

Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (please 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>.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER01-687-000]

#### Reliant Energy Aurora, LP; Notice of Issuance of Order

January 29, 2001.

Reliant Energy Aurora, LP (Reliant Aurora) submitted for filing a rate schedule under which Reliant Aurora will engage in wholesale electric power and energy transactions tar market-based rates. Reliant Aurora also requested waiver of various Commission regulations. In particular, Reliant Aurora requested that the commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR Part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability by Reliant Aurora.

On January 17, 2001, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Corporate Applications, Office of Markets, Tariffs and Rates, granted requests for blanket approval under Part 34, subject to the following:

Within thirty days of the date of the order, any person desiring to be heard or to protest the blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liability by Reliant Aurora should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214).

Absent a request for hearing within this period, Reliant Aurora is authorized to issue securities and assume obligations or liabilities as guarantor, indorser, surety, or otherwise in respect of any security of another person; provided that such issuance or assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of the applicant, and compatible with the public interest, and is reasonably

necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

The Commission reserves the right to require a further showing that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by continued approval of Reliant Aurora's issuances of securities or assumptions of liability.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing motions to intervene or protests, as set forth above, is February 16, 2001.

Copies of the full text of the Order are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. The Order may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP01-67-000]

#### Southwest Gas Storage Company; Notice of Application

January 29, 2001.

On January 17, 2001, Southwest Gas Storage Company (Southwest), P.O. Box 4967, Houston, Texas 77210-4967, filed in Docket No. CP01-67-000 an application pursuant to sections 7(b) and 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and subpart A of Part 157 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing Southwest to abandon by removal and replace certain pipeline facilities, and to recomplete five existing injection/withdrawal wells in the Howell Storage Field in Livingston County, Michigan, all as more fully set forth in the application which is open to the public for inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm>. (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Specifically, Southwest proposes to re-enter five existing wells and drill a horizontal lateral wellbore extension from each well and to replace existing 4-inch storage lines with 8-inch lines in two Phases. Southwest asserts that the completion of the wellbore extensions will improve the ratio of working gas to base gas, with working gas increasing by approximately 1.25 Bcf and the amount of base gas decreasing by a corresponding amount. Southwest

further states the reworking of the wells will yield higher maximum withdrawal and maximum injection rates toward the beginning of withdrawal season, with the maximum withdrawal rate increasing from 360 MMcf/d to 410 MMcf/d and the maximum injection rate increasing from 120 MMcf/d to 150 MMcf/d, thus allowing Southwest to improve operation of the Howell Storage Field.

Southwest estimates the cost of Phase I, which involves the re-entering of two of the five existing wells, excluding the segment of pipe to be abandoned by removal, at approximately \$1,683,500, while the estimated cost of Phase II, which involves the re-entering of the remaining three wells, is approximately \$2,222,100. Southwest states that the cost of abandonment of the existing 4-inch storage lines is approximately \$11,000.

Any questions regarding this application should be directed to William W. Grygar, Vice President of Rates and Regulatory Affairs, 5444 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas 77056-5306 at (713) 989-7000.

There are two ways to become involved in the Commission's review of this project. First, any person wishing to obtain legal status by becoming a party to the proceedings for this project should, on or before February 20, 2001, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.10). A person obtaining party status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by all other parties. A party must submit 14 copies of filings made with the Commission and must mail a copy to the applicant and to every other party in the proceeding. Only parties to the proceeding can ask for court review of Commission orders in the proceeding.

However, a person does not have to intervene in order to have comments considered. The second way to participate is by filing with the Secretary of the Commission, as soon as possible, an original and two copies of comments in support of or in opposition to this project. The Commission will consider these comments in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but the filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that persons filing

comments in opposition to the project provide copies of their protests only to the party or parties directly involved in the protest.

Persons who wish to comment only on the environmental review of this project should submit an original and two copies of their comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Environmental commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of the environmental documents, and will be notified of meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Environmental commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, the non-party commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission (except for the mailing of environmental documents issued by the Commission) and will not have the right to seek court review of the Commission's final order.

The Commission may issue a preliminary determination on non-environmental issues prior to the completion of its review of the environmental aspects of the project. This preliminary determination typically considers such issues as the need for the project and its economic effect on existing customers of the applicant, on other pipelines in the area, and on landowners and communities. For example, the Commission considers the extent to which the applicant may need to exercise eminent domain to obtain rights-of-way for the proposed project and balances that against the non-environmental benefits to be provided by the project. Therefore, if a person has comments on community and landowner impacts from this proposal, it is important either to file comments or to intervene as early in the process as possible.

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>.

If the Commission decides to set the application for a formal hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, the Commission will issue another notice describing that process. At the end of the Commission's review process, a final Commission order approving or denying a certificate will be issued.

**David P. Boergers,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-2835 Filed 2-1-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-6-000]

#### **Gulfstream Natural Gas System, L.L.C.; Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Gulfstream Pipeline Project**

January 29, 2001.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) on natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Gulfstream Natural Gas System, L.L.C. (Gulfstream) in the above-referenced docket. The application and other supplemental filings in this docket are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website ([www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us)). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS menu, and follow the instructions.

The FEIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The staff concludes that approval of the Gulfstream Pipeline Project, with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact. The FEIS evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system alternatives, route alternatives, and route variations.

The FEIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the proposed facilities in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, and State and Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico. Gulfstream proposes to construct about 743 miles of various diameter pipeline, 128,000 horsepower (hp) of compression, 1 pressure regulating station, 22 meter stations, 4 manifold stations, 34 mainline valve sites, and 28 pig launchers or receivers.

The purpose of the Gulfstream Pipeline Project is to provide natural gas transportation service for up to 1.13 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) of natural gas from supply areas in Alabama and Mississippi to new and existing markets in Florida. The primary market is for natural gas-fueled electric generation plants. The plants are needed to meet the forecasted substantial increases in consumption driven by Florida's projected population growth over the next 10 to 20 years.

This FEIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance

Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

A limited number of copies are available from the Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch identified above. In addition, the FEIS has been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies; public interest groups, individuals, and affected landowners who requested a copy of the FEIS; libraries; newspapers; and parties to this proceeding. The document is also available for viewing on the FERC website at [www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us), using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website described in the preceding paragraph. Access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission with regard to this docket, such as orders and notices, is also available on the FERC website using the "CIPS" link. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

**David P. Boergers,**  
*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-114-000]

#### **Trunkline Gas Company; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Line 100-1 Abandonment Project**

January 29, 2001.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed for abandonment by Trunkline Gas Company (Trunkline) in the above-referenced docket.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed Line 100-1 Abandonment 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 abandoning