

www.ferc.gov using the “eLibrary” link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The answer to the complaint, comments, protests and interventions 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 under the “e-Filing” link. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Comment Date: April 1, 2004.

Linda Mitry,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-611 Filed 3-17-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11858-002]

Elsinore Municipal Water District and Nevada Hydro Company, Inc.; Notice Extending Deadline for Submitting Additional Study Requests

March 12, 2004.

Take notice that the date for filing study requests has been extended for the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project, FERC Project No. 11858-02.

On February 2, 2004, Elsinore Municipal Water District and the Nevada Hydro Company, Inc. filed a license application for a major unconstructed project that would be located on Lake Elsinore and San Juan Creek, in the Town of Lake Elsinore, Riverside County, California.

In a notice tendering the license application for filing and soliciting additional study requests issued February 10, 2004, the Commission set the deadline for filing additional study requests as April 2, 2004. However, some of the consulted parties were not provided with a copy of the application by the applicant as set forth in the Commission’s regulations.¹ Because the applicant will have just finished mailing the application to the consulted agencies and tribes as of March 12, 2004, we are extending the deadline for filing additional study requests to give

all consulted parties a full 60-day period to review the application.

The deadline for filing additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status is now May 11, 2004.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission’s rules of practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person 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, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

Additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission’s Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the “e-Filing” link.

Linda Mitry,
Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD04-4-000]

Panel Member List for Hydropower Licensing Study Dispute Resolution; Notice Requesting Applications for Panel Member List for Hydropower Licensing Study Dispute Resolution

March 12, 2004.

This notice requests applications from those interested in being listed as potential panel members to assist in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (Commission) study dispute resolution process for the integrated licensing process for hydropower projects.

Background

The Commission’s final rule revising its regulations pertaining to hydroelectric licensing under the Federal Power Act encourages informal resolution of study disagreements. In cases where this is not successful, a formal study dispute resolution process

is available for State and Federal agencies or Indian tribes with mandatory conditioning authority.¹

The final rule provides that the disputed study must be submitted to a dispute resolution panel consisting of a person from Commission staff, a person from the agency or Indian tribe referring the dispute to the Commission, and a third person selected by the other two panelists from a pre-established list of persons with expertise in the disputed resource area.² The third panel member (TPM) will serve without compensation, except for certain allowable travel expenses to be borne by the Commission (31 CFR 301).

The role of the panel members is to make a finding, with respect to each disputed study request, on the extent to which each study criteria set forth in the regulations is or is not met,³ and why. The panel will then make a recommendation to the Director of the Office of Energy Projects based on the panel’s findings.

TPMs can only be selected from a list of qualified persons (TPM List) that is developed and maintained by the Commission. Each qualified panel member will be listed by area(s) and sub-area(s) of technical expertise, for example Fisheries Resources—Instream flow. The TPM list will be available to the public on the Commission’s web site. All individuals submitting their applications to the Commission for consideration must meet the Commission’s qualifications.

Application Contents

The applicant should describe in detail his/her qualifications in items 1–4 listed below.

1. Technical expertise, including education and experience in each resource area and sub-area for which the applicant wishes to be considered:

- Aquatic resources:
 - Water quality;
 - Instream flows;
 - Fish passage;
 - Macroinvertebrates;
 - Threatened and endangered species;
 - General.
- Terrestrial resources:
 - Wildlife biology;
 - Botany;
 - Wetlands ecology;
 - Threatened and endangered

¹ See § 5.14 of the final rule, which may be viewed on the Commission’s Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov/home/Order2002.pdf>, and see excerpted attachment describing the formal dispute resolution process.

² These persons must not be otherwise involved with the proceeding.

³ See § 5.9 of the final rule.

¹ See 18 CFR 4.38(d)(1).

- species;
 - General.
- Cultural resources.
- Recreational resources:
 - Whitewater boating;
 - General.
- Land use:
 - Shoreline management;
 - Visual/aesthetics;
 - General.
- Geology:
 - Geomorphology;
 - Erosion;
 - General.
- Socio-economics.
- Engineering:
 - Civil engineering;
 - Hydraulic engineering;
 - Electrical engineering;
 - General.

2. Knowledge of the effects of construction and operation of hydroelectric projects.

3. Working knowledge of laws relevant to expertise, such as: the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Federal Power Act or other applicable laws.

4. Ability to promote constructive communication about a disputed study.

How To Submit Applications

Applicants must submit their applications along with the names and contact information of three references. Applicants will be individually notified of the Commission's decision.

DATES: The application period closes on May 28, 2004. Additional future application periods may be announced by the Commission.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be filed electronically via the Internet. See the instructions on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the "e-Filing" link. Applications should reference "DOCKET No. AD04-4-000, NOTICE REQUESTING APPLICATIONS FOR PANEL MEMBER LIST FOR HYDROPOWER LICENSING STUDY DISPUTE RESOLUTION."

Other Information: Requests submitted must be in Word, Times New Roman 13 pt. font, and must not be longer than 10 pages in length. Complete individual contact information must be provided, as formal interviews may be conducted either face to face or via teleconference as necessary prior to establishing the TPM List.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lon Crow, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Energy Projects, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC

20426; (202) 502-8749;
lon.crow@ferc.gov.

Linda Mitry,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-620 Filed 3-17-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP04-57-000]

Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Abandonment of the Carter-Waters Pipeline and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

March 12, 2004.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of a project involving the abandonment of 3.15 miles of the Carter-Waters 4-inch-diameter pipeline XS-6 and appurtenances and one domestic customer tap by Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. (Southern Star) in Platte County, Missouri.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.

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 Southern Star 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 Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Southern Star seeks authority to abandon in place and reclaim approximately 3.15 miles of the Carter-Waters 4-inch-diameter pipeline XS-6 and appurtenances and one domestic customer tap in Platte County, Missouri. About 1.53 miles would be removed and sold for scrap. The remaining 1.62 miles would be abandoned in place. The section of pipeline proposed to be abandoned lies parallel to Southern Star's existing Dearborn 6-inch pipeline XS-7 and is in Platte County, Missouri.

¹ Southern Star's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

Abandonment in place is proposed for areas where Southern Star believes land restoration to original condition would be difficult, e.g., pasture, terraces, creeks, and heavily wooded areas. These sections would be cut and capped causing minimal ground disturbance and minor interruption of land use. The remaining sections of the pipeline would be reclaimed and the land would be backfilled and restored to its prior condition. To facilitate pipe removal, Southern Star would utilize the existing right-of-way, which is 66 feet wide. Approximately 12.24 acres of right-of-way would be temporarily affected.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Abandonment

To facilitate pipe removal, Southern Star plans to utilize the existing right-of-way, which is 66 feet wide. After abandonment, either in place or by removal, Southern Star would relinquish the right-of-way to the landowner. Pipeline abandoned in place would also become the property of the landowner.

Temporary access to the right-of-way would be via field roads and existing rock paved roads along the first segment of the pipeline to be removed. Two options for access are proposed. Option 1 would affect 0.67 acre and Option 2 would affect 0.79 acre. A total of approximately 12.24 acres of right-of-way would be temporarily affected by the project.

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 us³ to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as "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 staff requests public comments on the scope

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies of all appendices, other than appendix 1 (maps), are available on the Commission's Web site at the "eLibrary" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

³ "We", "us", and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP).