

[Docket No. CP95-119-000]

**Steuben Gas Storage Co.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Thomas Corners Gas Storage Field Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues**

March 3, 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 facilities proposed in the Thomas Corners Gas Storage Field Project.<sup>1</sup> 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**

Steuben Gas Storage Company (Steuben) requests Commission authorization to convert a depleted natural gas production field to storage use. It proposes to construct and operate:

- 13 injection/withdrawal wells (11 new wells drilled from one central location and two converted from existing gas production wells);
- One observation well;
- 0.6 mile of 4-inch-diameter well laterals;
- 0.3 mile of 12-inch-diameter well laterals;
- A 3,284-horsepower compressor station;
- 6.48 miles of 12-inch-diameter gathering header including a pipeline drip and storage tank; and
- Dehydration facilities.

Steuben indicates that the proposed storage field, when fully developed, would have a working gas capacity of 5,300,000 thousand cubic feet of gas. Customers interested in using Steuben's proposed storage service would have to arrange for their own transportation. Steuben's existing facilities are interconnected with the facilities of CNG Transmission Corporation (CNG) in the town of Woodhull, Steuben County, New York. The 6.48 miles of gathering header would connect the Thomas Corners Gas Storage Field to Steuben's existing facilities.

Steuben states that the storage facility would be developed in the nearly depleted Thomas Corners gas production reservoir. It lies about 2,000

<sup>1</sup> Steuben Gas Storage Company's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Parts 157 and 284 of the Commission's regulations.

feet below the surface. The areal extent of the reservoir is about 430 acres.

The location of the project facilities is show in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

**Land Requirements for Construction**

Steuben proposes to use a nominal 70-foot-wide right-of-way for construction of the 6.48 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipeline. Following construction, a 50-foot-wide easement would be permanently maintained; the remaining 20 feet would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

Additional working right-of-way width would be needed in areas of steep side slopes and in agricultural areas where topsoil would be segregated. Additional working space would also be needed adjacent to road and stream crossings. About 60 acres would be required for construction of the 12-inch diameter gathering header.

A total of 37 acres would be needed for construction of the Thomas Corners Storage Field. All new injection/withdrawal wells would be directionally drilled from one central pad area covering approximately 31 acres. The wells would be drilled at 150-foot centers around the perimeter of the pad area. All of the 4- and 12-inch diameter well laterals would be constructed within the central well pad area.

An additional 6-acre work space would be required adjacent to the pad area for drilling, completion, maintenance operations, and equipment staging. After construction is complete, this area would be used for the dehydration facilities.

The proposed compressor station would be located on Steuben's existing Adrian Compressor Station site.

**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

<sup>2</sup> 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, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

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.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Public safety.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Hazardous waste.
- Air quality and noise.

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 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 facilities and the environmental information provided by Steuben. 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 project would cross three perennial streams: Mud Hollow Brook, the Canisteo River, and an unnamed tributary of the Canisteo River.
- About 32 acres of upland forest would be disturbed.
- A new 3,284-horsepower compressor station would be constructed adjacent to Steuben's existing Adrian Compressor Station

which may increase existing sound levels.

### 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., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP95-119-000;
- Send a copy of your letter to: Mr. Howard J. Wheeler, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol St., N.E., Room 7312, Washington, D.C. 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before April 10, 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 385.214) 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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**BILLING CODE 6717-01-M**

**[Docket No. RP95-182-000]**

### ANR Pipeline Co.; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

March 3, 1995.

Take notice that on February 28, 1995, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR), tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following revised tariff sheets, proposed to be effective April 1, 1995:

Original Sheet No. 75A  
Original Sheet No. 75B  
Original Sheet No. 75C  
Original Sheet No. 75D  
Original Sheet No. 75E  
Original Sheet No. 75F  
Second Revised Sheet No. 155  
Second Revised Sheet No. 156  
Second Revised Sheet No. 159  
Second Revised Sheet No. 160  
Original Sheet No. 160A  
Third Revised Sheet No. 161

ANR states that the above-referenced tariff sheets are being filed to streamline ANR's capacity release program. Specifically, ANR proposes (a) to reduce the time for submitting and posting bids and for making awards for released capacity; (b) to change the time for closing the bidding period to accommodate better ANR's nomination process; (c) to allow one service agreement to cover multiple release transactions; (d) to provide shippers the maximum feasible time to execute an agreement once capacity has been awarded; (e) to make conforming tariff changes; and (f) to treat releases that do not exceed thirty-one days or one calendar month as short-term releases.

ANR states that all of its Volume No. 1 customers and interested State Commissions have been mailed a copy of this filing.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest this filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed on or before March 10, 1995. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party

must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

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**[Docket No. RP95-181-000]**

### ANR Pipeline Co. Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

March 3, 1995.

Take notice that, on February 28, 1995, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR), tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following revised tariff sheets, proposed to be effective March 1, 1995:

Ninth Revised Sheet No. 18  
Second Revised Sheet No. 185

ANR States that the above-referenced tariff sheets are being filed to implement a true-up of its recovery of Above-Market Dakota Costs, as requirement by its currently effective tariff mechanism. ANR advises that the filing proposes a negative reservation surcharge adjustment of \$(0.021) to its currently effective, firm service Rate Schedules. ANR further advises that it is seeking to modify the currently effective mechanism, to provide for a more effective methodology for the implementation of the true-up mechanism in future filings, and to clarify its intent to include in the true-up calculation the 10% of Above-Market Dakota Costs that are not allocated to firm services.

ANR states that all of its Second Revised Volume No. 1 customers and interested State Commissions have been mailed a copy of this filing.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). All such motions or protests must be filed on or before March 10, 1995. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this application are on file with the