

385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for WIC or CIG to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP97-168-000 and CP97-169-000]

Alliance Pipeline L.P.; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Alliance Pipeline Project

December 23, 1997.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared this draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Alliance Pipeline L.P. (Alliance) in the above-referenced dockets.

The draft EIS 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 as recommended, would have

limited adverse environmental impact. The draft EIS evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system alternatives, and requests comments on them.

The draft EIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities in North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois:

- Approximately 890 miles of 36-inch-diameter mainline pipeline;
- Seven compressor stations totaling 320,000 horsepower;
- Five meter stations;
- A total of 0.9 mile of 36-inch-diameter lateral pipeline connecting the proposed meter stations to the mainline pipeline;
- A measurement and pressure control station;
- Forty-eight block valves installed along the pipeline and at each compressor station; and
- Three internal tool or "pig" launchers and four pig receivers.

In addition, the draft EIS addresses the potential environmental impact associated with construction and operation of a natural gas liquids extraction plant planned by Aux Sable Liquid Products L.P. in connection with Alliance's pipeline.

The purpose of Alliance's proposed facilities is to transport up to 1.3 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas produced in western Canada to interconnections with existing pipeline systems in the Chicago area. The planned Aux Sable Plant would extract the natural gas liquids that may be present in Alliance's pipeline.

Comment Procedures and Public Meetings

Any person wishing to comment on the draft EIS may do so. 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;
- Reference Docket Nos. CP97-168-000 and CP97-169-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before February 16, 1998.

In addition to written comments we will hold several public meetings in the project area to receive comments on the draft EIS. We will announce in a future notice, the locations and times of those public meetings.

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend and present oral comments on the environmental impact

described in the draft EIS. Transcripts of the meetings will be prepared.

After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the draft EIS, a final EIS will be published and distributed by the staff. The final EIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments received on the draft EIS.

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 Procedure (18 CFR 385.214).

Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this draft EIS. You must file your request to intervene as specified above. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

The draft EIS 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, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

A limited number of copies are available from Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch identified above. In addition, the draft EIS has been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies; public interest groups; individuals who requested a copy of the draft EIS; libraries; newspapers; and parties to this proceeding.

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

[Project No. 11243-002 Alaska]

Whitewater Engineering Corporation; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

December 23, 1997.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the