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Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP96-249-000, et al. and Docket No. CP97-238-000]

Portland Natural Gas Transmission System, Portland Natural Gas Transmission System and Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed PNGTS Project and PNGTS/Maritimes Phase II Joint Facilities Project and Notice of Meeting Site Change

May 30, 1997.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS), and jointly by PNGTS and Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. (Maritimes) in the above referenced dockets. The specific facilities addressed in this DEIS are referred to as the PNGTS Project and the PNGTS/Maritimes Phase II Joint Facilities Project (PNGTS and Phase II Joint Facilities).

The DEIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project would have limited adverse environmental impact if constructed as planned with the proposed and recommended mitigation.

The DEIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities:

- The PNGTS Project, which includes:
 - About 141.6 miles of 24-inch-diameter mainline between Pittsburg, New Hampshire and Westbrook, Maine;
 - About 0.7 mile of 8-inch-diameter pipeline (Groveton Lateral);
 - About 26.9 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipeline (Rumford Lateral);
 - About 16.6 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipeline (Jay Lateral); and
 - Three new meter stations and other associated aboveground facilities.
- The Phase II Joint Facilities, which include:

- About 35.2 miles of 30-inch-diameter mainline between Wells, Maine and Westbrook, Maine;
- About 3.8 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipeline (Westbrook Lateral); and
- Three new meter stations and other associated aboveground facilities.

Comment Procedure

Written Comments

Any person wishing to comment on the DEIS may do so. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Reference Docket Nos. CP96-249-000 and CP97-238-000;
- Send two copies of your comments to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
- Mail your comments so they will be received on or before July 21, 1997.

Public Meeting Schedule

Three public meetings to receive comments on the DEIS will be held at the following times and locations (please note that the date for the meeting in Colebrook, New Hampshire has changed):

Date	Time	Location
July 7, 1997.	7:00 p.m.	The Warren Library, 479 Maine Street, Westbrook, Maine.
July 8, 1997.	7:00 p.m.	Town and Country Inn, Route 2, Gorham, New Hampshire.
July 9, 1997.	7:00 p.m.	Colebrook Public Library, 149 Maine Street, Colebrook, New Hampshire.

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend and present oral comments on the environmental impacts described in the DEIS. Anyone who would like to speak at the public meetings may get on the speakers list by signing up at the public meetings. Priority will be given to persons representing groups. Transcripts will be made of the meetings.

After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the DEIS, a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) will be published and distributed. The FEIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments received on the DEIS.

The DEIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance

Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

A limited number of copies are available at this location.

Copies of the DEIS have been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding. Any person may file a motion to intervene on the basis of the Commission staff's DEIS (see 18 CFR 380.106 and 385.214). You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

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

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-00213; FRL-5720-7]

Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action (FOSTTA) Projects; Open Meetings

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The four projects of the Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action (FOSTTA) will hold meetings open to the public at the time and place listed below in this notice. The public is encouraged to attend the proceedings as observers. However, in the interest of time and efficiency, the meeting is structured to provide maximum opportunity for state, tribal, and EPA invited participants to discuss items on the predetermined agenda. At the discretion of the chair of the project, an effort will be made to accommodate participation by observers attending the proceedings.

DATES: The four projects will meet June 23, 1997, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a plenary session on EPA's National Environmental Goals Report from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and on June 24, 1997, from 8 a.m. to noon.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at The Embassy Suites Hotel, 1900 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, VA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Darlene Harrod, Designated Federal Official (DFO), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (7408), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: (202) 260-6904, e-mail: