

to 700 cfs; (10) a switchyard on the eastern bank of Schoharie Creek adjacent to the powerhouse; and (11) appurtenant facilities.

During operation, the Blenheim-Gilboa Project's pump-turbines may be turned on or off several times throughout the day, but the project typically generates electricity during the day when consumer demand is high and other power resources are more expensive. Pumping usually occurs at night and on weekends when there is excess electricity in the system available for use. According to a July 30, 1975, settlement agreement, NYPA releases a minimum flow of 10 cubic feet per second (cfs) during low-flow periods when 1,500 acre-feet of water is in storage, and 7 cfs when less than 1,500 acre-feet is in storage. For the period 2007 through 2016, the project's average

annual generation was about 374,854 megawatt-hours (MWh) and average annual energy consumption from pumping was about 540,217 MWh.

1. *Locations of the Application:* A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://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](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item (h) above.

m. You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via

email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. *Procedural Schedule:* On September 6, 2016, Commission staff issued a revised process plan and schedule with milestones and dates for the filing and review of NYPA's remaining study reports. NYPA filed its remaining study report on February 17, 2017. The Director, Office of Energy Projects will make a final determination on the need to modify the approved study plan for the remaining study by June 18, 2017. At this time, the application is expected to be processed according to the following preliminary Hydro Licensing Schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made following the Director's determination on the remaining study, and as appropriate.

Milestone	Target date
Notice of Acceptance/Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis .....	June 2017.
Filing of recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and fishway prescriptions .....	August 2017.
Commission issues Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) .....	February 2018.
Comments on Draft EA or EIS .....	April 2018.
Modified terms and conditions .....	June 2018.
Commission issues Final EA or EIS .....	September 2018.

o. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of the notice of ready for environmental analysis.

Dated: May 9, 2017.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2017-09799 Filed 5-15-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP17-133-000]

#### Northwest Pipeline LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed North Fork Nooksack Line Lowering Project Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the North Fork Nooksack Line Lowering Project (Nooksack Lowering Project or Project) involving construction and operation of facilities by Northwest Pipeline LLC (Northwest) in Whatcom

County, Washington. The Commission will use this EA 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. You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EA. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before June 8, 2017.

If you sent comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on April 6, 2017, you will need to refile those comments in Docket No. CP17-133-000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this

proposed project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, 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 where compensation would be determined in accordance with state law.

Northwest provided landowners with a fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" 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 also available for viewing on the FERC Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)).

#### Public Participation

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The

Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov). Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the *eComment* feature on the Commission's Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to *Documents and Filings*. This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically by using the *eFiling* feature on the Commission's Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to *Documents and Filings*. With *eFiling*, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New *eFiling* users must first create an account by clicking on "*eRegister*." If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select "Comment on a Filing" as the filing type; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP17-133-000) with your submission: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

### Summary of the Proposed Project

Northwest proposes to remove, replace, and lower about 1,700 feet of 30-inch-diameter pipeline in the north floodplain of the North Fork Nooksack River. The project also includes removal of about 1,550 feet of previously abandoned in place 26-inch-diameter pipeline that will become exposed during the replacement of the 30-inch pipeline. The Project is located in Whatcom County, near Deming, Washington. According to Northwest the Project would: (1) ensure system reliability; (2) preserve service continuity; and (3) to comply with Whatcom County requirements to complete a long-term solution and reduce long-term impediments to facilitate future natural channel migration.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the **Federal Register**. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the link called "eLibrary" or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 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.

### Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would disturb a total of about 24.3 acres of land for lowering of the 30-inch diameter pipeline and removal of 26-inch-diameter pipeline. No new permanent easement would be required. Following construction, all construction work areas would be restored and revert to former uses. The pipeline corridor in the Project area includes three existing pipelines and work would be completed within its existing right-of-way. About 100 percent of the proposed pipeline route parallels its existing pipeline.

### 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<sup>2</sup> 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, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

In the EA we 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;
- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- cultural resources;
- vegetation and wildlife including migratory birds;
- air quality and noise;
- endangered and threatened species;
- public safety; and
- cumulative impacts.

