

*Comment date:* March 16, 1995, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

### Standard Paragraphs

E. 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, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. 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.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 95-5966 Filed 3-9-95; 8:45 am]

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### [Docket No. CP95-113-000]

#### **KN Interstate Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Casper-Douglas Pipeline Loop and Spur Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues**

March 6, 1995.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss environmental impacts of the construction and operation of facilities proposed in the Casper-Douglas Pipeline Loop and Spur 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 to approve the project.

#### **Summary of the Proposed Project**

KN Interstate Gas Transmission Company (KN) presently owns and operates a natural gas processing plant in Casper, Wyoming (Casper Plant) constructed in 1965. Because of the dated technology used to remove heavy hydrocarbons from the gas, the Casper Plant is outmoded and environmentally

inefficient to operate. The plant requires large volumes of fuel gas, and freon, as a refrigerant. Because the production of freon has ceased and the existing supply of freon at the plant is finite, KN proposes to close the Casper Plant.

KN wants to reconfigure its main natural gas transmission system in order to transfer natural gas processing operations from the Casper Plant to another existing processing plant near Douglas, Wyoming (Douglas Plant). KN requests Commission authorization, in Docket No. CP95-113-000, to construct and operate the following facilities needed to transfer the processing operations:

- 43.9 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline loop (Casper-Douglas Pipeline Loop) in Natrona and Converse Counties, Wyoming;<sup>2</sup>
- 8.0 miles of new 16-inch-diameter pipeline (Douglas Spur) in Converse County, Wyoming; and
- 2,000 horsepower (hp) of new compression at KN's existing Guernsey Compressor Station in Platte County, Wyoming.

The general location of the project facilities and route maps are shown in appendix 1.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Land Requirements for Construction**

The Casper-Douglas Pipeline Loop would be installed within newly acquired, 100-foot-wide construction rights-of-way generally parallel to the right-of-way for an existing 12-inch pipeline. A 66-foot-wide permanent right-of-way centered on the new pipeline would be used for long-term maintenance activities. About 532 acres of land would be disturbed if all 100 feet of construction right-of-way along the pipeline route is used. The permanent right-of-way would consist of about 351 acres of land.

The Douglas Spur would be installed within newly acquired, 100-foot-wide construction rights-of-way. A 66-foot-wide permanent right-of-way centered on the new pipeline would be used for long-term maintenance activities. Two temporary staging areas, about 250 by 300 feet, one on each side of the river, would be required for the crossing of the North Platte River and associated

<sup>2</sup> A loop is a segment of pipeline that is installed adjacent to an existing pipeline and connected to it at both ends. The loop allows more gas to be moved through the pipeline system at the location in which the loop is installed.

<sup>3</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, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

wetlands. A total of about 100 acres of land would be disturbed if all 100 feet of construction right-of-way along the pipeline route is used. The permanent right-of-way would consist of about 64 acres of land.

Private roads/lanes and the existing rights-of-way would be used for access to the pipeline during construction and removal. These roads may require repair and upgrading to support increased traffic.

The additional 2,000-hp compressor unit would be installed at KN's existing Guernsey Compressor Station. The compressor unit would be placed on an existing foundation adjacent to the current compressor. No new land for construction will be required.

#### **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 considered 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.
- Air quality and noise.
- Hazardous waste.

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

<sup>1</sup> KN Interstate Gas Transmission Company's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

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 a number of issues that we think deserve attention, based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by KN. 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. The currently identified issues are:

- The construction of new pipeline could affect seven separate wetlands.
- The project could cross habitat of the piping plover, least tern, bald eagle, whooping crane, peregrine falcon, black-footed ferret, pallid sturgeon (all federally listed endangered species), and the mountain plover (a category 2 candidate species).
- Construction of a 2,000-hp compressor at the Guernsey Compressor Station may increase ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the compressor station.
- About 2.5 miles of the pipeline are proposed to cross the Old Fort Fetterman Reservation, a historic site established in 1867.

### 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. CP95-113-000;
- Send a copy of your letter to: Mr. Bob Kopka, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol St., N.E., Room 7312, Washington, D.C. 20426; and

• Mail your comments so they will be received in Washington D.C. on or before April 7, 1995.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Kopka 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 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) (see 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. In certain cases, 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. Bob Kopka, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-0282.

**Lois D. Cashell,**  
Secretary.

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### Yukon Pacific Company L.P.; Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Yukon Pacific LNG Project

March 6, 1995

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has made available a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) on the construction and operation of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) liquefaction plant, LNG storage and marine loading facilities, and LNG tanker transport proposed in the above referenced docket.

The staff prepared the FEIS to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed action, with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, including receipt of necessary permits and approvals, would have limited adverse environmental impact. The FEIS

evaluates alternative to various components of the proposals.

Yukon Pacific Company L.P. (Yukon Pacific) is seeking approval of a specific site at Anderson Bay, Port Valdez, Alaska to export LNG to destinations in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. The proposed action involves construction of:

- A 2.1 billion cubic feet per day LNG liquefaction plant.
- Four aboveground 800,000-barrel LNG storage tanks;
- A marine facility to load two tankers within a 12-hour period; and
- A cargo/personnel ferry docking facility.

In addition, Yukon Pacific proposes to operate a fleet of 15 LNG tankers, each having 125,000 cubic meters of cargo capacity. The fleet would make 275 trips per year. Construction of the project would take 8 years with a peak work force of nearly 4,000 workers in the fifth year.

The FEIS will be used in the regulatory decision-making process at the FERC. While the period for filing interventions in this case has expired, motions to intervene out-of-time can be filed with the FERC in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures, 18 CFR 385.214(d). Further, anyone desiring to file a protest with the FERC should do so in accordance with 18 CFR 385.211.

The FEIS 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 FEIS have been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, libraries, newspapers, individuals who have requested the FEIS, and other parties to this proceeding.

Limited copies of the FEIS are available from:

Mr. Chris Zerby, Environmental Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, NE., Room 7312, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-0111

Mr. Jerry Brossia, State Pipeline Coordinator, 411 West 4th Avenue, Suite #2, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, (907) 278-8594

**Lois D. Cashell,**  
Secretary.

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