

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.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-331-000]

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Cherokee Expansion Project

November 28, 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 Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) 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 addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities:

- construction of about 11.2 miles of 48-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline loop (Alabama Mainline Loop) in Marengo County, Alabama;
- uprating of the 16-inch-diameter Georgia Extension (Georgia Extension Uprating) in Walton and Gwinnett Counties, Georgia from a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of 780 pounds per square inch (psi) to a MAOP of 960 psi. The uprating would include:
 - a. replacement of about 3.7 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline;
 - b. expansion and/or uprating of four metering and regulating (M&R) stations;
 - c. hydrostatic testing of about 26.9 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline; and
 - d. abandonment in place of about 0.1 mile of 16-inch-diameter pipeline.
- construction of a new 15,000 horsepower (HP) compressor station in Coweta County, Georgia (Compressor Station 115);
- installation of two 4,000-HP compressor units at an existing

compressor station in Walton County, Georgia (Compressor Station 125);

- rewheeling compressor units at existing compressor stations in Chilton County, Alabama (Compressor Station 100) and in Henry County, Georgia (Compressor Station 120); and
 - installation of additional gas cooling capacity at an existing compressor station in Randolph County, Alabama (Compressor Station 110).
- The purpose of the proposed facilities is to provide additional firm transportation capacity of up to 87,070 dekatherms per day of natural gas to two existing customers.

The EA 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., Room 2A, Washington, D.C. 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, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch II, PR-11.2;
- Reference Docket No. CP97-331-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before December 29, 1997.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor 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.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5931-9]

Models-2000 Workshop; Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

The Ecosystems Research Division of the National Exposure Research Laboratory of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is hosting a workshop on the development and use of computer models in risk assessment, including both dose-response and exposure modeling. The workshop will be held at the EPA Ecosystems Research Division, 960 College Station Rd. in Athens, GA from December 15-17, 1997, convening no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and adjourning no later than 6:00 p.m. For further information, contact Dr. Rosemarie Russo, Director of EPA's Ecosystems Research Division at (706) 355-8001 (russo.rosemarie@epamail.epa.gov).

Background

In March 1994, the Deputy Administrator endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Agency Task Force on Environmental Regulatory Modeling (ATFERM) that were designed to improve the procedures by which the Agency adopts and utilizes computer models in generating risk assessments. Following subsequent discussion in the Science Policy Council Steering Committee, the senior science policy body in the Agency, and in correspondence between the Agency's Science Advisory Board (SAB) Chair and the Administrator, a further effort is being undertaken to (a) facilitate Agency adherence to existing guidance on modeling and (b) define and implement improvements to the way in which the Agency develops and uses modeling. A key aspect of this new effort is the convening of a workshop, aimed primarily at Agency modelers and risk assessors.

The intended goal of the workshop is to recommend to the Science Policy Council (SPC) and the Administrator/Deputy Administrator of EPA a Models Implementation and Improvement Plan