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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP08-429-000]

Kern River Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Kern River 2010 Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

July 21, 2008.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the potential environmental impacts of the Kern River 2010 Expansion Project (Project) involving construction and operation of natural gas transmission facilities by Kern River Gas Transmission Company (Kern River) in Lincoln and Uinta Counties, Wyoming and San Bernardino County, California. The EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the project. Your input will help determine which issues need to be evaluated in the EA. Please note that the scoping period will close on August 20, 2008. Details on how to submit comments are provided in the Public Participation section of this notice.

This notice is being sent to affected landowners; federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; other interested parties; and newspapers. State and local government representatives are asked to notify their constituents of this proposed project and to encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" 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 (www.ferc.gov).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Kern River proposes to design, construct, operate, and maintain (a) one new 20,500-horsepower (hp) gas-driven compressor unit and restage five compressor units at the existing Muddy Creek Compressor Station in Lincoln County, Wyoming; (b) restage two compressor units at the existing Painter Compressor Station in Uinta County, Wyoming; and (c) install additional metering facilities at the Opal Meter Station in Lincoln County, Wyoming and at the Kramer Junction Meter Station in San Bernardino County, California. Kern River would also increase the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of its 1,380 miles of pipeline from 1,200 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) to 1,333 psig and increase the MAOP of the meter stations and compressor stations along its system from 1,250 psig to 1,350 psig. Kern River would undertake the construction tasks related to the MAOP increase pursuant to section 157.211(a) and its blanket authority. The proposed modifications would increase summer design capacity on Kern River's system by 1,731,126 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) to 1,876,126 Dth/d.

The general location of the proposed facilities is shown in appendix 1.¹

Land Requirements for Construction

The construction of the proposed Project would occur entirely within Kern River's existing compressor station and meter station sites. Construction of the Project would affect a total of about 1.07 acre, of which 1 acre would be disturbed at the Muddy Creek Compressor Station. No clearing of vegetation would be required for the Project.

The EA Process

We² are preparing this EA to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), which requires the Commission to take into account the

¹ The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's Web site (www.ferc.gov) at the "eLibrary" link or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First St., NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the "Additional Information" section of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail. Requests for detailed maps of the proposed facilities should be made directly to Kern River.

² "We", "us", and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the FERC's Office of Energy Projects.

environmental impact that could result if it authorizes Kern River's proposal. By this notice, we are also asking federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA. Agencies that would like to request cooperating status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided below.

NEPA also requires the FERC 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 important environmental issues. By this Notice, we are requesting public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA.

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
- Land use and visual quality
- Cultural resources
- Vegetation and wildlife (including threatened and endangered species)
- Air quality and noise
- Reliability and safety

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, where necessary, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be presented in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to federal, state, and local agencies; public interest groups; interested individuals; affected landowners; local libraries and newspapers; and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section below.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the Kern River 2010 Expansion Project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or

lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send in your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC, on or before August 20, 2008.

For your convenience, there are three methods in which you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. In all instances please reference the project docket number CP08-429-000 with your submission. The docket number can be found on the front of this notice. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has dedicated eFiling expert staff available to assist you at 202-502-8258 or efiling@ferc.gov.

(1) You may file your comments electronically by using the Quick Comment feature, which is located on the Commission's Internet Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the link to Documents and Filings. A Quick Comment is an easy method for interested persons to submit text-only comments on a project;

(2) You may file your comments electronically by using the eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's Internet Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the link to Documents and Filings. eFiling involves preparing your submission in the same manner as you would if filing on paper, and then saving the file on your computer's hard drive. You will attach that file as your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on "Sign up" or "eRegister." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. A comment on a particular project is considered a "Comment on a Filing"; or

(3) You may file your comments via mail to the Commission by sending an original and two copies of your letter to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas Branch 1, PJ11.1.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor." Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must send one electronic copy (using the Commission's eFiling system) or 14

paper copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding.

If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. Further instructions for becoming an intervenor are included in the User's Guide under the "e-filing" link on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

The Notice of Application for this proposed project issued on July 7, 2008, identified the date for the filing of interventions as July 28, 2008. However, affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted late intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Environmental Mailing List

As described above, we may mail the EA for comment. If you are interested in receiving an EA for review and/or comment, please return the Environmental Mailing List Mailer (appendix 2). If you do not return the Environmental Mailing List Mailer, you will be taken off the mailing list. All individuals who provide written comments will remain on our environmental mailing list for this project.

Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1-866-208-FERC or on the FERC Internet Web site (www.ferc.gov) using the "eLibrary" link. Click on the eLibrary link, then on "General Search" and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all

formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to the documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm.

Finally, any public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx> along with other related information.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No.1881-050; Pennsylvania]

PPL Holtwood, LLC; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Holtwood Project

July 18, 2008.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the capacity related amendment application for PPL Holtwood LLC's 107.2-megawatt Holtwood Hydroelectric Project (Project No. 1881), located on the Susquehanna river in the counties of Lancaster and York, Pennsylvania. Based upon this review, the Office of Energy Projects has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (draft EIS) for the project.

The draft EIS contains staff's evaluation of the applicant's proposal and alternatives. The proposal is for the construction of a new powerhouse, installation of turbines, construction of a new skimmer wall, enlargement of the forebay, and reconfiguration of the project facilities to enhance upstream fish passage through modifications of the existing fishway and excavation in the tailrace channel. The installed capacity would increase by approximately 80 MW. Additionally, PPL Holtwood LLC requested a 16-year extension of the current license term until August 31, 2030. The draft EIS documents the views of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, affected Indian tribes, the public, and Commission staff.