

blanket authority, issued under Part 284 of the Regulations. It is further stated that the interruptible volumes to be delivered to MRO, will be within MRO's certificated entitlements. Columbia Gas does not anticipate that the interruptible service that it will provide through the proposed delivery facility, will detrimentally impact its existing customers.

Columbia Gas estimates the new delivery facility to cost approximately \$38,398. It is indicated that MRO will reimburse Columbia Gas' total facility cost.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-6441 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. ER94-24-017]

Enron Power Marketing, Inc.; Notice of Filing

March 10, 1997.

Take notice that on January 21, 1997, Enron Power Marketing, Inc. tendered for filing a Notification of Change in Status.

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, NE., Washington, DC 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 March 20, 1997. 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. 97-6442 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. RP97-8-000]

Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc.; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

March 10, 1997.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in this proceeding on Thursday, March 20, 1997, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., for the purpose of exploring the possible settlement of the above-referenced docket.

Any party, as defined in 18 CFR 385.102(c), or any participant, as defined in 18 CFR 385.102(b), is invited to attend. Persons wishing to become a party must move to intervene and receive intervenor status pursuant to the Commission's regulations, 18 CFR 385.214.

For additional information, contact Donald Williams at (202) 208-0743 or Anja M. Clark at (202) 208-2034.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-6446 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. ER97-1566-000]

Southwestern Public Service Company; Notice of Filing

March 10, 1997.

Take notice that on February 6, 1997, Southwestern Public Service Company (Southwestern) submitted an executed service agreement under its open access transmission tariff with e prime. The service agreement is for umbrella non-firm transmission service.

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, NE., Washington, DC 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 March 21, 1997. 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. 97-6444 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP94-161-006]

Avoca Natural Gas Storage; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Avoca Gas Storage Project Supplement and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

March 10, 1997.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental impacts of the construction of about 87.6 miles of various diameter pipeline and related facilities proposed in the Avoca Gas Storage Project Supplement.¹ This EQ will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Avoca Natural Gas Storage (Avoca) received a certificate authorizing the development of gas-storage caverns in an order issued on September 20, 1994. In conjunction with the construction of the storage caverns, Avoca wants to construct facilities to transport brine from the Avoca Storage Field (under development) near Avoca, New York, to two salt recovery facilities, Akzo Nobel Salt Company (Akzo) and Cargill, Inc. (Cargill), near and within Watkins Glen, New York, respectively. The brine would be created during the solution mining (or leaching) of the underground salt caverns that will be used to store natural gas. In that order, Avoca was authorized to use brine injection wells to dispose of the brine created during the cavern leaching process. However, the aquifers into which the brine injection wells were completed do not have the capability to receive the brine at the planned design rate of production. Therefore, Avoca would transport the brine via the proposed brine pipeline to the two salt recovery facilities. Specifically Avoca proposes to construct:

¹ Avoca Natural Gas Storage's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

- About 36.9 miles of 10-inch-diameter brine pipeline;
- About 5.5 miles of 8-inch-diameter brine pipeline (from about milepost [MP] 36.9 to the Akzo facility);
- About 2.83 miles of 6-inch-diameter brine pipeline (from about MP 36.9 to the Cargill facility);
- A valve station (at MP 36.9);
- A brine storage tank, pipeline pigging equipment, residual water storage tank, associated valves, and piping at the Avoca facility;
- Electric pumps, associated valves, pipeline pigging equipment, and aboveground residual water and brine storage tanks at the Akzo facility; and
- 42.4 miles of 6-inch-diameter processed water return pipeline (from the Akzo facility back to the Avoca facility for reuse) that would be installed in the same ditch as the 36.9-mile-long 10-inch-diameter and the 5.5-mile-long 8-inch-diameter brine pipelines.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.² If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the project, or procedural information, please write to the Secretary of the Commission.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 474.5 acres of land including land that would be used for extra workspaces at stream and road crossings and warehouse and staging areas. About 308.1 acres of this land would be within existing utility, road, and railroad rights-of-way. About 134.6 acres would be required for the new permanent right-of-way and about 31.8 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use. The proposed pipeline would follow existing rights-of-way for about 90 percent of the route.

Avoca would use a 75- to 100-foot-wide right-of-way to construct most of the project in non-agricultural and agricultural areas, respectively. However, a narrower right-of-way would be used in some areas.