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

The EA will present our independent analysis of the issues. The EA will be available in the public record through eLibrary. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, we may also publish and distribute the EA to the public for an allotted comment period. We will consider all comments on the EA before making our

<sup>2</sup> We, us, and our refer to the environmental staff of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

recommendations to the Commission. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section, beginning on page 2.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues of this project to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA.<sup>3</sup> Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the Public Participation section of this notice.

### Consultations Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project's potential effects on historic properties.<sup>4</sup> We will define the project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPO as the project develops. On natural gas facility projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, compressor stations, and access roads). Our EA for this project will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

### Environmental Mailing List

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for

<sup>3</sup> The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.6.

<sup>4</sup> The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the project. We will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that we send the information related to this environmental review to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project.

If we publish and distribute the EA, copies will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the document instead of the CD version or would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Information Request (appendix 2).

#### Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an intervenor which is an official party to the Commission's proceeding. Intervenor play a more formal role in the process and are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission's final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are in the Document-less Intervention Guide under the e-filing link on the Commission's Web site. Motions to intervene are more fully described at <http://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/how-to/intervene.asp>.

#### Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC Web site at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the "eLibrary" link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (*i.e.*, CP17-133-000. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at (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 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/docs-filing/esubscription.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp).

Finally, public sessions or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at [www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx](http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx) along with other related information.

Dated: May 9, 2017.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-09802 Filed 5-15-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Combined Notice of Filings #1

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric corporate filings:

*Docket Numbers:* EC17-113-000.

*Applicants:* TigerGenCo, LLC, Red Oak Power, LLC.

*Description:* Joint Application of TigerGenCo, LLC, et al. for Authorization Under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act and Requests for Waivers, Confidential Treatment and Expedited Action.

*Filed Date:* 5/8/17.

*Accession Number:* 20170508-5202.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/30/17.

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

*Docket Numbers:* ER16-792-002.

*Applicants:* New Harquahala Generating Company, LLC.  
*Description:* Compliance filing: Compliance Filing to be effective N/A.

*Filed Date:* 5/8/17.

*Accession Number:* 20170508-5162.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/30/17.

*Docket Numbers:* ER16-793-002.

*Applicants:* Talen Montana, LLC.  
*Description:* Compliance filing: Compliance Filing to be effective N/A.

*Filed Date:* 5/8/17.

*Accession Number:* 20170508-5159.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/30/17.

*Docket Numbers:* ER16-795-002.  
*Applicants:* Talen Energy Marketing, LLC.

*Description:* Compliance filing: Compliance Filing to be effective N/A.

*Filed Date:* 5/8/17.

*Accession Number:* 20170508-5163.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/30/17.

*Docket Numbers:* ER16-893-002; ER15-1065 002; ER15-1066 002; ER15-1676 002; ER16-1371 003; ER16-1990 002; ER16-892 001; ER17-239 001.

*Applicants:* 62SK 8ME LLC, 63SU 8ME LLC, Balko Wind, LLC, Balko

Wind Transmission, LLC, North Star Solar PV LLC, Red Horse III, LLC, Red Horse Wind 2, LLC, TPE Alta Luna, LLC.

*Description:* Notice of Change in Status of the DESRI MBR Sellers.

*Filed Date:* 5/8/17.

*Accession Number:* 20170508-5200.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/30/17.

*Docket Numbers:* ER17-1569-000.

*Applicants:* ITC Great Plains, LLC.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: License Agreement to be effective 7/7/2017.

*Filed Date:* 5/8/17.

*Accession Number:* 20170508-5166.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/30/17.

*Docket Numbers:* ER17-1570-000.

*Applicants:* Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

*Description:* Compliance filing: 2017-05-08 Energy Offer Cap Order 831 Final Rule Compliance Filing to be effective 12/1/2017.

*Filed Date:* 5/8/17.

*Accession Number:* 20170508-5171.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/30/17.

*Docket Numbers:* ER17-1571-000.

*Applicants:* Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: 2017-05-08 Operating Reserve Demand Curve revisions related to Order 831 to be effective 12/1/2017.

*Filed Date:* 5/8/17.

*Accession Number:* 20170508-5173.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/30/17.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by clicking on the links or querying the docket number.

Any person desiring to intervene or protest in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For other information, call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Dated: May 9, 2017.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-09795 Filed 5-15-17; 8:45 am]

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