

Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-22215 Filed 8-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP96-647-000]

#### Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership; Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 1998 Expansion Project

August 15, 1997.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership in the above-referenced docket.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the proposed natural gas transmission facilities including:

a. Three 36-inch-diameter loops totaling about 71.5 miles of pipeline:

- Loop 1—about 22.0 miles long, extending from the existing St. Vincent Compressor Station at milepost (MP) 0.7 to MP 22.7 in Kittson County, Minnesota;

- Loop 2—about 26.7 miles long, extending from MP 132.5 to MP 159.2 in Clearwater, Beltrami, and Hubbard Counties, Minnesota; and

- Loop 3—about 22.8 miles long, extending from MP 283.5 to MP 306.3 in Carlton County, Minnesota and Douglas County, Wisconsin.

- b. Install two NEMA-rated 7,400 horsepower (hp) compressor unit additions, one unit apiece and appurtenant facilities at the existing St. Vincent Compressor Station in Kittson County, Minnesota and at the existing Farwell Compressor Station in Clare County, Michigan;

- c. Replacement of an existing aerodynamic assembly at the Thief River Falls Compressor Station in Marshall County, Minnesota; and

- d. Construction of minor permanent aboveground ancillary facilities;

- Three crossover assemblies at the new loop ends at MPs 22.7, 159.2, and 306.3 in Kittson and Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, and Douglas County, Wisconsin, respectively;

- Expansion of five existing mainline valve sites at MPs 0.7 and 16.3 in Kittson County, Minnesota; MPs 150.0 and 283.5 in Beltrami and Carlton Counties, Minnesota, respectively; and MP 299.3 in Douglas County, Wisconsin; and

- Removal of the existing end-of-loop valve and crossover assembly at MP 132.5 in Clearwater County, Minnesota.

The purpose of the proposed facilities would be to provide an additional firm transportation service of 126,000 thousand cubic feet per day of gas between Emerson, Minnesota, and St. Clair, Michigan to serve its existing shippers and to provide increased system reliability and lower maintenance costs.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, State and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your comments to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888

First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, D.C. 20426;

- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.2

- Reference Docket No. CP96-647-000; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before September 15, 1997.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentator a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).

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

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-22205 Filed 8-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Notice of Cases Filed With the Office of Hearings and Appeals

#### Week of July 21 Through July 25, 1997

During the Week of July 21 through July 25, 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: August 14, 1997.

**George B. Breznay,**

*Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals.*