

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 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
- land use
- cultural resources
- air quality and noise
- public safety

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 make our recommendations to the Commission.

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 NGT.

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

- The proposed replacement pipeline would cross 68 waterbodies, 13 of which are greater than 100 feet wide.

- The project would disturb about 17 acres of wetland during construction, including 8 acres of forested wetland.

- Eleven residences would be within 50 feet of the edge of the construction right-of-way.

- The pipeline would cross Bayou Dorcheat, a Louisiana Natural and Scenic Waterway, using a directional drilling technique.

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 routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, 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-11.1;

- Reference Docket No. CP97-724-000; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before November 17, 1997.

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. You do not need

intervenor status to have your scoping 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.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Intent To File An Application

October 14, 1997.

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

a. *Type of filing:* Notice of Intent to File An Application for a New License.

b. *Project No.:* 309.

c. *Date filed:* October 3, 1997.

d. *Submitted By:* Pennsylvania Electric Company, current licensee.

e. *Name of Project:* Piney Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On the Clarion River, in the Clarion County, Pennsylvania.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Section 15 of the Federal Power Act, 18 CFR 16.6 of the Commission's regulations.

h. *Effective date of current license:* June 1, 1979.

i. *Expiration date of current license:* October 12, 2002.

j. The project consists of: (1) A 125-foot-high, 700-foot-long concrete gravity arch dam; (2) a 653-acre reservoir; (3) a powerhouse containing three generating units with a total installed capacity of 28,800 kW; (4) a 115-kV and 34.5-kV transmission and distribution facility; and (5) appurtenant facilities.

k. Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.7, information on the project is available at: Pennsylvania Electric Company, 1001 Broad Street, Johnstown, PA 15907, (814) 533-8111.

l. *FERC contact:* Tom Dean (202) 219-2778.

m. Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.9 each application for a new license and any competing license applications must be filed with the Commission at least 24 months prior to the expiration of the existing license. All applications for license for this project must be filed by October 12, 2000.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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