

[Docket Nos. ER95-1586-000 and EL96-17-000]

Citizens Utilities Company; Notice of Initiation of Proceeding and Refund Effective Date

December 5, 1995.

Take notice that on November 30, 1995, the Commission issued an order in the above-indicated dockets initiating a proceeding in Docket No. EL96-17-000 under section 206 of the Federal Power Act.

The refund effective date in Docket No. EL96-17-000 will be 60 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-29947 Filed 12-7-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. ER95-1838-000]

PacifiCorp; Notice of Filing

December 4, 1995.

Take notice that on November 8, 1995 and November 14, 1995 Black Hills Power & Light Company tendered for filing amendments in the above-referenced docket.

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, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 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 December 14, 1995. 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. 95-29948 Filed 12-7-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP96-89-000]

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation; Notice of Application

December 4, 1995.

Take notice that on November 30, 1995, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation ("Transco"), P.O. Box 1396, Houston, Texas 77251, filed in the

above an abbreviated application pursuant to Section 7(c) and Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act and the Regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Commission") for (1) a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing certain Tombigbee River replacement crossings and certain interconnections at that location for downstream delivery of gas to an industrial plant, and (2) an order permitting and approving the abandonment of existing facilities at the same location. For the reasons described herein, Transco requests a certificate and construction clearance by January 8, 1996.

Transco states that it has four pipelines across the Tombigbee River in Alabama 30-inch diameter Main Line A, 30-inch diameter Main Line B, 36-inch diameter Main Line C and 42-inch diameter Main Line D. This river crossing is 29.03 miles east of the location where Transco's system crosses the Mississippi-Alabama state line. At this location, the Tombigbee River forms the boundary between Choctaw and Marengo Counties, Alabama. Transco states that all gas produced onshore and offshore, Texas and Louisiana, onshore Mississippi and the Mobile Bay offshore Alabama area which moves on Transco's system to Transco's markets in the Deep South, Atlantic Seaboard and eastern markets flows through this Tombigbee River crossing.

Transco states that because of chronic mass erosion of the river banks, Main Line C is exposed and subject to potential physical damage from boat and barge traffic. Main Line D is not yet exposed, but Transco is concerned that it will become exposed because of the continuing bank erosion.

Transco states that it cannot perform these replacements pursuant to Section 2.55(b) of the Regulations because of the Commission's clarification of Section 2.55(b) in the order issued on May 12, 1994 in Arkla Energy Resources Company, Docket No. CP91-2069-000 (67 FERC ¶ 61,173) (replacements outside of existing right-of-way cannot be performed pursuant to Section 2.55(b)). Transco states that it is imperative that Transco complete the new crossings soon to ensure that gas from the production areas described above is able to flow to Transco's markets. Transco states that it proposes to install approximately 2,000 feet of new 36-inch diameter Main Line C by horizontal directional drilling under the Tombigbee River, at the location of its existing pipeline crossings of the

Tombigbee River.¹ The alignment of the new Main Line C will parallel Main Line B (installed in 1991 by horizontal directional drilling) with a spacing of approximately 75 feet to the south of Main Line B. Approximately 950 feet of 36-inch diameter pipe will be conventionally installed by trenching from the entrance and exit of the bore and tied in to existing Main Line C.

Transco states that it also proposes to install approximately 2,300 feet of new 42-inch diameter Main Line D by horizontal directional drilling under the Tombigbee River. Approximately 500 feet of 42-inch diameter pipe will be conventionally installed from the entrance and exit of the bore and tied in to existing Main Line D. The alignment of the Main Line D will parallel the new Main Line C with a spacing of approximately 75 feet to the south of Main Line C.

Transco states that the proposed replacements will restore the long-term integrity of Transco's transmission system at the Tombigbee River crossings. Since 36-inch and 42-inch diameter crossings are being replaced by identical 36-inch and 42-inch diameter crossings, system capacity across the Tombigbee River will remain unchanged at 33,639,606 MCFD. The existing shallow, conventionally installed Main Lines C and D at this location will be retired—portions by removal and portions in place.

The cost of installation of new Main Line C is estimated to be \$2,029,007, and the cost of installation of new Main Line D is estimated to be \$2,925,170.

It is stated that Transco needs to replace Main Line C as soon as possible because of its vulnerable condition. Coming quickly thereafter, Transco plans to replace Main Line D beginning in May 1996 because of Transco's concern that its condition could rapidly worsen.

