

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Maine Project Nos. 2364 and 2365]

**Madison Paper Industries; Notice of Scoping Meetings and Site Visit and Soliciting Scoping Comments**

September 24, 1999.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations provide applicants with the option of preparing their own Environmental Assessment (EA) for hydropower projects, and filing this applicant-prepared EA (APEA) with their application as part of an alternative licensing procedure.<sup>1</sup> On July 1, 1999, Madison Paper Industries (MPI) requested, approval to use the alternative relicensing procedure in preparation of the license applications for the Anson (FERC No. 2365) and the Abenaki (FERC No. 2364) Hydroelectric Projects. The Commission approved MPI's request on September 10, 1999. The current licenses for the projects expire on May 1, 2004.

In February 1999, MPI initiated a collaborative consultation process with state and federal agencies, local interests, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which have formed an APEA Team for the alternative licensing procedures. MPI obtained support from the participants involved in the collaborative process to pursue the APEA process for the Anson and Abenaki Projects.

Based on APEA Team meetings and comments received from February through August 1999, the MPI APEA Team has prepared Scoping Document I (SDI), which provides information on the scoping process, APEA schedule, background information, environmental issues, and proposed project alternatives. In conjunction with the APEA Team, MPI has prepared, and is distributing with SDI, a comprehensive Initial Information Package (IIP) which describes in detail the alternative process that MPI intends to use, the projects and their operations, environmental resources potentially affected by the project, and proposed studies.

**Scoping Process**

The purpose of the scoping process is to identify issues related to the proposed Madison Paper Industries action and to determine what issues should be addressed in the APEA. SDI is being circulated to enable appropriate

federal, state, and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and other interested individuals and entities to participate in the scoping process. SDI provides a brief description of the proposed action, alternatives to the proposed action, and a list of preliminary issues identified by the APEA Team.

**Scoping Meeting and Site Visit**

MPI will conduct two public scoping meetings on October 21, 1999.

The times and locations of the scoping meeting are:

**Afternoon Scoping Meeting**

October 21, 1999, 1:00 PM, Madison Paper Industries Mill, Main Street, Madison, Maine.

**Evening Scoping Meeting**

October 21, 1999, 6:00 PM, Madison Paper Industries Mill, Main Street, Madison, Maine.

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited and encouraged to attend either or both meetings to assist in identifying and clarifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the APEA. For more details or a copy of SDI, please contact David Lovley, MPI, (207) 696-1225. Copies of SDII and the IIP will be available at both meetings.

A site tour, conducted by MPI, will begin at 9:00 AM, on October 21, 1999, and is expected to last about three hours. The site tour will include the Anson and Abenaki Project works, including generating facilities, the Abenaki bypassed reach, and project recreation facilities (The Pines and Madison boat launch). Site tour participants will meet at the security building at the Madison Paper Industries Mill, Main Street, Madison, Maine. Transportation will be provided. Those who wish to attend should contact David Lovley at (207) 696-1225, before October 14, 1999.

**Objectives**

At the scoping meetings, MPI will: (1) summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) outline any resources they believe would not require a detailed analysis; (3) identify reasonable alternatives to be addressed in the Madison Paper Industries EA; (4) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantitative data, on the resources at issue; and (5) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the APEA.

**Meeting Procedures**

The meeting will be conducted consistent with the procedures used at

Commission scoping meetings. Because this meeting will be conducted pursuant to a National Environmental Policy Act scoping meeting, the Commission will not conduct another scoping meeting when the application and APEA are filed with the Commission in early 2002.

Both meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and become a part of the record of the Commission's relicensing proceedings on the Anson and Abenaki Projects. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to identify themselves for the record. Speaking time allowed for individuals will be determined before each meeting, based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the approximate amount of time available for the session. Persons choosing not to speak but wishing to express an opinion, as well as speakers unable to summarize their positions within their allotted time, may submit written statements for inclusion in the record no later than December 21, 1999.

All comments should be submitted to: Mr. David Lovley, Madison Paper Industries, P.O. Box 129, Madison, ME 04950.

A copy of all comments should also be sent to MPI's agent: Ms. Maureen Winters, Kleinschmidt Associates, P.O. Box 576, Pittsfield, ME 04967.

