

- Vegetation and wildlife
- Hazardous waste
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Endangered and threatened species
- 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 facilities and the environmental information provided by Columbia. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list:

- Two residences and one business are located within 50 feet of the construction right-of-way.
 - The pipeline would be near historic structures and archaeological sites.
- The list of issues may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis.

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, 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 Street NE., Washington, D.C. 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96-126-000;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mrs. Medha Kochhar, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,

888 First Street NE., PR-11.2, Washington, D.C. 20426; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before February 20, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mrs. Kochhar 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).

You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mrs. Medha Kochhar, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-2270.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-657 Filed 1-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP96-97-000]

Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Hockessin Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

January 16, 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 Hockessin 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

Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (ESNG) seeks to:

¹ Eastern Shore 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.

(1) Provide additional firm contract demand sales and storage service to several of its existing customers;

(2) Abandon firm sales service to one of its existing customers; and

(3) Construct and operate certain new pipeline and compressor facilities required to stabilize capacity on its system and to provide the additional firm sales and storage service.

ESNG indicates that the proposed project (1) would stabilize system capacity and integrity of declining inlet gas pressure at the Hockessin meter and regulating station, and (2) enable ESNG to provide 4,796 Mcf of additional firm daily capacity on ESNG's system.

ESNG seeks authority to:

- construct and operate a 2,170-horsepower (hp) Delaware City Compressor Station (C.S.), with a 1,085-hp back-up unit, in New Castle County, Delaware;
- construct and operate 0.89 mile of 16-inch-diameter pipeline in New Castle County, Delaware to tie the suction side of the proposed Delaware C.S. into the Hockessin Line;
- uprate the maximum allowable operating pressure from 500 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) to 590 psig on 28.7 miles of the Salisbury Lateral from the outlet of ESNG's existing Bridgeville C.S. in Sussex County, Delaware to the Citizens Meter and Regulatory Station in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland; and
- abandon 100 Mcfd of firm sales service to Playtex Apparel, Inc., a direct sales customer.

The general location of the project facilities and specific locations for facilities on new sites are shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 4.8 acres of land for the proposed pipeline and about 2.7 acres for the new compressor station. About 0.9 acre would be fenced around the compressor station facilities.

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

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

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:

- Land use.
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands.
- Air quality and noise.
- Cultural resources.
- Public safety.
- Endangered and threatened species.

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 one issue that we think deserves attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Transwestern:

The proposed compressor station may increase ambient noise levels.

Keep in mind that this is a preliminary issue. Issues may be added, subtracted, or changed based on your comments and our analysis.

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 locations or 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 Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96-97-000;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. Herman K. Der, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., PR-11.1, Washington, DC 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before February 20, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Herman K. Der 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).

You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Herman K. Der, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-0896.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-656 Filed 1-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Project No. 11530-000-IA]

Mitchell County, Iowa; Notice Not Ready for Environmental Analysis, Notice Requesting Interventions and Protests, and Notice of Scoping Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

January 16, 1996.

On November 21, 1995, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a letter accepting

Mitchell County, Iowa's application for the Mitchell Mill Dam Hydroelectric Project, located on the Cedar River in Mitchell County, Iowa.

The Mitchell Mill Dam's principal project features would consist of an existing 195-foot-wide concrete dam, an existing natural impoundment with a surface area of 120 acres and no usable storage, a powerhouse containing two new generating units with a total rated capacity of 900 Kw. The project would have an average annual generation of 2,829,335 Kwh. The project site is owned by Mitchell County, Iowa.

The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time. A public notice will be issued in the future indicating its readiness for environmental analysis and soliciting comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions on the application and the applicant's reply comments.

The purpose of this notice is to: (1) Invite interventions and protests; (2) 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 (3) advise all parties of their opportunity for comment.

Interventions and Protests

All filings must: (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST," "MOTION TO INTERVENE," "NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE COMPETING APPLICATION," or "COMPETING APPLICATION"; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, and address, and telephone number of the person protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. Any of these documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies required by the Commission's regulations to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

An additional copy must be sent to: Director, Division of Project Review, Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, at the above address. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application.

All filings for any protest or motion to intervene must be received 60 days from the issuance date of this notice.