Transco states that issuance of a certificate to Transco and construction clearance by January 8 is justified for two reasons: (1) the above-described need for security of gas service to Transco's market areas, and (2) the de minimis impact on the environment of the crossing project (as described below). With respect to the environment, Transco states that the following are the significant points:

1. On the east side of the river (where the drilling rig will be set up) temporary

¹ Transco states that directionally drilled pipelines under rivers are significantly more secure than the older pipelines which are installed by way of trenching the river bed. The 36-inch and 42-inch pipeline crossings will be at an approximate depth of 45 feet beneath the Tombigbee River navigation channel.

work space will occupy 8.82 acres. Of this east side work space only 0.54 acre is presently forested (0.25 acres is forested wetland). The remainder of the work space on the east side is located either on existing permanent right-of-way or in a cultivated field, both of which have previously been cleared.

On the west side of the river (where crossing segment fabrication and pre-testing will occur) temporary work space will occupy 22.94 acres. Of this west side work space only 3.12 acres is presently forested (2.56 acres is forested wetland). The remainder of the work space on the west side is located either on existing permanent right-of-way or in a cultivated field, both of which have previously been cleared.

In summary, areas requiring additional clearing for the installation of Main Lines C and D are relatively minor. Of these additional cleared areas only 3.66 acres are forested and of those only 2.81 acres are forested wetland.

2. Clearance has been received with respect to endangered/threatened species from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Alabama Natural Heritage Program provided Transco with a list of candidate and protected species within the general area of the project. Transco evaluated this list in the context of the project to ensure that the project will not impact these species; the evaluation verified that the project will not impact these species.

3. Clearance has been received from the Alabama State Historical Preservation Officer ("SHPO") with respect to cultural resources related to the project area. There is a known archaeological site on the east bank of the Tombigbee River to the north of the project area that will not be impacted by this project; thus, the SHPO has no concern with regard to this site. Transco has contacted several Native American groups. Transco states that it does not consider in situ replacement a practical option because such conventional replacement would be subject to the same erosive forces of the river.

4. Transco states that the proposed installation and removals will improve the visual or aesthetic value of the river banks at the Tombigbee River crossing by allowing native revegetation and dynamics of the river to control the natural succession of the banks at the crossing. Transco will implement measures to restore and stabilize the construction work spaces and abandoned rights-of-way.

Therefore, Transco states that in view of (1) the essential need for the Tombigbee River crossings to be able to move gas from Transco's production areas to Transco's market areas, and (2)

the de minimis environmental impact of such project, Transco requests the Commission to issue a certificate and construction clearance by January 8, 1996 so that security of the Tombigbee River crossings can be assured as soon as possible. By this application, Transco also seeks authorization to abandon in place and by removal the portions of its Main Lines C and D at the Tombigbee River which will be replaced. Gas transmission across the Tombigbee River will be unaffected by these abandonments. The cost of the Line C removal work is estimated to be \$140,000. The cost of the Line D removal work is estimated to be \$201,540.

It is further stated that on the west bank at the location of the Tombigbee River crossings, Transco has interconnections on Main Lines C and D that enable gas to flow into a meter and regulator (M&R) station for downstream delivery to a plant owned by American Can Company ("American Can"), which is north of the crossings on the west bank. As a result of the replacements of Lines C and D, as above described, a reconfiguration of the American Can interconnections will be necessary. One new interconnection with the M&R station will involve conventional installation of approximately 1,200 feet of 4-inch diameter pipe from the M&R station west to a tap on the new segment of Line C. This will effectuate delivery of gas from of Line C to the M&R station. A second new interconnection will involve conventional installation of approximately 30 feet of 4-inch diameter pipe from a new tap on Line D to a tee near the western terminus of the above-described 1,200-foot 4-inch line. This will effectuate delivery of gas from Line D to the M&R station.

The estimated cost of installation of the 1,200-foot line is \$154,718. The estimated cost of installation of the 30-foot line is \$83,924.

By this application, Transco also seeks authorization to abandon by removal the interconnections between existing Main Lines C and D and the M&R station. Gas supply to the American Can plant will be unaffected by these abandonments. The estimated cost of removal of the interconnection between Main Line C and the M&R station is \$5,000. The estimated cost of removal of the interconnection between Main Line D and the M&R station is \$12,000.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before December 14 1995, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20426, a motion to

intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if not motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Transco to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-29915 Filed 12-7-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP96-10-001]

**Transwestern Pipeline Company;
Notice of Amendment to Application**

December 4, 1995.

Take notice that on November 29, 1995, Transwestern Pipeline Company (Transwestern), P.O. Box 1188, Houston, Texas 77251-1188 filed an amendment (Amendment) to its original application in Docket No. CP96-10-000, which was filed pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, the purpose of which is to conform Transwestern's application to the following: (1) The Purchase and Sale Agreement and Ownership and Operating Agreement executed November 3, 1995 between Transwestern and Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest); and (2) Northwest's application for abandonment authorization filed on