Based on all written comments, a Scoping Document II (SDII) may be issued. SDII will include a revised list of issues, based on the scoping comments.

For further information regarding the APEA scoping process, please contact David Lovley of MPI at (207) 696-1225, or Nan Allen of the Commission at (202) 219-2938.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. RP99-505-000]

**Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Termination of Gathering Service**

September 24, 1999.

Take notice that on September 20, 1999, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural), tendered for filing in Docket No. RP99-505-000 a request pursuant to Section 4 of the Natural Gas Act, 15 U.S.C. 717C and the Commission's policy set forth in its order on rehearing in *Arkla Gathering*

<sup>1</sup> 81 FERC ¶ 61,103 (1997).

*Services Company*, 69 FERC ¶61,280 (1994), for authorization to terminate service through two gathering areas—the Panhandle Gathering Area located in Carson, Moore, Hutchinson and Gray Counties, Texas, and the Quinduno Gathering Area located in Carson, Gray and Roberts Counties, Texas.

Collectively these two gathering areas are referred to as the West Panhandle Gathering System. Natural intends to sell the West Panhandle Gathering System to MidCon Gas Products Corp. (MidCon), a gathering affiliate. On August 26, 1999, Natural received authorization in Docket No. CP99-161-000 to abandon, by sale to MidCon, certain previously certificated facilities within the West Panhandle Gathering System.

Natural states that copies of the filing are being mailed to the customers which are currently receiving service in the West Panhandle Gathering System and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. 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 proceedings. 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 in the Public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the Web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

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

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EG99-234-000]

#### **Southern Energy Wichita Falls, L.P. (d/b/a SEI Wichita Falls, L.P.); Notice of Application for Commission Determination of Exempt Wholesale Generator Status**

September 22, 1999.

Take notice that on September 20, 1999, Southern Energy Wichita Falls, L.P. (SE Wichita Falls), 900 Ashwood Parkway, Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30338-4780, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission an application for determination of exempt wholesale generator status pursuant to Part 365 of the Commission's regulations.

SE Wichita Falls is a Delaware limited partnership that intends acquire an 80 MW natural gas-fired cogeneration facility located in Wichita Falls, Texas. SE Wichita Falls is engaged directly and exclusively in the business of owning or operating, or both owning and operating, all or part of one or more eligible facilities and selling electric energy at wholesale.

Any person desiring to be heard concerning the application for exempt wholesale generator status should file a motion to intervene or comments with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). The Commission will limit its consideration of comments to those that concern the adequacy or accuracy of the application. All such motions and comments should be filed on or before October 13, 1999, and must be served on the applicant. 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 or on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (please call (202) 208-2222 for assistance).

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-25411 Filed 9-29-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-624-000]

#### **Wyoming Interstate Company, Ltd.; Notice of Application**

September 24, 1999.

Take notice that on September 16, 1999, Wyoming Interstate Company, Ltd. (WIC), P.O. Box 1087, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80944 filed an application pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and Part 157 of the Commission's Regulations to construct and operate facilities in order to increase the capacity of its Medicine Bow Lateral, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. The application may be viewed on the web at [www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm](http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm) (call (202) 208-2222 for assistance).

WIC proposes to increase the capacity of the Medicine Bow Lateral from 260,000 dth per day to 380,000 dth per day by constructing: (1) 5.6 miles of 24-inch diameter pipeline from the interconnect with the WIC mainline and the Medicine Bow Lateral to the discharge side of WIC's Cheyenne Compressor Station all in Weld County, Colorado; and (2) a 7,170 horsepower compressor unit at the Douglas Compressor Station in converse County, Wyoming. WIC estimates that the proposed facilities will cost \$12,101,200 and proposes to finance the construction of the facilities through funds on hand and internally generated cash from operations.

WIC states that it has entered into contracts for the full capacity of the proposed expansion with the existing Medicine Bow shippers. WIC proposes to charge these shippers the existing Medicine bow rate as previously approved in Docket Nos. CP99-102 and RP99-381.

Any questions regarding this application should be directed to James R. West, Manager, Certificates, Wyoming Interstate Company, Ltd., P.O. box 1087, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80944 at (719) 520-4679.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before October 15, 1999, 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 requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) and the regulations under the