

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP00-31-000]

Washington Gas Light Company and Shenandoah Gas Company; Notice of Application

November 29, 1999.

Take notice that on November 19, 1999, Washington Gas Light Company (Washington), 1100 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20080, and Shenandoah Gas Company (Shenandoah), P.O. Box 2400 Winchester, Virginia, 22604, a wholly owned subsidiary of Washington, filed an application in Docket No. CP00-31-000, pursuant to Sections 7(b) and 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), for an order (i) approving the abandonment by Shenandoah, and the acquisition by Washington, of Shenandoah's certificated facilities in Virginia, through the merger of Shenandoah with and into Washington, or alternatively, finding that such abandonment is not necessary because Shenandoah's NGA Section 7(c) certificates were effectively terminated and subsumed within Shenandoah's subsequent NGA Section 7(f) service area determination, (ii) amending Washington's service area determination under NGA Section 7(f) to include the territory served by Shenandoah in Virginia, and (iii) merging Shenandoah's blanket certificate issued under 18 CFR 284.224 with Washington's blanket certificate, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Donald R. Hayes, Specialist, Senior—Legal, Washington Gas Light Company, 1100 H Street, NW., Washington, DC 20080 or call (202) 624-6504.

Washington and Shenandoah state that Commission authorization of the transactions described in the application is in the public convenience and necessity because Washington will provide, through its Shenandoah Division, continued retail gas service to all of Shenandoah's former customers in Virginia and firm interstate transportation service on behalf of Mountaineer Gas Company and other customers in West Virginia at the same rates and under the same terms and conditions of service as currently provided by Shenandoah.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before December 20, 1999, 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 385.211 and 385.214) 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 in any proceeding herein 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 the jurisdiction conferred upon the 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 permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are 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 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 Shenandoah and/or Washington to appear or to be represented at the hearing.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-31729 Filed 12-7-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission****Florida Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Compressor Station 11A Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues**

[Docket No. CP00-4-000]

December 2, 1999.

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 Compressor Station 11A Expansion Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Florida Gas Transmission Company (FGT) in Mobile County, Alabama.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

Summary of the Proposed Project

FGT wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Alabama to transport an additional 80,000 million British thermal units per day of natural gas to Alabama Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AEC) for use at a nonjurisdictional electric generating facility in Escambia County, Alabama. To provide this service FGT seeks authority to:

- Upgrade the two compressor turbines at Compressor Station 11A (CS-11A) from 12,600 horsepower (hp) Solar T-90s to 15,000 hp Solar T-100s for a new total station horsepower of 30,000 hp;
- Rewheel the centrifugal compressor of each unit to enable the compression of a larger volume of gas at a lower differential pressure;
- Install one new gas scrubber and a cooler; and
- Loop the existing 30-inch-diameter suction yard pipeline with approximately 1,000 feet of 36-inch-diameter pipeline.

All of the proposed facilities would be constructed in the station yard of CS-11A. The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 2.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction activities would require approximately 6 acres of previously disturbed soil located entirely within the 27 acre, fenced compressor station property. The entire 6 acres would return to pre-construction conditions as no additional land would be needed to operate the new facilities.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental

¹ FGT's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's website at the "RIMS" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. For instructions on connecting to RIMS refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

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.
- Land Use.
- Cultural resources.
- Air quality and noise, endangered and threatened species.
- Public safety.
- Hazardous waste.

We will also evaluate 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 make our recommendations to the Commission.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section on the following page.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified the air and noise impacts associated with upgrading the two compressor units at CS-11A as an issue that we think deserves attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by FGT. Additional issues may be included

based on your comments and our analysis.

Nonjurisdictional Facilities

Also, we have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts for the power generating plant and approximately 60 miles of new 20-inch-diameter pipeline. These are nonjurisdictional facilities to be constructed by AEC for the delivery of natural gas from the existing FGT mainlines to a planned power generating plant. We will briefly describe their location and status in the EA.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentor, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. 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 carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.2.
- Reference Docket No. CP00-4-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before January 3, 2000.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor". Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. 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 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. 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 3). Only

intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

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 environmental comments considered. Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal document issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application Ready for Environmental Analysis and Soliciting Comments, Recommendations, Terms and Conditions, and Prescriptions

December 2, 1999.

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

- a. *Type of Application:* New Major License
- b. *Project No.:* 2661-012
- c. *Date filed:* September 24, 1998
- d. *Applicant:* Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- e. *Name of Project:* Hat Creek Hydroelectric Project
- f. *Location:* On Hat Creek in Shasta County, California. About 6.57 acres of the project occupy lands of the U.S. Forest Service, Shasta National Forest.