

later date as the PJM Office of the Interconnection is able to implement the proposals.

Supporting Companies state that copies of the filing have been served on the regulatory commissions of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Comment date: February 13, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP96-809-000, et al. and CP96-810-000]

Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Maritimes Phase II Project

January 30, 1998.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared this draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. in the above-referenced dockets and referred to as the Maritime Phase II Project.

The staff prepared the DEIS to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures as proposed and

recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact.

The DEIS assesses the potential environmental effects of construction and operation of the following facilities in Maine:

- A total of about 347.0 miles of pipeline, consisting of 200.1 miles of 24- and 30-inch-diameter mainline between Westbrook in York County and Woodland (Baileyville) in Washington County, and five laterals totaling 146.9 miles of 4- to 16-inch-diameter pipeline;

- About 31,160 horsepower of new compression at two new compressor stations;

- Twelve new meter stations; and
- Associated aboveground facilities, including 35 block valves.

The purpose of the proposed facilities would be to transport 440,000 thousand cubic feet per day of natural gas to existing and new natural gas markets in Maine and the northeast. These natural gas supplies would come from new reserves being developed in offshore Nova Scotia, Canada.

Comment Procedure

Written Comments

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

- Reference Docket Nos. CP96-809-000 *et al.*;

- Send two copies to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., 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;

- Mail your comments so that they will be received on or before March 23, 1998.

Public Meeting Schedule

Three public meetings to receive comments on the DEIS will be held at the following times and locations:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, March 10, 1998.	7:00 p.m.	Harrison Middle School Cafeteria, McCartney Street (off West Elm Street), Yarmouth, ME (207) 846-2499.

Date	Time	Location
PLEASE NOTE: The location of the Yarmouth Meeting has changed from that given in the DEIS.		
Wednesday, March 11, 1998.	7:00 p.m.	Gardiner Regional Junior High, School Cafeteria, 161 Cobbossee Avenue, Gardiner, ME (207) 582-1326.
Thursday, March 12, 1998.	7:00 p.m.	Bangor High School Auditorium, 885 Broadway, Bangor, ME (207) 941-6200.

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 groups 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, NE., 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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