

responsibilities. The list of agencies is provided in appendix 2.²

On the above dates we will also be conducting limited site visits to the project area in the vicinity of each scoping meeting location. Anyone interested in participating in the site visit may contact the Commission's Office of External Affairs, identified at the end of this notice, for more details and must provide their own transportation.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EIS scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceedings, known as 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 on the Commission's service lists for these proceedings. 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 3).

The date for filing of timely motions to intervene in these proceedings has passed, having ended January 29, 1997. 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. However, you do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Environmental Mailing List

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested and/or potentially affected by the proposed project.

Anyone offering scoping comments will be automatically kept on our environmental mailing list for this project. If you do not want to offer comments at this time but still want to keep informed and receive copies of the Draft and Final EISs, please return the Environmental Mailing List Information (appendix 4). If you do not return the

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

card you will be taken off the mailing list.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-4914 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

Notice of Plan To Provide Additional Recreation Facilities

February 21, 1997.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

a. *Type of Filing:* Plan to Provide Additional Recreation Facilities.

b. *Project Name and No:* Mottville Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 401-019.

c. *Date Filed:* July 19, 1996.

d. *Licensee:* Indiana Michigan Power Company.

e. *Location:* St. Joseph River in St. Joseph County, Michigan near Mottville.

f. *Filed pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

g. *Licensee Contact:* William Vineyard, Associate Manager, Fossil and Hydro, Operations, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215-2373, (614) 223-1702.

h. *FERC Contact:* Steve Naugle, (202) 219-2805.

i. *Comment Date:* March 31, 1997.

j. *Description of the filing:* The licensee proposes to add the following recreation improvements at the project: (1) reservoir and tailwater boat launch facilities, a parking area, and associated road and pathway extensions at Mottville Canoe Park; and (2) parking and picnic areas and fishing access at the project powerhouse.

k. *This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs: B, C1, D2.*

B. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene—Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must

be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

C1. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS", "PROTEST", or "MOTION TO INTERVENE", as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

D2. Agency Comments—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-4809 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. RP-97-225-000]

Williams Natural Gas Company; Notice of Technical Conference

February 21, 1997.

In the Commission's order issued on February 7, 1997,¹ in the above-captioned proceeding, the Commission held that the filing raises issues for which a technical conference is to be convened.

The conference to address the issues has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. in a room to be designated at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

¹ 78 FERC ¶ 61,112 (1997).

All interested persons and Staff are permitted to attend.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-4818 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5695-6]

Air Pollution Control; Proposed Actions on Clean Air Act Grants to the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed determination with request for comments and notice of opportunity for public hearing.

SUMMARY: The U.S. EPA has made a proposed determination that a reduction in expenditures of non-Federal funds for the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) in Ventura, California is the result of a non-selective reduction in expenditures. This determination, when final, will permit Ventura County APCD to keep the financial assistance awarded to it by EPA for FY-96 under section 105(c) of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

DATES: Comments and/or requests for a public hearing must be received by EPA at the address stated below by March 31, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments and/or requests for a public hearing should be mailed to: Sara Bartholomew, Grants and Program Integration Office (AIR-8), Air Division, U.S. EPA Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105-3901; FAX (415) 744-1076.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Bartholomew, Grants and Program Integration Office (AIR-8), Air Division, U.S. EPA Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105-3901 at (415) 744-1250.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of Section 105 of the CAA, EPA provides financial assistance (grants) to the Ventura County APCD, whose jurisdiction includes Ventura County in southern California, to aid in the operation of its air pollution control programs. In FY-96, EPA awarded the Ventura County APCD \$1,398,500, which represented approximately 22% of Ventura's budget.

Section 105(c)(1) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. 7405(c)(1), provides that "[n]o agency shall receive any grant under

this section during any fiscal year when its expenditures of non-Federal funds for recurrent expenditures for air pollution control programs will be less than its expenditures were for such programs during the preceding fiscal year. In order for [EPA] to award grants under this section in a timely manner each fiscal year, [EPA] shall compare an agency's prospective expenditure level to that of its second preceding year." EPA may still award financial assistance to an agency not meeting this requirement, however, if EPA, "after notice and opportunity for public hearing, determines that a reduction in expenditures is attributable to a non-selective reduction in the expenditures in the programs of all Executive branch agencies of the applicable unit of Government." CAA Section 105(c)(2). These statutory requirements are repeated in EPA's implementing regulations at 40 CFR section 35.210(a).

In its FY-96 Section 105 application, which EPA reviewed in early 1996, the Ventura County APCD projected expenditures of non-Federal funds for recurrent expenditures (or its maintenance of effort (MOE)) of \$4,905,690. This projected MOE was not sufficient to meet the MOE requirements of the CAA, i.e. it was not equal to or greater than the MOE for the previous year (FY-95), which was \$4,928,948 according to the Financial Status Report (FSR) for FY-95. Furthermore, in January of 1997 the Ventura County APCD submitted to EPA the FSR for FY-96, which shows that the actual FY-96 MOE was \$4,588,325. This amount represents a shortfall of \$340,623 from the MOE for FY-95. In order for the Ventura County APCD to be eligible to keep its FY-96 grant, EPA must make a determination under § 105(c)(2).

The Ventura County APCD is a single-purpose agency whose primary source of funding is emission fee revenue. It is the "unit of Government" for § 105(c)(2) purposes. The reason for the lower MOE level in FY-96 is a series of efficiencies that Ventura County APCD has implemented. Ventura has provided to Region 9 documentation which shows that it has been able to reduce its administrative expenditures in its programs through cost saving measures which do not affect the performance of its air programs or reduce its expenditures for substantive environmental program activities. For example, Ventura has reduced indirect costs paid to the County by \$95,000 and reduced the need for outside contracts by \$70,000 by getting weather forecast information free from the Internet.

These cost saving measures were taken not because fee revenues had declined,

but because Ventura wanted to operate more efficiently.

Fee revenues in Ventura APCD are, however, projected to decrease significantly over the next few years because emissions will decrease. In order to avoid a future shortfall in revenue, Ventura has taken the savings generated by the efficiencies and placed them in a savings or dedicated reserve account. This account is dedicated to support only the District's air program, and would be used to cover shortfalls in meeting its MOE requirement in future years, as needed.

Consistent with the 105 program requirements, Ventura will not use federal funds to supplant local funds that are currently available for the program. The district will continue to operate its program at its current level as long as the fee revenues continue at their present pace. If the revenues drop, the district will tap the savings or reserve account to supplement fee revenue losses.

In summary, Ventura County APCD's MOE reductions resulted from a series of efficiency measures and the district has created a strategy to offset projected future loss of fee revenues with current savings. EPA proposes to determine that the Ventura County APCD's lower FY-96 MOE level meets the Section 105(c)(2) criteria as resulting from a non-selective reduction of expenditures. Pursuant to 40 CFR Section 35.210, this determination will allow the Ventura County APCD to keep the funds received from EPA for FY-96.

This notice constitutes a request for public comment and an opportunity for public hearing as required by the Clean Air Act. All written comments received by March 31, 1997 on this proposal will be considered. EPA will conduct a public hearing on this proposal only if a written request for such is received by EPA at the address above by March 31, 1997.

If no written request for a hearing is received, EPA will proceed to the final determination. While notice of the final determination will not be published in the Federal Register, copies of the determination can be obtained by sending a written request to Sara Bartholomew at the above address.

Dated: February 11, 1997.

David P. Howekamp,

Director, Air and Toxics Division, U.S. EPA, Region 9.

[FR Doc. 97-4891 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

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