

**[Docket No. CP87-39-004]****Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc.;  
Notice of Amendment**

May 2, 1996.

Take notice that on April 29, 1996, Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc. (Granite State), 300 Friberg Parkway, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581, filed an application with the Commission, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations, requesting an extension of its limited-term certificate to operate an interstate pipeline facility leased from Portland Pipe Line Corporation (Portland) from March 31, 1997 to April 30, 1998, with pregranted abandonment as of the latter date, consistent with a recently negotiated agreement between Granite State and Portland to extend the lease of the pipeline facility, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

According to Granite State, it has leased from Portland an 18-inch pipeline extending approximately 166 miles from a connection with its pipeline near Portland, Maine, to the U.S.-Canadian border in the Township of North Troy, Vermont, opposite Highwater, Quebec. The pipeline was originally built and operated as a crude oil pipeline; Granite State converted the pipeline for natural gas service in 1987 and currently operates the pipeline pursuant to an amended lease with Portland and a limited-term certificate issued by the Commission expiring March 31, 1997 (69 FERC ¶ 61,186). Granite State further says that it has negotiated an agreement with Portland to extend the lease for 13 months, from March 31, 1997 to April 30, 1998. According to Granite State, no new facilities are required in connection with the extension of the limited-term certificate, and no new services utilizing the leased pipeline are proposed.

Granite State further requests that, in extending the limited-term certificate, the Commission confirm the ruling it has previously made that the leasing arrangement will not subject Portland to jurisdiction under the Natural Gas Act and that the revenues received by Portland under the lease will not be considered in determining its rates for oil transportation service.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before May 23, 1996, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the

requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken on the request for a permanent certificate but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to the proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on the application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time requested herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Granite State to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-11425 Filed 5-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**[Docket No. CP96-358-000]****MidAmerican Energy Company v.  
Natural Gas Pipeline Company of  
America; Notice of Complaint**

May 2, 1996.

Take notice that on April 26, 1996, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican), P.O. Box 778, Sioux City, Iowa 51102, filed with the Commission in Docket CP96-358-000 a complaint against Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural), 701 East Lombard Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148-5072. MidAmerican states that its complaint is based on Natural's violation of Section 4 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and the Commission's orders thereunder in refusing to return approximately \$5,000,000 worth of base (cushion) gas previously supplied by MidAmerican to support Rate Schedule LS-3 firm storage service (LS-3), all as

more fully set forth in the complaint which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

MidAmerican states that Natural terminated such LS-3 service for its own use in order to replace it with new open access storage service, Delivered Storage Service (DSS), which MidAmerican converted to and under which Natural is obligated to provide all cushion gas volumes. MidAmerican asserts that Natural is required to return MidAmerican's LS-3 cushion gas volumes, and that its failure to do so violates the NGA, Natural's tariff sheets governing the transition from LS-3 to DSS service, and the certificate order authorizing LS-3 service. MidAmerican asserts that Natural is claiming that it is entitled to retain a "non-recoverable" amount equal to approximately 75% of that cushion gas total, and MidAmerican maintains that it is entitled to the return of the entire amount of that cushion gas. MidAmerican alleges that Natural is thereby misappropriating the cushion gas supplied by MidAmerican for Natural's own use to support its new DSS service using the same storage field which supported LS-3 service, and is creating a discriminatory and anti-competitive economic barrier to its open-access storage service because MidAmerican in effect bears an entry fee of \$5,000,000 which other DSS customers do not bear.

MidAmerican requests that the Commission issue an order directing that Natural immediately return all cushion gas previously provided by MidAmerican to Natural pursuant to Natural's LS-3 storage service, and that if the Commission does not issue such an order, that the Commission issue an order requiring Natural to show cause why it is not in violation of the Natural Gas Act, Commission orders, and the express terms of its tariff for its failure to return such cushion gas to MidAmerican.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make a protest with reference to MidAmerican's complaint should file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or protest in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 or 385.214). All such motions, together with the answer of Respondents to the complaint and motions, should be filed on or before May 23, 1996. Any person desiring to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing

are on file with the Commission and available for public inspection.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-11424 Filed 5-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**[Docket No. ES96-25-000]**

**Semass Partnership; Notice of Application**

May 2, 1996.

Take notice that on April 30, 1996, Semass Partnership (Semass) filed an application, under § 204 of the Federal Power Act, seeking authorization to reallocate partnership interests among the existing partners of Semass in connection with the proposed sale by certain partners of Semass of eighty percent (80%) of the partnership interests in Semass.

