

Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. 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.

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[Project No. 11437-001-NC]

Hydro Matrix Partnership, Ltd.; Notice Ready for Environmental Analysis, Notice Requesting Interventions, Protests, and Comments, and Notice of Scoping Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

June 28, 1996.

On June 21, 1996, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a letter accepting Hydro Matrix Partnership, Ltd.'s application for the Jordan Hydroelectric Project located at the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers Jordan Dam on the Haw River in Chatham County, North Carolina.

The Jordan Hydroelectric Project's principal project features would consist of 80 small turbine generator units installed in two modules placed in slots on the intake tower. Each generator would have a rated capacity of 100 kW for a total rated capacity of 8,000 kW. The project would have an average annual generation of 38 GWh. The project site is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The purpose of this notice is to: (1) Invite interventions and protests; (2) advise all parties as to the proposed scope of the staff's environmental analysis, including cumulative effects, and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis; and (3) advise all parties of their opportunity for comment.

The application is ready for environmental analysis at this time, and the Commission is requesting comments, reply comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions.

Interventions, Protests, and Comments

All filings must: (1) Bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST," "MOTION

TO INTERVENE," NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE COMPETING APPLICATION," OR "COMPETING APPLICATION," "COMMENTS," "REPLY COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS," "TERMS AND CONDITIONS," OR "PRESCRIPTIONS;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. Any of these documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies required by the Commission's regulations to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.

An additional copy must be sent to: Director, Division of Project Review, Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, at the above address. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application.

All filings for any protest or motion to intervene must be received 60 days from the issuance date of this notice.

The Commission directs, pursuant to section 4.34(b) of the regulations (see order No. 533 issued May 8, 1991, 56 FR 23108 (May 20, 1991)), that all comments, recommendations, terms and conditions and prescriptions concerning the application be filed with the Commission within 60 days from the issuance date of this notice. All reply comments must be filed with the Commission within 105 days from the date of this notice.

Anyone may obtain an extension of time for these deadlines from the Commission only upon a showing of good cause or extraordinary circumstances in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2008.

Scoping Process

The Commission's scoping objectives are to:

- identify significant environmental issues;
- determine the depth of analysis appropriate to each issue;
- identify the resource issues not requiring detailed analysis; and,
- identify reasonable project alternatives.

The purpose of the scoping process is to identify significant issues related to the proposed action and to determine

what issues should be covered in the environmental document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The document entitled "Scoping document I" (SDI) will be circulated shortly to enable appropriate federal, state, and local resource agencies, developers, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other interested parties to effectively participate in and contribute to the scoping process. SDI provides a brief description of the proposed action, project alternative, and the geographic and temporal scope of a cumulative effects analysis, and a list of preliminary issues identified by staff.

The Commission will decide, based on the application, and agency and public comments to scoping, whether licensing the Jordan Hydroelectric Project constitutes a major federal action significantly impacting the quality of the human environment. The Commission staff will not hold scoping meetings unless the Commission decides to prepare an environmental impact statement, or the response to SDI warrants holding such meetings.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to comment on SDI and assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed.

All filings 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). In addition, commentors may submit a copy of their comments on a 3 1/2-inch diskette formatted for MS-DOS based computers. In light of our ability to translate MS-DOS based materials, the text need only be submitted in the format and version that it was generated (i.e., MS Word, WordPerfect 5.1/5.2, ASCII, etc.). It is not necessary to reformat word processor generated text to ASCII. For Macintosh users, it would be helpful to save the documents in Macintosh word processor format then write them to files on a diskette formatted for MS-DOS machines. All comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, and should show the following captions on the first page: Jordan Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 11437-001.

Further, interested persons are reminded of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures, requiring

parties or interceders (as defined in 18 CFR 385.2010) to file documents on each person whose name is on the official service list for this proceeding. See CFR 4.34(b).

The Commission staff will consider all written comments and may issue a Scoping Document II (SDII). SDII will include a revised list of issues, based on the scoping process.

For further information regarding the scoping process, please contact Ms. Julie Bernt, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Hydropower Licensing, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426 at (202) 219-2814.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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[Docket Nos. CP95-194-001, and CP96-027-000 and CP96-027-001, Respectively]

Northern Border Pipeline Company and Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Additional Facilities by Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America To Be Included in The Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Northern Border Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

June 28, 1996.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the Northern Border Project.¹ The original notice was issued February 16, 1996. The purpose of this supplemental notice is to inform the public of additional facilities which will be included in the EIS.

On June 18, 1996, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural) amended its application to add 9.6 miles of loop in Louisa and Muscatine Counties, Iowa and to increase the amount of new compression at Compressor Station 110 in Henry County, Illinois from 7,250 horsepower (hp) to 9,000 hp. This addition is because Natural no longer proposes to add compression at Compressor Station 199 in Muscatine County, Iowa. Maps showing the location of the newly proposed loop are in appendix 1.

¹ Northern Border Pipeline Company's and Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America's applications were filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decisionmaking process to determine whether to approve the project.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Pipeline

The additional 9.6-mile-long loop would be built adjacent to Natural's existing pipeline, using as much of the existing right-of-way as possible. Natural would use a right-of-way ranging in width from 75 to 100 feet. Additional temporary work space would generally be used where the pipeline crosses roads, streams, and rivers. An estimated 87.3 acres would be disturbed during construction. After construction, the disturbed area would be restored, and a 25-foot-wide permanent right-of-way in addition to the existing right-of-way would be maintained. Existing land uses on the remainder of the disturbed area, as well as most land uses on the permanent right-of-way, such as agriculture and open areas, would be allowed to continue following construction.

Aboveground Facilities

All construction at Compressor Station 110 would take place within the existing fenced station yard.

The EIS Process/Environmental Issues

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. The EIS we are preparing will give the Commission the information to do that. 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 EIS 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 EIS. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EIS. We encourage state and local government representatives to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EIS will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the

²The 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, 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426 or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

construction and operation of the proposed project. We have already identified a number of issues under each topic that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by the applicants. These issues are listed below. 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.

- Geology and Soils
 - Prime and farmland soils.
 - Erosion control.
 - Topsoil/subsoil mixing.
 - Soil compaction.
 - Drain tiles and ditches.
 - Revegetation of non-agricultural areas.
- Water Resources
 - 7 crossings of waterbodies, including the Ceder River.
 - Effect on groundwater and surface water supplies.
- Biological Resources
 - Effect on wildlife and fisheries habitat.
 - Effect on federally listed endangered and threatened species.
 - Effect on wetland habitat.
- Cultural Resources
 - Effect on historic and prehistoric sites.
 - Native American and tribal concerns.
- Land Use
 - Effect on farming.
 - Effect on residences and recreation areas.
 - Effect on public lands
- Air Quality and Noise
 - Effect on local and regional air quality and local noise environment as a result of operation of additional compression.

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 presented in a Draft EIS which will be mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for these proceedings. A 45-day comment period will be allotted for review of the Draft EIS. We will consider all comments on the Draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before