

would remain in service to serve existing customers.

Southern indicates that the proposed pipeline facilities would deliver an additional total firm transportation service of 3,625 thousand cubic feet (Mcf) of natural gas per day to Graniteville Company.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Southern proposes to use a 70-foot-wide construction right-of-way in nonagricultural areas and a 90-foot-wide construction right-of-way in agricultural areas. Following construction, a 50-foot-wide easement would be permanently maintained; the remaining 20 feet in nonagricultural areas and 40 feet in agricultural areas would be restored and revert back to prior use. About 30 acres would be affected by construction.

Additional working space would be required adjacent to the planned construction right-of-way at areas of steep side slopes, road, railroad, waterbody crossings, and wetlands. No new access roads would 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 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
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- 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 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 Southern. 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 five waterbodies, four of which are perennial. The perennial waterbodies are Horse Creek (crossed twice), an unnamed tributary to Horse Creek, and the Sand River. These waterbodies support valuable riparian vegetation, which helps stabilize soil to prevent erosion and provides habitat for wildlife. These waterbodies may also support fishery resources.
- The pipeline would cross 0.35 mile of wetlands. These wetlands are classified as palustrine forested.
- The federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker may exist within the immediate vicinity of the proposed pipeline right-of-way.
- About 17 acres of upland forest would be disturbed.
- Residences may be located within 50 feet of the edge of the proposed construction right-of-way.
- Right-of-way widths.

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. CP95-143-000;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. David Gallo, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol St., N.E., Room 7312, Washington, DC 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 12, 1995.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Gallo 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 proceedings 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) (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. 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. David Gallo, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-2066.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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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, 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.