

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 Applicant to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-392-000; Docket No. CP00-17-000]

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corp.; South Carolina Public Service Authority; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Southcoast Expansion Project and Santee Cooper Natural Gas Pipeline Project

March 31, 2000.

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) and the South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper) in the above-referenced dockets.

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 assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the proposed underground gas pipeline loops and aboveground facilities including:

- About 11.3 miles of a 42-inch-diameter pipeline loop (designated as Loop E) in Choctaw and Marengo Counties, Alabama; installation of a pig launcher upstream of the loop in Choctaw County; and installation of a pig receiver and liquid scrubber at Station 90 in Marengo County;
- About 13.9 miles of a 48-inch-diameter pipeline loop (designated as Loop E) in Marengo, Perry and Dallas Counties, Alabama; and relocation of an existing pig receiver currently at the

origin of the loop in Marengo County to the ending point in Dallas County;

- About 19 miles of a 24-inch-diameter pipeline loop (designated as the North Georgia Extension Loop) in Walton and Gwinnett Counties, Georgia; installation of a new pig launcher and valve at Station 125 in Walton County; and installation of a new pig receiver and valve at the terminus of the loop in Gwinnett County;
- About 2.1 miles of a 16-inch-diameter pipeline (designated as the Santee Cooper pipeline) to connect the planned Rainey Generating Station in Anderson County, South Carolina, to the Transco system at a new delivery tap and meter station in Hart County, Georgia;
- Addition of a new 15,000 horsepower (hp) gas turbine-powered compressor unit at Compressor Station 105 in Coosa County, Alabama;
- Addition of a new 16,500 hp electric motor driven compressor unit and gas coolers at Compressor Station 115 in Coweta County, Georgia;
- Rewheeling of Compressor Unit 16 at Compressor Station 120 in Henry County, Georgia; and
- Installation of new suction piping at Compressor Station 100 in Chilton County, Alabama, to allow sufficient gas to flow to Compressor Unit 10.

The purpose of the proposed facilities would be to provide about 204,099 dekatherms per day of new firm transportation capacity on Transco's existing system, and to provide up to 80,000 dt/day to Santee Cooper's planned Rainey Generating Station. Transco is proposing the project in order to meet projected growth needs of twelve of its natural gas customers in the southeastern market. The proposed Rainey Generating Station is needed to meet current and future growth in Santee Cooper's marketing area while maintaining adequate reserve of electric power.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, 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.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. Please

carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your comments to: 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, PJ-11.2;
- Reference Docket Nos. CP99-392-000 and CP00-17-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before May 1, 2000.

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 Procedures (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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-8464 Filed 4-5-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP00-224-000]

Transwestern Pipeline Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

March 31, 2000.

Take notice that on March 27, 2000, Transwestern Pipeline Company (Transwestern), tendered for filing in its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheets proposed to be effective March 27, 2000:

Third Revised Sheet No. 18
Seventh Revised Sheet No. 19
Third Revised Sheet No. 27
Seventh Revised Sheet No. 95A
Sixth Revised Sheet No. 95E
Sixth Revised Sheet No. 95F
Third Revised Sheet No. 95I
Third Revised Sheet No. 95J
Fifth Revised Sheet No. 95K

Transwestern states that the purpose of this filing is to comply with Order No. 637 issued on February 9, 2000. Pursuant to Order No. 637, Transwestern is filing revised tariff sheets to: (1) Remove the maximum price cap for capacity release transactions of less than one year; and (2) Modify the Right of First Refusal provisions to apply only to maximum rate contracts as of March 27, 2000 with twelve or more consecutive months of service. Transwestern is also modifying its capacity release provisions to relabel the posting and bidding procedure for pre-arranged deals.

Transwestern further states that copies of the filing have mailed to each of its customers 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, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 85.214 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.

[FR Doc. 00-8477 Filed 4-5-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-48-000]

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Londonderry Replacement Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

March 31, 2000.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will

discuss the environmental impacts of the Londonderry Replacement Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Tennessee Gas Pipeline company (Tennessee Gas) in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties, New Hampshire.¹ These facilities would consist of about 19.3 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline replacing 8-inch-diameter pipeline. Tennessee Gas proposes to locate the new pipeline in the same right-of-way occupied by the replaced pipeline and a 12-inch-diameter pipeline that would remain in place. 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.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the replacement of the pipeline or acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The pipeline company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" was attached to the project notice Tennessee Gas provided to landowners. This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Tennessee Gas wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire to transport 130,000 dekatherms per day (dthd) of natural gas to the AES-Londonderry Project proposed by AES Enterprises (AES). The AES-Londonderry Project is a 720-megawatt, natural gas-fired combined cycle power plant. Tennessee Gas seeks authority to construct and operate

• 19.3 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties, New Hampshire;

• A new 130,000 dthd meter site adjacent to the existing Londonderry Meter Station in Rockingham County, New Hampshire; and

• Four new mainline valves.

The 20-inch-diameter pipeline and three of the mainline valves will replace 19.3 miles of the existing 8-inch-diameter Concord #1 Lateral (270B-100) from Valve 270B-103 in Dracut, Massachusetts, to the Londonderry Meter Station in Londonderry, New Hampshire, and three associated 8-inch mainline valves.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 182.2 acres of land. Following construction, about 92.5 acres would be maintained for the new facility sites, however, all of this area would be within the existing right-of-way. The remaining 89.7 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

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

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, NE., Washington, DC 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.

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