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, NE., Washington, DC 20426 in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before May 28, 1996. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make the 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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-11426 Filed 5-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**[Project No. 2000-010]**

**Power Authority of the State of New York; Notice of Memorandum of Understanding, Formation of Cooperative Consultation Process Team, and Initiation of Scoping Process Associated With Relicensing the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project**

May 2, 1996.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

On February 15, 1996, the New York Power Authority (NYPA), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), entered into an MOU. Under the MOU, the NYSDEC and the FERC will cooperate and use the services of a

Third Party Contractor to prepare a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to more efficiently meet the requirements for water quality certification and relicensing of the 912-megawatt St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project. The hydroelectric project was originally licensed in 1953 and the license will expire in 2003. NYPA has elected to use a Third Party Contractor under the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

The project, which includes the Long Sault Dam and the portions of the Iroquois Dam and the Robert Moses-Robert H. Saunders Power Dam within the U.S., located on the St. Lawrence River near Massena, New York. While the project is licensed by the FERC, its operation as well as Ontario's Hydro's portion of the international project, is governed by the International Joint Commission (IJC) and the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control (ISLRBC), who direct NYPA and Ontario Hydro to release flows to maintain water levels in Lake Ontario and downstream flows in accordance with criteria set forth. The IJC was established by the 1909 Boundary Water Treaty between the U.S. and Canada.

**Cooperative Consultation Process (CCP) Team**

NYPA has contacted and invited members of numerous federal, state, and local governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, and the general public the U.S. The FERC has also invited federal and provincial agencies in Canada, as well as the IJC and ISLRBC to participate and discuss the cooperative process for relicensing the project. As a result of a series of three meetings conducted in February, March and April 1996, the participants (see list below) along with NYSDEC and FERC have agreed to form a Cooperative Consultation Process (CCP) Team. The CCP Team will assist in identifying areas of interests, issues, required studies and also prepare for NYSDEC and FERC a Scoping Document (See Scoping Process).

The CCP Team is still in the process of identifying potential members and active participants. As of April 16, 1996, the following 39 organizations attended meetings of the CCP Team and have indicated an interest in participating in the Team and relicensing process. Those persons interested in joining the CCP Team or learning more about the CCP Team and process, as well as the relicensing process should call any one of the following three individuals:

Mr. Thomas R. Tatham, New York Power Authority, 212-468-6747, 212-468-6272 (fax)

Mr. Keith Silliman, New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation, 518-457-0986, 518-457-3978 (fax)

Mr. Thomas Russo, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 202-219-2792, 202-219-0125 (fax)

The following organizations have sent representatives to the CCP Team meetings: the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Canada, St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp., Ontario Hydro, Alcoa, NY State Assembly, St. Lawrence Development Commission, Massena Electric, St. Lawrence County, Town of Louisville, Development Authority of N. County, Empire State Dept. of Economic Development, GM Power Train, I.B.E.W. Local 2032, Vincent Kirsch, LCE Environ. Mgmt. Council, League of Women Voters, Massena Industrial Dev. Corp., Village of Massena, Village Potsdam, Mass. Municipal Wholesale Electric Co., Municipal Electricity Assoc. of NY, New York Power Authority, New York Rivers United, Audubon Society of NY State, NYS Dept. of Parks Rec. & Historic Preservation, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, NYS Dept. of State (Coastal Resources), St. Lawrence Aquarium & Ecological Center, Public Power Assoc. of NJ, Reynolds Metals, Robert Moses State Park, St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, St. Lawrence Gas, United Auto Workers/GM Power Train, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Waddington Town Planning Board, IBEW 450 ABGWIU, and WYBG Radio.

**Scoping Process**

The Scoping Process will satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The objective of the Scoping Process is to assist the FERC and NYSDEC in identifying resource issues and reasonable alternatives that should be addressed in the EIS analysis and the level to which they should be addressed. The Scoping Process will also identify the geographic and temporal range of the EIS analysis, those resources requiring a cumulative impact analysis and the level of analysis as well. The CCP Team will prepare a Draft Scoping Document I (SDI) for FERC's and NYSDEC's use.

The Scoping Process will entail a series of public workshops/meetings within the CCP Team over the next seven months. During this time period, the CCP Team will use NYPA's Initial Consultation Document distributed on April 16, 1996 to initiate scoping the issues. Members of the Team and the general public will be given the