leesville Compressor Station on its North Bedford eight-inch Line. Texas Gas asserts that service to Indiana Gas will not be affected by the above abandonments. Texas Gas further asserts that there will be no significant impact on Texas Gas' peak day or annual deliveries due to the modification of the existing delivery point and that the addition of the new delivery point will not have any

detriment to Texas Gas' other customers.

Any person or Commission Staff may, within 45 days of the issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214), a motion to intervene and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205), a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activities shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-25571 Filed 10-4-96; 8:45 am]

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[Project No. 11566-001-ME]

Consolidated Hydro Maine, Inc.; Notice of Site Visit and Scoping Meeting Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

October 1, 1996.

On August 19, 1996, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a letter accepting the Consolidated Hydro Maine, Inc.'s application for initial license for the Damariscotta Mills Hydro Project, located on the Damariscotta River in Lincoln County, Maine.

The purpose of this notice is to: (1) Advise all parties as to the proposed scope of the staff's environmental analysis, including cumulative effects, and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis; and (2) advise all parties of their opportunity for comment.

Scoping Process

The Commission's scoping objectives are to:

- Identify significant environmental issues;
- Determine the depth of analysis appropriate to each issue;
- Identify the resource issues not requiring detailed analysis; and
- Identify reasonable project alternatives.

The purpose of the scoping process is to identify significant issues related to the proposed action and to determine what issues should be addressed in the environmental document to be prepared

pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The document entitled "Scoping Document I" (SDI) will be circulated shortly to enable appropriate federal, state, and local resource agencies, developers, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations (NGO's), and other interested parties to effectively participate in and contribute to the scoping process. SDI provides a brief description of the proposed action, project alternatives, the geographic and temporal scope of a cumulative effects analysis, and a list of preliminary issues identified by staff.

Project Site Visit

The applicant and the Commission staff will conduct a site visit of the Damariscotta Mills Hydro Project on October 23, 1996, at 1 p.m. They will meet at the project powerhouse, located on Rt. 215 in Newcastle. All interested individuals, NGO's and agencies are invited to attend. All participants are responsible for their own transportation and should bring a hard hat. For more details, interested parties should contact Kevin Webb, the applicant contact, at (508) 681-1900 (ext. 1225), prior to the site visit date.

Scoping Meetings

The Commission staff will conduct two scoping meetings. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend and assist the staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA document.

The public scoping meeting will be held on October 22, 1996, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Central High School, 194 Center St., Nobleboro, Maine 04555.

The agency scoping meeting will be held on October 23, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection, Rm. LW-4, Ray Building-AMHI Complex, Hospital Street (Rt. 9), Augusta, ME 04333. For more details, interested parties should contact Dana Murch, Maine DEP, at (207) 287-3901, prior to the meeting date.

The Commission will decide, based on the application, and agency and public comments at the scoping session, whether licensing the Damariscotta Mills Project constitutes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Irrespective of the Commission's determination to prepare an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement for the Damariscotta Mills Project, the Commission staff will not hold

additional scoping meetings other than those scheduled, as listed above.

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the Commission staff will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the NEPA document; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantified data, on the resources at issue, and (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA document. Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed.

Meeting Procedures

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and become a part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the Damariscotta Mills Project. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to identify themselves for the record.

Concerned parties are encouraged to offer us verbal guidance during public meetings. Speaking time allowed for individuals will be determined before each meeting, based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the approximate amount of time available for the session, but all speakers will be provided at least 5 minutes to present their views.

All those attending the meeting are urged to refrain from making any communications concerning the merits of the application to any member of the Commission staff outside of the established process for developing the record as stated in the record of the proceeding.

Persons choosing not to speak but wishing to express an opinion, as well as speakers unable to summarize their positions within their allotted time, may submit written statements for inclusion in the public record no later than November 1, 1996.

All filings should contain an original and 8 copies. Failure to file an original and 8 copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner. See 18 CFR 4.34(h). In addition, commenters may submit a copy of their comments on a 3½-inch diskette formatted for MS-DOS based computers. In light of our ability to translate MS-DOS based materials, the text need only be submitted in the format and version that it was generated (i.e., MS Word, WordPerfect 5.1/5.2, ASCII, etc.). It is not necessary to reformat word

processor generated text to ASCII. For Macintosh users, it would be helpful to save the documents in Macintosh word processor format and then write them to files on a diskette formatted for MS-DOS machines. All comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, and should clearly show the following captions on the first page: Damariscotta Mills Hydro Project, FERC No. 11566.

Further, interested persons are reminded of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures, requiring parties or interceders (as defined in 18 CFR 385.2010) to file documents on each person whose name is on the official service list for this proceeding. See 18 CFR 4.34(b).

The Commission staff will consider all written comments and may issue a Scoping Document II (SDII). SDII will include a revised list of issues, based on the scoping sessions.

For further information regarding the scoping process, please contact Rich Takacs, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Hydropower Licensing, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20426 at (202) 219-2840, or Ed Lee at (202) 219-2809.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP96-720-000]

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

October 1, 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 abandonment and construction of the facilities proposed in the Louisiana Line Expansion 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

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (NGPL) proposes to abandon

the 3,800 horsepower (hp) compressor unit at Station No. 139 on its Permian Basin Line in Lea County, New Mexico and relocate it to Station No. 346 on its Louisiana Line in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The compressor unit has not been used since 1993 and is no longer needed at Station No. 139. The compressor unit would be upgraded to a 4,500 hp rating and equipped with low emissions control technology. The additional horsepower would increase the capacity of the Louisiana Line by 63 MMcf/d. NGPL No. 139. The general location of the project facilities are shown in appendix 1.²

NGPL also proposes to perform certain activities that it believes to be non-jurisdictional. These activities include the re-wheeling of three existing compressors at Station No. 346, Cameron Parish, Louisiana, to allow them to operate under the proposed operating conditions, and certain modifications to station piping at Station No. 342, Cameron Parish, Louisiana, in order to reduce pressure losses through the station when gas is being compressed for movement to the east.

Land Requirements for Construction

Only minor construction activities would be necessary to remove the compressor unit at Station No. 139 and install it at Station No. 346. All disturbance would occur within the existing compressor station sites. Station No. 346 is located on a 15 acre site. Approximately 2 acres of this site would be disturbed during the construction and installation of the compressor unit and associated structures. No additional roads would be required and the existing storage yards and parking facilities would be able to support contractor vehicles and storage areas as needed.

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 whether 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

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, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

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