

[Docket No. CP96-687-000]

**Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Athens Compressor Station Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues**

October 21, 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 Athens Compressor Station Project.<sup>1</sup> 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*

Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P. (Iroquois) wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in New York and Connecticut to transport an additional 30 million cubic feet per day of natural gas for two shippers. Iroquois seeks authority to construct and operate 9,500 horsepower of natural gas compression at the proposed Athens compressor Station in Greene County, New York.

The specific location of the facility is shown on the map in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup> The compressor facilities would be located about 2,700 feet south of the Athens-Leeds Turnpike, which forms the northern boundary of the proposed site.

*Land Requirements for Construction*

Construction of the proposed facility would require about 25.7 acres of land. Following construction, about 15.3 acres would be maintained as a new aboveground facility site. The remaining 10.4 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to open space. The closest residence is about 2,400 feet west of the proposed compressor building.

*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
- Public safety
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Air quality and noise
- Hazardous waste

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed 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 facility and the environmental information provided by Iroquois. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Conversion of the Athens Airport to industrial use.
- Effect the proposed compressor station would have on air quality in the vicinity.

- Alternative siting feasibility.

*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), 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., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426;

- Reference Docket No. CP96-687-000;

- Send a copy of your letter to: Mr. Mark Jensen, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., PR-11.2, Washington, D.C. 20426; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before November 22, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Jensen 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 later intervention.

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

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr.

<sup>1</sup> Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.'s application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's Regulations.

<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.

Mark Jensen, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-0828.

Lois D. Cashell,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-27383 Filed 10-24-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. CP96-16-000]

**Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Sunbelt Expansion Project**

October 21, 1996.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) in the above-referenced docket. For both the new Compressor Station 105 in Coosa County, Alabama and the new Compressor Station 125 in Walton County, Georgia, the staff is requesting specific comments regarding the siting of these new compressor stations. We request comments on a potential reasonable alternative for each station, the effect of relocating a compressor station on the proposed in-service date, the cost of relocating the compressor stations and what additional mitigation would be necessary at the proposed sites.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities:

- 14.9 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline loop (Loop D) from milepost (MP) 1222.66 to MP 1237.58 in Cherokee County, South Carolina;
- 15,000 horsepower (hp) of compression (gas turbine) at a new station, to be known as Compressor Station 105 in Coosa County, Alabama;
- 15,000 hp of compression (gas turbine) at a new station to be known as Compressor Station 125 in Walton County, Georgia; and
- 15,000 hp of compression (gas turbine) at the existing Compressor Station 80 in Jones and Jasper Counties, Mississippi.

Transco also seeks to uprate:

- A compressor (gas turbine) from 14,100 hp to 15,000 hp at Compressor

Station 100 in Chilton County, Alabama; and

- One compressor (gas turbine) from 12,600 hp to 15,000 hp at each of three stations: Compressor Station 110 in Randolph County, Alabama; Compressor Station 130 in Madison County, Georgia; and Compressor Station 140 in Spartanburg County, South Carolina.

The purpose of the proposed facilities is to provide additional firm transportation capacity of up to 145,666 thousand cubic feet per day of natural gas to nine local distribution companies and one electric cogeneration plant.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

A limited number of copies of the EA are available from: Mr. Mark Jensen, Environmental Project Manager, Environmental Review and Compliance Branch II, Office of Pipeline Regulation, 888 First Street, N.E., PR 11.2, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-0828.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Written comments must reference Docket No. CP96-16-000 and be addressed to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.

In order to have your comments considered, we request that they be filed as soon as possible. Comments must be received no later than November 20, 1996, to ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on this proposal. A copy of any comments should also be sent to Mr. Mark Jensen, Environmental Project Manager, at the above address.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commenter a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214).

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 comments considered.

Additional information about this project is available from Mr. Mark Jensen, Environmental Project Manager.

Lois D. Cashell,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-27384 Filed 10-24-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**Notice of Amendment of License Applications**

October 21, 1996.

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

*a. Type of Application:* Amendment of License Applications.

*b. Projects Nos.:* P-11132-001, P-11472-001, P-11482-001, and P-11566-001.

*c. Date Filed:* September 25, 1996.

*d. Applicants:* Consolidated Hydro Maine, Inc., and Ridgewood Maine Hydro Partners, L.P.

*e. Name of Projects and Locations:*

(1) Eustis Dam Hydro Project No. 11132, on the Dead River, in Franklin County, Maine;

(2) Burnham Hydro Project No. 11472, on the Sebasticook River, in Somerset and Waldo Counties, Maine;

(3) Mechanic Falls Hydro Project No. 11482, on the Little Androscoggin River, in Androscoggin County, Maine; and

(4) Damariscotta Mills Hydro Project No. 11566, on the Damariscotta River, in Lincoln County, Maine.

*f. Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791-825(r).

*g. Applicants Contact:*

Stephen E. Champagne, Esq., Curtis Thaxter Stevens Broder & Micoleau, LLC, One Canal Plaza, P.O. Box 7320, Portland, ME 04112, (207) 775-2361  
Edward M. Stern, Esq., Consolidated Hydro, Inc., 680 Washington Blvd., Stamford, CT 06901, (203) 425-8850.

*h. FERC Contact:* Ed Lee (202) 219-2809.

*i. Comment Date:* November 18, 1996.

*j. Description of Request:*

Consolidated Hydro Maine, Inc. (Consolidated), applicant for the pending license applications for the proposed projects above, and Ridgewood Maine Hydro Partner, L.P. (Ridgewood) request that the license applications for the before-mentioned projects each be amended to change the name of the applicant from Consolidated to Ridgewood. Consolidated is being merged into Ridgewood to facilitate a change in the beneficial interest in the projects. There