

proposing a joint project with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to rebuild BPA's existing Shelton-Kitsap No. 2 115-kV line as a double-circuit 230-kV line in the existing right-of-way. One circuit would replace the existing 115-kV line and would initially be operated at 115-kV. The other circuit would be a new circuit operated at 230 kV.

The new 230-kV circuit would be routed around BPA's Kitsap Substation and would interconnect with PSE's existing Kitsap-South Bremerton No. 3 line. The Kitsap-South Bremerton No. 3 line (constructed for 230 kV but currently operating at 115 kV) would be re-energized at 230 kV and terminated at a new 230/115-kV transformer at the South Bremerton Substation.

Transmission planning studies have shown that if one of the two existing 230-kV transmission lines to the Kitsap Substation or one of the two existing 230/115-kV transformers at Kitsap is out of service, the remaining facilities serving electrical loads on the Kitsap Peninsula could experience thermal loading beyond their rated capabilities. Thermal overloading of transmission facilities could result in failure or damage of equipment as well as violation of National Electrical Safety Code standards. These outage conditions may also cause system voltages to drop below acceptable levels and eventually lead to voltage collapse resulting in loss of load. BPA needs to correct and improve these conditions on its Shelton-Kitsap 115-kV line.

Construction of the proposed line would cause short-term construction-related impacts to land use, socioeconomic, visual, soils, and vegetation resources. These would include noise, dust, traffic disruption, erosion, and possible growth of noxious weeds in the ROW from ground surface and vegetation disturbance during construction. Temporary increases in the use of local motels/hotels, recreational parks, and campgrounds by construction workers, and short-term increases in local employment and spending in the local economy, would also occur. Minor visual impacts may occur from construction activities in certain locations along the ROW. Potential increases in soil erosion due to access road improvements, pole assembly and erecting, and clearing to provide access to work areas would occur. However, in the long term, erosion rates are expected to return to pre-construction rates.

Long-term impacts would be the removal of approximately 0.5 acre of young forested woodland, with accompanying loss of shade on a small non-fish-bearing stream at the site near

the south side of the BPA Kitsap Substation on BPA property. The tree removal is necessary to route the line around the Kitsap Substation and interconnect with PSE's existing Kitsap-South Bremerton No. 3 line. The amount of clearing would be relatively small, and low-growing vegetation would regrow in the cleared area.

No impacts are expected to wetlands and floodplains, public health and safety, and cultural resources. During review of the Preliminary EA, the Squaxin Island Tribe discussed with BPA the presence of areas of cultural sensitivity in the project vicinity. A Draft Memorandum of Agreement between BPA and the Tribe has been prepared to ensure protection of the culturally sensitive areas.

BPA also studied the No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative would be to continue with the current Dispatcher Standing Operating Order, which defines actions to be taken under peak load normal system and outage conditions to mitigate potential overload and low voltage conditions. BPA currently has an agreement with the U.S. Navy, whereby BPA, in an emergency, and for a very short duration, could connect the Navy's backup generators to BPA's transmission system while the problem was being repaired. However, since the agreement was put into place the region's electrical load has grown such that, even with the generators, the electrical system is inadequate to supply the needed electricity. In addition, if the Navy needs the generators for their own emergency purposes, they may cease support to BPA at any time. BPA's agreement with the Navy to use its generators expires in 2001 and will not be extended for the long term. Outages will occur if BPA experiences problems on the system without the rebuild.

The Proposed Action would not violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. All permits are in place.

Floodplain Statement of Findings

This is a Floodplain Statement of Findings prepared in accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022. A Notice of Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement was published in the **Federal Register** on September 15, 2000, and a floodplain and wetlands assessment was incorporated in the EA (section 3.7). BPA is proposing to rebuild its existing Shelton-Kitsap No. 2 115-kV transmission line as a double-circuit 230-kV line in the existing right-of-way which crosses the 100-year floodplains of Johns Creek, Cranberry Creek, and

Sherwood Creek. No impacts to the floodplains would occur because no construction activities within the floodplains would be associated with the proposed project, and their floodplain characteristics would not be altered. The proposed action conforms to applicable State or local floodplain protection standards.

BPA will endeavor to allow 15 days of public review after publication of this statement of findings before implementing the proposed action.

Determination

Based on the information in the EA, as summarized here, BPA determines that the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.* Therefore, an EIS will not be prepared and BPA is issuing this FONSI.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on January 17, 2001.

Robert W. Beraud,

Manager, Environmental Analysis.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP01-124-001]

Algonquin Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Compliance Filing

January 24, 2001.

Take notice that on January 16, 2001, Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin) tendered its filing in compliance with the Commission's letter order in Docket No. RP01-124-000 [93 FERC 61,318 (2000)] issued on December 29, 2000 (December 29 Order).

Algonquin states that the purpose of this filing is to comply with the requirements of the December 29 Order to submit a revised, executed service agreement between Algonquin and US GEN New England, Inc. (USGen) for firm lateral service that conforms to the Rate Schedule AFT-CL form of service agreement contained in Algonquin's tariff and a statement detailing the rate and term of the prearranged capacity release to USGen under Rate Schedule AFT-CL.

Algonquin also states that copies of the filing were mailed to all parties to Docket No. RP01-124-000 and also all affected customers and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to protest said filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such 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. 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). Comments and protests may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP01-211-000]

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

January 24, 2001.

Take notice that on January 19, 2001, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR), tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the Sixth Revised Sheet No. 45E.01 to be effective March 1, 2001.

ANR states that the purpose of this filing is to designate in its tariff a new point eligible for service under its existing Rate Schedule IPLS.

ANR states that copies of the filing have been mailed to all affected customers and 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. 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). Comments and protests may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP96-389-018]

Columbia Gulf Transmission Co.; Notice of Negotiated Rate Filing

January 24, 2001.

Take notice that on January 16, 2001, Columbia Gulf Transmission Company (Columbia Gulf), tendered for filing the following contract for disclosure of a recently negotiated rate transaction:

ITS-2 Service Agreement No. 70332 between Columbia Gulf Transmission Company and Transworld Explanation and Production, Inc., dated December 19, 2000.

Transportation service which is scheduled to commence upon Commission authorization.

Columbia Gulf states that copies of the filing have been served on all parties on the official service list created by the Secretary in this proceeding.

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, 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). Comments and protests may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-2546 Filed 1-29-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP01-68-000]

Indiana Gas Company, Inc.; Notice of Application

January 24, 2001.

On January 19, 2001, Indiana Gas Company, Inc. (Indiana Gas), 1630 North Meridian Street, P.O. Box 44945, Indianapolis, Indiana 46244-0945, filed in Docket No. CP01-68-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(f) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) to expand its service area determination in Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Kentucky to include an area two miles north and one-half mile south of the existing area, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. The filing may be viewed at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Indiana Gas states that the expanded service area will give Indiana Gas the flexibility needed to purchase the right-of-way associated with a new 12.6-mile pipeline in the two counties to be used to provide reliable natural gas service to existing and future retail residential, commercial and industrial customers in the Greater Louisville Metropolitan Area, in particular Clark and Floyd Counties, Indiana. Indiana Gas indicates that, although the needed construction could occur within the existing right-of-way, such an approach would adversely affect landowners because of the significant residential development along the existing facilities subsequent to their construction in 1952.

In addition to the request to expand the Section 7(f) service area determination, Indiana Gas also requests (1) a finding that Indiana Gas qualifies as a local distribution company for purposes of Section 311 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA), and (2)