

manager, Bob Fletcher at (202) 219-1206 or viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm>. Please call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

Please submit any comments on the DEA within 60 days from the date of this notice. A public meeting will be scheduled to allow public input into the preparation of the final EA. The date and place of the meeting has yet to be determined, but will occur in the vicinity of the project. Parties to the proceeding will be notified as to the date, time, and place of the meeting. Any comments, conclusions, or recommendations that draw upon studies, reports, or other working papers of substance should be supported by appropriate documentation. Comments should be addressed to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Please affix Project No. 9974-040 to all comments.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-277-000]

#### Northwest Pipeline Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed North Bonneville Emergency Realignment Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

April 12, 1999.

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 North Bonneville Emergency Realignment Project involving construction, operation, and abandonment of facilities by Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest) in Skamania County, Washington.<sup>1</sup> These facilities consist of replacing about 500 feet of 26-inch-diameter pipeline destroyed in a landslide incident on February 26, 1999, with about 2,200 feet of 26-inch-diameter pipeline on a route which circumbents the landslide area and a new mainline valve. About 1,390

feet of temporary 16-inch-diameter pipeline would also be abandoned.

This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity. The application and other supplemental filings in this docket are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website ([www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us)). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The pipeline company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right to eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law. A fact sheet addressing a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain, is attached to this notice as appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

#### Summary of the Proposed Project

Due to the landslide, Northwest must permanently replace a short unlooped section of its mainline system in Skamania County, Washington. Northwest seeks authority to:

- Abandon in place about 1,340 feet of existing 26-inch-diameter mainline;
- Replace this portion of pipeline with about 2,200 feet of 26-inch-diameter pipeline in a new right-of-way due south of the existing mainline;
- Abandon by removal about 1,390 feet of 16-inch-diameter pipeline temporarily installed on the ground surface atop the landslide; and
- Permanently operate a new mainline block valve installed on an emergency basis immediately west of the landslide.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 2.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

#### Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 5.6 acres of land. Following construction, about 2.5 acres would be maintained as new right-of-way.

#### 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 the "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 proposal 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.
- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands.
- Land use.
- Public safety.
- Cultural resources.

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. Because of the emergency nature of Northwest's proposal, we are limiting our scoping period to 20 days from the date this notice is issued, and plan to conduct our assessment on an expedited basis.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be presented in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be mailed to commenting individuals once the Commission acts on Northwest's filing.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section beginning on page 4.

<sup>1</sup> Northwest's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

### Currently Identified Environmental Issues

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

- Seven federally listed endangered or threatened species may occur in the proposed project area; and
- Three waterways would be crossed by the proposed project.

### Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, you concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific you comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.1;
- Reference Docket No. CP99-277-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before May 3, 1999.

### Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor". Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. 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 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. 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 3). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered. Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website ([www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us)) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. For assistance with access the RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222. Access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission with regard to this docket, such as orders and notices, is also available on the FERC website using the "CIPS" link. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Request for Extension of Time To Commence and Complete Project Construction and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests

April 12, 1999.

Take notice that the following application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- Application Type: Request for Extension of Time to Commence and Complete Project Construction
- Project No.: 10648
- Date Filed: February 10, 1999
- Applicant: Adirondack Hydro Development Corporation and McGrath Industries, Inc.
- Name of Project: Waterford Hydroelectric Project
- Location: On the Hudson River, in Saratoga and Rensselaer Counties, New York. The project does not utilize federal or tribal lands.
- Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).
- Applicant Contact: Mr. Keith F. Corneau, Director, Adirondack Hydro Development Corporation, Environmental/Regulatory Affairs, 39 Hudson Falls Road, South Glens Falls, NY 12803 (518) 747-0930
- FERC Contact: Any questions on this notice should be addressed to Mr. Lynn R. Miles, Sr. at (202) 219-2671, or e-mail address: [lynn.miles@ferc.fed.us](mailto:lynn.miles@ferc.fed.us).

j. Deadline for filing comments and or motions: May 17, 1999

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426

Please include the project number (10648-005) on any comments or motions filed.

k. Description of Request: The licensee requests that the deadline for commencement of construction for FERC Project No. 10648-005 be extended to June 9, 2001. The deadline for completion of construction would be extended to June 9, 2003. The licensee also requests that a two-year extension of the deadline to enter into an agreement with the State of New York for access to lands administered by the State, as required by article 305.

l. Locations of the Application: A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington, D.C. 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. This filing may be viewed on <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call (202) 208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene—Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS", "PROTEST", OR "MOTION TO INTERVENE", as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal