

[Project Nos. 2318, 2482, 2616, 2539, 2554, 2385]

Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., et al.; Notice of Public Scoping Meetings

March 31, 1995.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has received applications for new licenses (relicenses) for the existing projects operated by the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NiMo), Moreau Manufacturing Corporation, and Finch Pruyn, Incorporated in the Hudson River Basin in New York. The projects include eight developments. The projects and developments are: School Street Project No. 2539; Hoosic Project No. 2616 (Schaghticoke and Johnsonville developments); Hudson River Project No. 2482 (Sherman Island and Spier Falls developments); Glens Falls Project No. 2385; Feeder Dam Project No. 2554; and E.J. West Project No. 2318.

Upon review of the applications, supplemental filings, agency comments and intervenor submittals, the Commission staff concluded that, given the location and interaction of the projects, we will proceed with scoping for a Multiple Project Environmental Impact Statement (MEIS) on the Hudson River. If determined appropriate after scoping, we will prepare separate Environmental Assessments (Eas) for the School Street and the Hoosic (Schaghticoke and Johnsonville developments) projects and a MEIS for the remaining E.J. West, Hudson River (Sherman Island and Spier Falls developments), Glens Falls, and Feeder Dam projects, that describe and evaluate the probable impacts of the applicant's proposals and alternative for the projects.

One element of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is scoping. Scoping activities are initiated early to:

- Identify reasonable alternative operational procedures and environmental enhancement measures that should be evaluated in the documents;
- Identify significant environmental issues related to the operation of the existing projects;
- Determine the depth of analysis for issues that will be discussed in the documents; and
- Identify resource issues that are of lesser importance and, consequently, do not require detailed analysis.

Scoping Meetings

Commission staff will conduct four public meetings for the Hudson River

Multiple Project EIS (MEIS). All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend either or all of the planned meetings and help staff identify the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA documents.

The first scoping meeting, primarily for agencies and covering all projects, will be held at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, April 25, 1995, at the William K. Sanford Town Library, 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville, New York.

The first evening scoping meeting, primarily for the public and directed at the School Street Project, will be conducted at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 25, 1995, at Cohoes High School, Tiger Circle, Cohoes, New York.

The second evening meeting, directed at the Hoosic Project, will be held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 26, 1995, at Mechanicville High School, Kniskern Avenue, Mechanicville, New York.

The third evening meeting, directed at the Glens Falls, Feeder Dam, Hudson, and E.J. West projects, will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 27, 1995, at Glens Falls Senior High School, 10 Quade Street, Glens Falls, New York.

Procedures

The meetings, which will be recorded by a stenographer, will become part of the formal record of the Commission's proceeding on the MEIS. Individuals presenting statements at the meeting need to sign in before the meeting starts and to identify themselves for the record.

Concerned parties are encouraged to speak during the public meetings. Speaking time allowed for individuals will be determined before the meeting, based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the approximate amount of time available for the session, but all speakers will be provided at least five minutes to present their views.

Scoping Meeting Objectives

At each scoping meeting, the staff will:

- Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the documents;
- Identify resource issues that the staff believes are of lesser importance and, therefore, do not require detailed analysis;
- Solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, concerning significant local resources; and
- Encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA documents.

Information Requested

Federal and state resource agencies, local government officials, interested groups, area residents, and concerned individuals are requested to provide any information they believe will assist the Commission staff to analyze the environmental impacts associated with relicensing the projects. The types of information sought include the following:

- Data, reports, and resource plans that characterize the baseline physical, biological, or social environments in the vicinity of the projects.
- Information and data that helps staff identify or evaluate significant environmental issues.

Scoping information and associated comments should be submitted to the Commission no later than 60 days after the date of this notice. Written comments should be provided at the scoping meeting or mailed to the Commission, as follows: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

All filings sent to the Secretary of the Commission should contain an original and 8 copies. Failure to file an original and 8 copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner. See 18 CFR 4.34(h).

All correspondence should clearly show the following caption on the first page:

FERC No. 2318, 2482, 2554, 2385, 2616, and 2539
Hudson River Multiple Project EIS and Eas

Intervenors and interceders (as defined in 18 CFR 385.2010) who file documents with the Commission are reminded of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure requiring them to serve a copy of all documents filed with the Commission on each person whose name is listed on the official service list for this proceeding.

For further information, please contact Edward R. Meyer at (202) 208-7998.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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[Docket No. RP95-215-000]

Texas Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

March 31, 1995.

Take notice that on March 29, 1995, Texas Gas Transmission Corporation