

Herman K. Der, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-0896.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-11724 Filed 5-11-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP95-119-001]

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

May 8, 1995.

On April 18, 1995, Steuben Gas Storage Company (Steuben) filed an amendment to its application which substantially changed the routing of its proposed 12-inch-diameter gathering header. The beginning and ending points and the approximate length of the gathering header, as well as all other aspects of Steuben's proposal remain unchanged by this amendment. This notice supplements the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Thomas Corners Gas Storage Field Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues" issued March 3, 1995 (March 3 Notice).

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.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

Steuben requests Commission authorization to convert a depleted natural gas production field to storage use in Steuben County, New York. 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;

¹ Steuben'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.

- A 3,284 horsepower compressor station;
- 6.5 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 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 6.5 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 3,530 feet below the surface. The aerial extent of the reservoir is about 430 acres.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Steuben proposes to use a nominal 70-foot-wide right-of-way for construction of the 6.5 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 Gas 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

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.

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 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 and noise quality.

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 project would cross three perennial streams: Mud Hollow Brook, the Canisteo River, an unnamed tributary of the Canisteo River.
- The 12-inch-diameter header would be constructed within Catatunk Road and Canisteo River Road between approximately mileposts 1 and 2.6 (see appendix 1).
- About 25 acres of upland forest would be disturbed.
- A 3,284 horsepower compressor station would be constructed adjacent to Steuben's existing Adrian Compressor Station which may increase existing sound levels.

In addition, the following concerns were raised in response to our March 3 Notice:

- The EA should include standards required for slope stabilization and erosion control during and after pipeline construction.
- Prime agricultural lands should be identified.
- Restoration should include monitoring of agricultural lands.
- Fishery resources of the streams crossed should be identified.
- The EA should identify any threatened or endangered species potentially found along the proposed route.
- Safety features to ensure that no gas leaks during all aspects of operation should be described.
- All residences potentially affected during construction should be identified.
- All active or abandoned hazardous waste sites should be identified.

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. CP95-119-001;
- 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 June 12, 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) (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. Howard Wheeler, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-2299.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-11725 Filed 5-11-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP95-464-000, et al.]

Continental Natural Gas, Inc., et al.; Natural Gas Certificate Filings

May 4, 1995.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. Continental Natural Gas, Inc. Complainant, vs. Colorado Interstate Gas Company Respondent

[Docket No. CP95-464-000]

Take notice that on May 3, 1995, Continental Natural Gas Company

(Continental), 1400 South Boston, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119, filed with the Commission in Docket No. CP95-464-000 a complaint, motion for a cease and desist order, and a motion for order directing physical interconnections pursuant to Rule 206 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, against Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG) (Respondent), alleging violations of the Natural Gas Act (NGA); Section 7(b)—Unauthorized abandonment of facilities and services, Section 7(c)—Unauthorized modification of facilities, and Section 284 of the Commission Regulations—discrimination in favor of its non-jurisdictional processing affiliate, all as more fully set forth in the complaint which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Continental, an Oklahoma corporation with its principal place of business in Tulsa, Oklahoma, engaged in the gathering, processing and marketing of natural gas, is also a gathering and transportation customer on CIG's system and operates a natural gas processing plant connected to CIG's system.

CIG, a Delaware corporation, with principal place of business in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is engaged in the business of gathering and interstate transmission of natural gas. CIG's system stretches from Texas to Wyoming.

Continental requests that the Commission direct CIG to cease and desist in its plans to reconfigure the Mocane Compressor Station and direct CIG to provide Continental with the requested mainline and gathering interconnections necessary to continue the needed compression at the Mocane Station. Continental states that its Warren processing plant is located on CIG's mainline, immediately downstream from the Mocane Compressor Station (also on CIG's mainline) in Beaver County, OK, which is essential to ensuring access to gas supply for the Warren plant. Continental alleges that CIG plans to abandon (without Commission approval) a significant portion of the compression at the Mocane Station and to appropriate such compression (modification) for the primary benefit of its non-jurisdictional processing affiliate. Continental states that the abandonment of that compression will significantly reduce the throughput capability of the Mocane Station and will cause severe harm to Continental.

As explained by Continental, Continental has requested that CIG provide it with certain mainline and gathering interconnects in order to maintain as well as maximize current