

Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Recreation by June 1, 2000. The NGOs then requested an extension of time, until June 1, 2000, to file comments on the applicant-prepared environmental assessment (APEA), and final terms and conditions, prescriptions and recommendations for the new license.

In response, the Commission, by notice of January 12, 2000,² granted an extension of time, to June 1, 2000, for the filing of comments, final terms and conditions, prescriptions and recommendations, but only concerning the subject of the draft management plans. The deadline for filing other comments, final terms and conditions, prescriptions and recommendations, remained January 31, 2000, as had been established by notice of November 22, 1999.³

On January 31, 2000, the NGOs renewed the request for extension to June 1, 2000. The NGOs stated that the results of the studies leading to the management plans will bear on more than just the management plans, and will affect conditions identified in the settlement agreement. The request is supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Vermont Agency for Natural Resources, two resource agencies that have statutory authority to make recommendations under Section 10(j) of the Federal Power Act.

The Commission is concerned with the swift progress of proceedings under the Alternative Licensing Process (ALP). The goal of the ALP is to resolve issues during pre-filing consultation in a collaborative manner so that the Commission may accelerate the environmental review process and licenses may receive speedy review of the filed license application. Therefore, the Commission carefully scrutinizes delays or time extension requests for license applications prepared under the ALP.

In this instance, we recognize the close connection between the management plans and other aspects of the license application, and the benefit to the stakeholders of resolving as many issues as possible before they submit their prescriptions, final terms and conditions, recommendations and comments. We will therefore, pursuant to Rule 2008 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure,⁴ extend the deadline for filing all prescriptions, final terms and conditions,

recommendations and comments to June 1, 2000.

The applicant contact is Mr. Cleve Kapala, USGen New England, Inc., 46 Centerra Parkway, Lebanon, NH 03766. The FERC contact is William Guey-Lee, E-mail address: william.gueylee@ferc.fed.us, or telephone (202) 219-2808.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St. NE, Washington, DC 20426. The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, the intervenor must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

All filing must: (1) bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS," "TERMS AND CONDITIONS," "PRESCRIPTIONS," or "REPLY COMMENTS;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application and APEA to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). Any of these documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies required by the Commission's regulations to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. An additional copy must be sent to: Director, Division of Licensing and Compliance, Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, at the above address. Each filing must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed on the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulation Commission

[Docket No. RP00-190-000]

Viking Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Tariff Filing

March 3, 2000.

Take notice that on February 29, 2000, Viking Gas Transmission Company (Viking) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1 the following tariff sheets to become effective April 1, 2000:

Fourth Revised Sheet No. 6B

Viking states that the purpose of this filing is to make Viking's annual adjustment to its Load Management Cost Reconciliation Adjustment in accordance with Section 154.403 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, 18 CFR § 154.403 (1998) and Section 27 of the General Terms and Conditions of Viking's FERC Gas Tariff.

Pursuant to Rule 207 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, 18 CFR § 385.207 (1999), Viking also respectfully petitions the Commission for a limited waiver of its FERC Gas Tariff to allow Viking to defer surcharging the Load Management Deferred Account Balance and to surcharge only the carrying charges associated with that balance at this time.

If the Commission declines to grant Viking's request, then Viking respectfully submits for filing an original and fourteen copies of the tariff sheet listed below to be part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1 to be effective on April 1, 2000:

Alternate Fourth Revised Sheet No. 6B

Viking states that copies of the filing have been mailed to all of its jurisdictional customers and to affected state regulatory 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, N.E., Washington, D.C. 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. Protest 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

² 65 FR 2943 (2000).

³ 64 FR 66632 (1999).

⁴ 18 CFR 385.2008.

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.

[FR Doc. 00-5691 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2336-041 Georgia]

Georgia Power Company; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

March 2, 2000.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47910), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has prepared a final environmental assessment (FEA) for Georgia Power Company's proposal to permit Lambert Sand and Gravel Company to remove sediments by mechanical dredging from the Yellow and South River sections of the project reservoir (Lake Jackson). The Lloyd Shoals Project is located on the Ocumulgee River and its tributaries in Henry, Butts, Jasper, and Newton Counties, Georgia.

The FEA is attached to a Commission order issued on February 15, 2000 for the above application. Copies of the FEA can be obtained by calling the Commission's Public Reference Room at (202) 208-1371. The FEA may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (please call (202) 208-2222 for assistance). In the FEA, staff concludes that approval of the licensee's proposal would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-5555 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2230-028]

City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

March 3, 2000.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) regulations, the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the City and Borough of Sitka's application filed on November 1, 1999, requesting the Commission's authorization to permit the Global Water Corporation to construct and operate a new, buried, raw water pipeline across project lands, and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action.

The proposed project would include the following specific elements: (1) a tap into the City's existing Pulp Mill Feeder Unit powerhouse tailrace structure (diffusion chamber); and (2) a new 20-inch-diameter, raw water pipeline that would affect approximately 200 feet of City-owned project land located adjacent to the existing powerhouse access road. The proposed pipeline then would extend across non-project lands owned by the State of Alaska situated adjacent to Sawmill Creek Road, and would terminate at Silver Bay where a new mooring facility for loading bulk water into tanker ships would be constructed.

After completion, the pipeline would be used to transport approximately 11,800 acre-feet per year (10.6 million gallons per day) of water from the Blue Lake reservoir to tankers for shipment to purchasers. Blue Lake Project, which was licensed in April 1958, includes a 205-foot-high, concrete arch dam, 1,225-acre reservoir, three powerhouses, and appurtenant facilities, all of which are located within the Borough of Sitka, Alaska.

In the EA, staff indicates that construction of the subject raw water pipeline would result in some minor, short-term adverse impacts to area soils and wildlife. Further, the document indicates that licensee's proposed water withdrawals from Blue Lake reservoir would not result in any major, long-term adverse environmental impacts provided that the order approving the proposed project prohibits water withdrawals when: (1) the elevation of Blue Lake reservoir is at or below the licensee's established rule curve values;

and (2) the withdrawals would interfere with the provision of minimum flows in Sawmill Creek, which are required by Article 401 of the existing license. The EA concludes that approval of the proposed amendment of license with the aforementioned conditions does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA has been attached to and made part of an Order Approving Non-Project Use of Project Lands and Waters, issued February 23, 2000, for the Blue Lake Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2230-028. See 90 FERC ¶ 62,132. Also, the EA is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Reference Room, Room 2A, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. Further, the document may be viewed on the Web at www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm. Call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

For further information, please contact Jim Haimes at (202) 219-2780.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-82-000]

Williams Gas Pipelines Central, Inc.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Pleasant Hill Power Plant Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

March 2, 2000.

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 Pleasant Hill Power Plant Project involving the construction and operation of natural gas transmission facilities by Williams Gas Pipelines Central, Inc. (Williams) in Franklin County, Kansas and Cass and Johnson Counties, Missouri.¹ These proposed facilities would consist of about 1.5 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline and 2,890 horsepower (hp) of compression. This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the

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