

participate in any aspect of the hearing process.

Persons wishing to become a formal "party" to BPA's rate proceeding must notify the Hearing Officer and BPA in writing of their request. Petitions to intervene shall state the name and address of the person and the person's interests in the outcome of the hearing. Petitioners may designate no more than two representatives upon whom service of documents will be made. BPA customers and customer groups whose rates are subject to revision in the hearing will be granted intervention based on a petition filed in conformance with this section. Other petitioners must explain their interests in sufficient detail to permit the Hearing Officer to determine whether they have a relevant interest in the hearing. Intervention Petitions will be available for inspection in BPA's Public Information Center; 1st Floor; 905 NE. 11th; Portland, Oregon. Any opposition to a Petition to Intervene must be filed with the Hearing Officer and served on all parties by March 9, 1995. All timely applications will be ruled on by the Hearing Officer. Late interventions are strongly disfavored and may not be accepted. Opposition to an untimely Petition to Intervene shall be filed and served within two days after service of the petition. Interventions are subject to § 1010.4 of BPA's Procedures.

Because of the complexity of the issues in this rate case, in part occasioned by continuing contract negotiations between BPA and its customers, as well as BPA's "reinvention" and Competitiveness Project, BPA anticipates that it will need to meet with customers and other interested third parties during the rate case on a very frequent, and possibly extended, basis. To comport with the rate case procedural rule prohibiting ex parte communications, BPA will provide necessary notice of meetings involving rate case issues for participation by all rate case parties. Parties should be aware, however, that such meetings may be held on very short notice and they should be prepared to devote the necessary resources to participate fully in every aspect of the rate proceeding. Consequently, parties should be prepared to attend meetings every day during the course of the rate case.

Issued in Portland, Oregon on February 24, 1995.

Randall W. Hardy,
Administrator and Chief Executive Officer.
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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP95-109-000]

CNG Transmission Corp.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed TL-470, Extension 5 Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

February 27, 1995.

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 construction and operation of the facilities proposed by CNG Transmission Corporation (CNG) for its TL-470, Extension 5 Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether or not to approve the project.

Summary of the Proposed Project

CNG requests Commission authorization to construct and operate about 4.73 miles of 30-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline loop in Rotterdam Township, Schenectady County, New York.

The proposed loop would be constructed parallel and adjacent to CNG's existing facilities and would begin at a new gate station on CNG's system near Gregg Road and end at a new gate station near Burdeck Street.

CNG indicates that the proposed facility would enable it to deliver additional natural gas to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's distribution system serving the Albany, New York area.

The location of the project facility is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

CNG proposes to use a 75-foot-wide right-of-way for construction. Since CNG proposes to construct its pipeline near the edge of its existing, maintained right-of-way, only about 50 feet of additional right-of-way width would be cleared for construction. Following construction, 25 feet of the additional width would be restored and allowed to revert back to its former use. Therefore,

only about 25 feet of additional permanent right-of-way width would be required.

Additional working space would be required adjacent to the planned construction right-of-way at bored road crossings, the Delaware and Hudson Railroad crossing, stream and wetland crossings, and in agricultural areas where topsoil would be segregated.

An approximate 600-foot by 600-foot (8.3 acres) pipeyard would be used for the construction trailer and storage of pipe.

Four existing roads or farm lanes would be used as access roads.

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 to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "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 requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are taken into account during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

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
- Water resources, fisheries and wetlands
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Hazardous waste
- Endangered and threatened species
- Public safety

We will also evaluate possible 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.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be 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, newspapers, libraries, and

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

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, Room 3104, 941 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

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 recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facility and the environmental information provided by CNG. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list. The list of issues may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis. Issues are:

- The proposed loop would cross Poentic Kill, Plotter Kill and six other small, unnamed streams or drains. Poentic Kill is a state-protected stream.
- About 2.2 acres of wetlands would be affected by the project.
- About 15 acres of upland forest would be disturbed.
- The Plotter Kill Nature Preserve would be crossed.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol St., NE., Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP95-109-000;
- Send a copy of your letter to: Mr. Howard J. Wheeler, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol St., NE., Room 7312, Washington, DC 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before April 5, 1995.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Wheeler at the above address.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an "intervenor". Among other things, intervenors have

the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide copies of its filings to all other parties. 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 358.214) attached as appendix 2.

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Howard Wheeler, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-2299.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP94-38-000]

Ouachita River Gas Storage Company, L.L.C.; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Ouachita River Gas Storage Project

February 27, 1995.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Ouachita River Gas Storage Company, L.L.C. (Ouachita) 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 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 the construction and operation of the proposed underground gas storage facility and related hub facilities including:

- About 5 miles of 6-, 8-, and 12-inch-diameter field gathering lines (designated as Lines FG-1, FG-2, and FG-3) in Lincoln and Union Parishes, Louisiana;
- About 2.6 miles of dual 24-inch-diameter header pipeline (designated as

Lines B and C) and four meter stations in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana;

- About 23.9 miles of 24-inch-diameter bi-directional flow transmission pipeline (Line A) in Lincoln, Union, and Ouachita Parishes, Louisiana;
- About 4.5 miles of 16-inch-diameter bi-directional flow transmission pipeline (line D) and one meter station in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana;
- A 6,260-horsepower (hp) Remote Compressor Station in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana;
- A 12,520-hp Central Compressor Station in Section 30-T19N-R1W, Union Parish, Louisiana; and
- Drill 11 injection/withdrawal wells and 2 observation wells in Lincoln and Union Parishes, Louisiana.

The purpose of the proposed facilities would be to provide about 27 billion cubic feet of working gas capacity with an estimated peak withdrawal capacity of 550 MMcf of gas a day and an estimated peak injection capacity of 250 MMcf of gas a day via the hub facilities. The hub facilities near Monroe, Louisiana would be interconnected with certain interstate and intrastate pipelines.

The EA 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, 941 North Capitol Street, NE., room 3104, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, State and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

A limited number of copies of the EA are available from: Mr. Herman Der, Environmental Project Manager, Environmental Review and Compliance Branch I, Office of Pipeline Regulation, room 7312, 825 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-0896.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Written comments must reference Docket No. CP94-38-000, and be addressed to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Comments should be filed as soon as possible, but must be received no later than April 3, 1995, to ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on this proposal. A copy of any comments should also be sent to Mr. Herman Der, Environmental Project Manager, room 7312, at the above address.