

County, Ohio and Clarion County, Pennsylvania. Independence states it will be an open access pipeline. Independence's facilities are designed to provide a capacity of 943,300 Mcf per day (Mcf/d) during the winter season and 838,000 Mcf/d during the summer season. Independence estimates that the project will cost \$629.6 million and intends to use project financing to fund the project.

Independence proposes to use cost based rates. It anticipates an underlying capital structure consisting of 70 percent debt and 30 percent equity and intends to use the straight fixed variable methodology for cost classification, allocation, and rate design.

Independence requests a preliminary determination by November 1, 1997, and a final certificate by July 1, 1998, in order to meet a target in-service date of November 1, 1999.

Independence is conducting an open season from April 2, 1997 through May 30, 1997 to solicit market interest in the project. Independence intends to make the proposed expansion capacity available on a non-discriminatory basis to any shipper that has executed a transportation service agreement with Independence.

ANR has submitted a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the subject project and the companion ANR expansion project in Docket No. CP97-319-000 to hire a third-party contractor to assist staff in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

With the exception of the RFP process, which may proceed, the Commission staff will defer all other processing of Independence's application until Independence advises the Commission of the results of the open season and demonstrates contract commitments in support of the project.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before April 30, 1997, 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 but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a 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 this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that approval for the proposed application 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 motion 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 Independence to appear or be represented at the hearing.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-126-000]

#### Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

April 9, 1997.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in this proceeding on Wednesday, April 16, 1997, at 10:00 a.m., in accordance with the procedural schedule established by the Presiding Judge. The conference will be held at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC.

Any party, as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(c), or any participant, as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(b), may attend. Persons wishing to become a party must move to intervene and receive intervenor status pursuant to the Commission regulations. See 18 CFR 385.214.

For additional information, please contact Paul B. Mohler at (202) 208-1240, or Carmen Gastilo at (202) 208-2182.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-9613 Filed 4-14-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER97-1514-000]

#### New York Electric & Gas Corporation; Notice of Filing

April 9, 1997.

Take notice that on March 26, 1997, the New York Electric & Gas Corporation tendered for filing an amendment in the above-referenced docket.

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 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before April 21, 1997. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make 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.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-9615 Filed 4-14-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. OA97-261-000 and ER97-1082-000]

#### Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection; Notice of Technical Conference and Potential Broadcast of Technical Conference

April 9, 1997.

As previously announced in the Commission's order issued on February 28, 1997, *MidContinent Area Power Pool, et al.*, 78 FERC ¶ 61,203 (1997), the Commission will convene a technical conference concerning the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection (PJM) congestion pricing proposals filed in the captioned proceedings. The technical conference will be held on May 9, 1997, at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. The technical conference will commence at 10:00 a.m.

and will be open to all interested persons.

The technical conference will be divided into two parts. The first part will consist of a panel focusing on technical aspects of the congestion pricing proposal submitted by the Supporting Companies Group. The first panel should be prepared to discuss, among other matters, the information filed in response to the March 28, 1997, letter from the Director, Division of Applications, of the Office of Electric Power Regulation, and the details of the Energy Accounting Example attached to the Supporting Companies Group December 31, 1996, compliance filing.

The second part will consist of a panel addressing conceptual and policy issues pertaining to the congestion pricing proposals of both the Supporting Companies Group and PECO Energy Company, including: (1) whether the proposals provide appropriate price signals; (2) whether the proposals will result in impermissible "And" pricing of transmission capacity; (3) whether the Supporting Companies Group locational energy pricing approach will be beneficial absent implementation of market-based pricing; and (4) whether the proposals provide appropriate incentives to expand transmission capacity in order to relieve transmission constraints.

Persons wishing to speak at the technical conference must submit a request to make a statement in Docket Nos. OA97-261-000 and ER97-1082-000. The request should clearly specify the name of the person desiring to speak and the party or parties the speaker represents. The request must also include a brief synopsis of the issue or issues the speaker wishes to address as well as the speaker's position on the issue or issues. All requests must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 on or before April 18, 1997. The Commission will issue a further notice listing the speakers and panels for the technical conference.

In addition, all interested persons are invited to submit written comments addressing topics discussed at the technical conference. (There is no need to reiterate comments that already have been made in pleadings filed in these dockets.) Comments must be received on or before April 25, 1997. The comments should be no longer than 25 pages in length, double spaced, on 8"x11" paper, with standard margins. Parties submitting comments must submit fourteen (14) written copies of their comments and also must submit two copies of the file on a computer

diskette, one in WordPerfect 6.1 format, and one in a DOS file in the ASCII format (with 1" margins and 10 characters per inch). The two computer files should be labeled (--WP and --.ACS) to avoid confusion. Comments must include a one page executive summary and must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 and reference Docket Nos. OA97-261-000 and ER97-1082-000. All written comments will be placed in the Commission's public files and will be available for inspection or copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room during normal business hours. The Commission also will make all comments publicly available on its EBB.

#### Broadcast of Technical Conference

If there is sufficient interest, the Capitol Connection will broadcast the technical conference on May 9, 1997, to interested persons. Persons interested in receiving the broadcast for a fee should contact Shirley Al-Jarani at the Capitol Connection (703) 993-3100 no later than May 2, 1997.

In addition, National Narrowcast Network's Hearings-On-the-Line service covers all FERC meetings live by telephone so that anyone can listen at their desk, from their homes, or from any phone without special equipment. Call (202) 966-2211 for details. Billing is based on time on-line.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Grace E. Goodman, Office of Electric Power Regulation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-2296;

David E. Mead, Office of Economic Policy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1024;

Steven M. Kramer, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-0647.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-9647 Filed 4-14-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-328-000]

#### Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation; Notice of Application

April 9, 1997.

Take notice that on April 4, 1997, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco), P.O. Box 1396, Houston, Texas 77251, filed in Docket No. CP97-328-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for authorization to construct and operate 4.88 miles of 36-inch diameter pipeline loop on its Leidy Line beginning at milepost 144.53 in Lycoming County and ending at milepost 149.41 in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, in order to create an additional 35,000 Dth per day of firm transportation capacity (Pocono Expansion Project) to serve the firm market requirements of PG Energy, Inc. and Penn Fuel Gas, Inc., all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Transco notes that the pipeline loop proposed herein was part of the Leidy Line loops that was proposed in Transco's SeaBoard 97 project, in Docket Nos. CP96-545-000 and CP96-545-001, and which was approved but not constructed in Transco's Steuben Storage Project in Docket No. CP90-685-000.<sup>1</sup> Transco states that, contemporaneously, with this filing, it is filing a letter withdrawing its application for the SeaBoard 97 project so that it can meet the firm 1997 market requirements of two of the SeaBoard 97 shippers (PG Energy, Inc. and Penn Fuel Gas, Inc.) by proposing to construct a portion of the Leidy Line loops proposed in SeaBoard 97 in the instant application.

Transco states that these shippers have committed to firm transportation service for contract terms of up to twenty years and that the service will be provided under Rate Schedule FT of Transco's FERC Gas Tariff, Volume No. 1 and Transco's blanket certificate under Part 284(G) of the Commission's regulations. Transco states that the proposed rate for the firm transportation service will be a separately incremental monthly reservation rate of \$4.8502. Transco states that the proposed rate is based on a straight-fixed variable rate

<sup>1</sup> Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation, 52 FERC ¶ 61,287 (1990); reh'g, 53 FERC ¶ 61,102 (1990).