

authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-15261 Filed 6-21-95; 8:45 am]

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City of Watertown; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

[Project 2442-001 New York]

June 16, 1995.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) Regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for major new license for the proposed Watertown Project, located in Jefferson County and has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project.

On April 10, 1995, staff issued and distributed to all parties a draft EA and requested that all comments on the draft EA be filed within 30 days. All comments that were timely filed have been considered in this final EA.

In the final EA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and has concluded that approval of the project, with appropriate mitigation or enhancement measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the EA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 3104, of the Commission's offices at 941 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

For further information, please contact Peter Leitzke, Environmental Coordinator, at (202) 219-2803.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP95-552-000, et al.]

Seagull Natural Gas Company, et al.; Natural Gas Certificate Filings

June 15, 1995.

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

1. Seagull Natural Gas Company

[Docket No. CP95-552-000]

Take notice that on June 8, 1995, Seagull Natural Gas Company (Seagull), 1700 First City Tower, 1001 Fannan

Street, Houston, Texas 77002, filed a petition in Docket No. CP95-552-000, requesting that the Commission declare that its facilities extending from an offshore platform located in Brazos Area, Block 366, Offshore Texas to an onshore separation and dehydration facility located in Brazoria County, Texas are gathering facilities exempt from Commission jurisdiction pursuant to Section 1(b) of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the petition which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Seagull states that it owns and operates a pipeline facility in offshore Texas waters known as the Brazos 366 Line, which consists of a 12.86 mile, 8-inch line and a 0.13 mile, 4-inch line. It is indicated that the facility extends from a platform owned by Rutherford Oil and Gas Company in Brazos Area Block 366 to a separation and dehydration facility owned by Dow Hydrocarbons and Resources, Inc. (Dow) located approximately one mile onshore in Brazoria County, Texas. It is stated that the only pipeline connected to the tailgate of the Dow plant is an 8-inch line owned by Dow.

Seagull states that it uses the facility to gather gas production for others and to deliver those volumes to the Dow plant for separation and dehydration. It is also stated that, in addition to the gas produced from the Rutherford 366 Platform, the facility also transports gas produced from production platforms in Brazos Blocks 340, 375, and 376 and gathered to the Rutherford 366 Platform through lines owned either by Seagull or producers. It is also stated that volumes produced from Brazos Block 444 are delivered to the facility at its approximate mid-point through producer-owned facilities. It is also stated that most of the gas moved through the facility is destined for Texas intrastate markets or interstate markets on behalf of two shippers pursuant to Section 311(a)(2) of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978. Seagull has stated that recently it has reevaluated the nature of the facility and the service it provides and concluded that the facility and the services it provides through that facility are gathering.

In support of its claim that the primary function of the pipeline is gathering, Seagull indicates that the facility meets the gathering criteria set forth in Farmland Industries, Inc., 23 FERC ¶ 61.063 (1983), as modified by later Commission orders, indicating the following:

Length and Diameter of the Line

Seagull states that offshore lines of comparable and greater length and

diameter, including a 45 to 60 mile, 14-inch diameter pipeline (see 69 FERC ¶ 61,272 (1994)), have been characterized as gathering. It is also indicated that the location of the Seagull facility is solely a function of the location of the production in the Brazos area in relation to the Dow plant.

Location of Compressor and Processing Plants

Seagull also states that it neither owns nor operates any compressors along the facility, and that the facility relies on wellhead pressure and any pressure generated from producer-owned compression located on the various platforms directly or indirectly connected to the facility. It is also indicated that the only plant near the facility is the Dow separation/dehydration facility located at the terminus of the facility.

Extension of the Facility Beyond the Central Point in the Field

Seagull states that, because the facility is configured solely to deliver gas to the Dow plant from various producing platforms in the offshore Brazos area, there is no true central point in the field. Seagull concludes that the application of this factor in determining whether the facility is a gathering facility is inappropriate.

Location of Wells

Seagull states that the facility is located in a prolific producing area and is designed to gather gas from various production platforms for delivery to a separation and dehydration facility. Seagull states that, although this criterion requires that wells be located along all or part of onshore facilities, the Commission has found that offshore facilities do not need to meet this requirement for the Commission to find that such facilities provide a gathering function. It is also noted that there is a field connection approximately at the facility's mid-point.

Geographic Configuration of the Facility

Seagull states that the facility is a straight line gathering platform from various platforms for delivery to an onshore separation plant, a configuration similar to numerous other offshore systems previously determined to be gathering.

Operating Pressure

Seagull states that the maximum operating pressure of the facility is 800 psig, and that the Commission has determined that other offshore facilities with much higher pressures are gathering facilities.