Avoca would install only the brine pipeline (i.e., no water return pipeline) to the Cargill facility, so the right-of-way would be 40 feet wide or less in non-agricultural areas and 55 feet wide in agricultural areas. Also, the portion of the pipeline right-of-way along the Conrail railroad right-of-way leading to

the Akzo facility would be about 30-foot-wide.

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

- 42 private wells, 1 privately-owned community well, and 1 state-regulated non-municipal well would be within 150 feet of construction work areas;
- 46 perennial streams and 42 intermittent streams would be crossed;
- 3 of the perennial streams contain protected fisheries;
- Goff Creek and the Cohocton River would be crossed by directional drilling;
- 54 wetlands would be crossed;
- About 3.92 miles of State Reforestation Lands would be crossed;
- About 9.79 miles of agricultural land would be crossed;
- Proposed construction right-of-way would be wide for this size pipeline;
- The area into which an existing gravel mining operation plans to expand would be crossed;
- Finger Lakes Trail would be crossed at MPs 7.47, 22.39, 26.62, and 39.60 (Queen Catherine Marsh Trail);
- About 2.93 miles of New York State Forest land would be crossed including land within Moss Hill, Birds Eye Hollow, Groundry Hill, Sugar Hill, and Coon Hollow State Forests;
- The access road for the Sanford Lake Day Use Area, a public recreation area, would be crossed near MP 19.97;
- Watkins Glen State Park would be crossed by using the existing Conrail railroad trestle across Glen Creek Gorge for about 450 feet or, alternatively, Watkins Glen State Park may be crossed at another location entirely by directional drill; and
- 6 residences are located within 50 feet of construction work areas.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific 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. CP94-161-006; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before April 9, 1997.

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, 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.

If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to remain on our mailing list, please return the Information Request (appendix 3). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

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).

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

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-6440 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

Putnam, Windham County, Connecticut, and has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed project. In the DEA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and has concluded that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigative measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the DEA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Comments should be filed within 30 days from the date of this notice and should be addressed to Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Please affix Project No. 11547-000 to all comments. For further information, please contact Rainer Feller, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, at (202) 219-2796.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-6445 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

The permittee states that the project would be economically infeasible.

The permittee filed the request on December 30, 1996, and the preliminary permit for Project No. 11511 shall remain in effect through the thirtieth day after issuance of this notice unless that day is a Saturday, Sunday or holiday as described in 18 CFR 385.2007, in which case the permit shall remain in effect through the first business day following that day. New applications involving this project site, to the extent provided for under 18 CFR Part 4, may be filed on the next business day.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-6444 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Notice of Cases Filed During the Week of February 17 Through February 21, 1997

During the Week of February 17 through February 21, 1997, the appeals, applications, petitions or other requests listed in this Notice were filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals of the Department of Energy.

Any person who will be aggrieved by the DOE action sought in any of these cases may file written comments on the application within ten days of publication of this Notice or the date of receipt of actual notice, whichever occurs first. All such comments shall be filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585-0107.

Dated: March 5, 1997.
George B. Breznay,
Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals.

[Project No. 11547-000 Connecticut]

Summit Hydropower; Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

March 10, 1997.

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 F.R. 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for minor license for the proposed Hale Project located on the Quinebaug River in the Town of

[Project No. 11511-001 Kentucky and Illinois]

Hydro Matrix Partnership, Ltd.; Notice of Surrender of Preliminary Permit

March 10, 1997.

Take notice that Hydro Matrix Partnership, Ltd., permittee, for the Uniontown Lock and Dam Project located on the Ohio River in Gallatin County, Illinois and Union County, Kentucky, requested that its preliminary permit be terminated. The preliminary permit was issued on June 5, 1995, and would have expired on May 31, 1998.

SUBMISSION OF CASES RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Week of Feb. 17 through Feb. 21, 1997]

Date	Name and location of applicant	Case No.	Type of submission
2/18/97	Nancy L. Donaldson, Salem, Oregon	VFA-0271	Appeal of an Information Request Denial. If granted: The Freedom of Information Request Denial issued by Bonneville Power Administration would be rescinded, and Nancy L. Donaldson would receive access to certain DOE information.
2/18/97	Western Star Propane, Inc., Littlerock, California.	VEE-0040	Exception to the Reporting Requirements. If granted: Western Star Propane, Inc. would not be required to file Form EIA-782B, Reseller's/Retailer's Monthly Petroleum Product Sales Report.
2/19/97	Personnel Security Hearing	VSO-0136	Request for Hearing under 10 C.F.R. Part 710. If granted: An individual employed by the Department of Energy would receive a hearing under 10 C.F.R. Part 710.