

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).

Filing of timely motions to intervene in this proceeding should be made on or before February 14, 1997. Once this date has passed, parties 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.

If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of this project, or procedural information, contact Mr. James Dashukewich, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-0117.

Lois D. Cashell,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-1829 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP97-93-000]

**Viking Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Viking 1997 Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues**

January 21, 1997.

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 the facilities, about 29.4 miles of 24-inch diameter loop, 23,500 horsepower (hp) of compression, and a meter station, proposed in the Viking 1997 Expansion Project.<sup>1</sup> This EA will be used by the Commission in its decisionmaking process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.

**Summary of the Proposed Project**

Viking Gas Transmission Company (Viking) wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Minnesota to transport an additional 61,300 dekatherms per day of natural gas to various customers including a municipal utility, a local

distribution company, marketers, and other end users. Viking seeks authority to construct and operate the following facilities in Minnesota:

- 9.1 miles of loop in Kittson County;
- 11.9 miles of loop in Polk County;
- 7.1 miles of loop in Norman and Clay Counties;
- The Perham Meter Station in Otter Tail County;
- Piping and valves at various existing facilities;
- Crossover assemblies at the end of each new loop;
- 4,700 horsepower (hp) of compression at each of the following existing compressor stations:
  - Angus Compressor Station in Polk County;
  - Ada Compressor Station in Norman County;
  - Frazee Compressor Station in Otter Tail County;
  - Staples Compressor Station in Todd County; and
  - Milaca Compressor Station in Mille Lacs County

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup> If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the project, or procedural information, contact the Project Manager identified at the end of this notice.

**Land Requirements for Construction**

Construction of the loops would require about 355 acres of land, including about 302 acres of existing right-of-way. No new permanent right-of-way would be required for this proposal. All construction at the compression stations would take place within the existing fenced yard. The new Perham Meter Station would require about 0.3 acre of land. Following construction, all areas would be restored and allowed to revert to their former use, except for the Perham Meter Station.

**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

<sup>2</sup>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, 888 First 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.

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 considered 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.
- Air quality and noise.
- Hazardous waste.

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, official 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 Viking. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- A total of 345.3 acres of agricultural land, of which 341 acres contains prime farmland soils, would be disturbed by construction.
- The impact of noise on residences near the five compressor stations.

**Public Participation**

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific

<sup>1</sup> Viking Gas Transmission Company's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations/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, 888 First St., N.E., Washington, DC 20426;

- Reference Docket No. CP97-93-000;

- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Ms. Laura Turner, Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., PR-11.1, Washington, DC 20426; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before February 24, 1997.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Ms. Turner 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.

Docket No. CP97-93-000

You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional procedural information about the proposed project is available from Ms. Laura Turner, Project Manager, at (202) 208-0916.

Lois D. Cashell,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-1828 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

#### Sunshine Act Meeting

January 22, 1997.

The following notice of meeting is published pursuant to Section 3(A) of the Government in the Sunshine Act (Pub. L. No. 94-409), 5 U.S.C. 552B: **AGENCY HOLDING MEETING: FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION.**

**DATE AND TIME:** January 29, 1997, 10:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Room 2C, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

**STATUS:** Open.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Agenda.

\*Note—Items listed on the agenda may be deleted without further notice.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, Telephone (202) 208-0400; for a recording listing items stricken from or added to the meeting, call (202) 208-1627.

This is a list of matters to be considered by the commission. It does not include a listing of all papers relevant to the items on the agenda; however, all public documents may be examined in the reference and information center.

Consent Agenda—Hydro 666th Meeting—January 29, 1997 Regular Meeting (10:00 A.M.)

CAH-1.  
Docket# P-2105 042 Pacific Gas and Electric Company

CAH-2.  
Docket# P-2232 319 Duke Power Company

CAH-3.  
Docket# P-4797 049 Cogeneration, Inc.

CAH-4.  
Docket# P-10536 004 Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan County, Washington

CAH-5.  
Docket# P-1388 001 Southern California Edison Company

CAH-6.  
Docket# P-1389 001 Southern California Edison Company

CAH-7.  
Docket# P-4715 006 Felts Mills Energy Partners, L.P.

Consent Agenda—Electric

CAE-1.  
Docket# ER96-2401 000 Arizona Public Service Company

Other#S OA96-153 000 Arizona Public Service Company

CAE-2.  
Docket# ER97-678 000 New England Power Company

Other#S ER97-680 000 New England Power Company

CAE-3.  
Docket# ER97-703 000 Ensource

CAE-4.

Docket# ER97-30 000 Kincaid Generation, L.L.C.

CAE-5.  
Docket# ER97-772 000 Pacificorp

CAE-6.  
Docket# ER96-2362 000 Tucson Electric Power Company

CAE-7.  
Docket# ER96-2367 000 Commonwealth Edison Company and Commonwealth Edison Company of Indiana, Inc.

CAE-8.  
Omitted

CAE-9.  
Docket# OA96-183 000 American Electric Power Service Corporation

Other#S OA96-19 000 Northeast Utilities Service Company  
OA96-21 000 Public Service Company of Colorado and Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company

OA96-38 000 Long Island Lighting Company

OA96-39 000 Florida Power & Light Company

OA96-70 000 Boston Edison Company

OA96-73 000 Florida Power Corporation

OA96-74 000 New England Power Company

OA96-76 000 Southern California Edison Company

OA96-77 000 Consumers Power Company

OA96-78 000 Detroit Edison Company

OA96-79 000 Wisconsin Public Service Corporation

OA96-114 000 Jersey Central Power & Light Company, Metropolitan Edison Company and Pennsylvania Electric Company

OA96-116 000 Tampa Electric Company

OA96-138 000 Consolidated Edison Company of New York

OA96-153 000 Arizona Public Service Company

OA96-158 000 Entergy Services, Inc.

OA96-165 000 Delmarva Power & Light Company

OA96-166 000 Commonwealth Edison Company

OA96-184 000 Citizens Utilities Company

OA96-194 000 Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

OA96-195 000 New York State Electric & Gas Corporation

OA96-198 000 Carolina Power & Light Company

OA96-200 000 El Paso Electric Company

OA96-204 000 Cleveland Electric Illuminating company and Toledo Edison Company

CAE-10.  
Docket# ER96-2677 002 Central Louisiana Electric Company, Inc.

CAE-11.  
Docket# EL95-53 000 Arizona Public Service Commission v. Entergy Services, Inc.

CAE-12.  
Docket# EL95-51 000 Midwest Power Systems, Inc.

CAE-13.  
Docket# ER92-592 005 Yankee Atomic Electric Company