

functions as defined in Order No. 889-A.<sup>2</sup>

Citizens states that copies of this filing have been mailed to all parties on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

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

## 26. Androscoggin Energy LLC

[Docket No. QF96-114-001]

On February 18, 1998, Androscoggin Energy LLC (Applicant), tendered for filing a supplement to its filing of October 27, 1997, in this docket. No determination has been made that the submittal constitutes a complete filing.

The supplement provides additional information pertaining to the ownership and electric power production capacity of the cogeneration facility.

*Comment date:* March 31, 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.*

[FR Doc. 98-5543 Filed 3-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP98-150-000 and CP98-151-000]

#### Millennium Pipeline Company, L.P. Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Millennium Pipeline Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

February 27, 1998.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction, acquisition, and operation of a 442.5-mile-long natural gas pipeline system in Pennsylvania and New York which is called the Millennium Pipeline Project.<sup>1</sup> This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

We are asking a number of Federal and state agencies to indicate whether they wish to cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS. These agencies are listed in appendix 1 and may choose to participate once they have evaluated each proposal relative to their agencies' responsibilities.<sup>2</sup>

#### Summary of the Proposed Project

Millennium Pipeline Company, L.P. (Millennium) wants to construct, acquire, own, and operate a natural gas pipeline system to transport up to 700,000 dekatherms per day and provide firm transportation services for nine shippers. Millennium does not presently own any pipeline facilities but proposes to construct certain pipeline facilities and acquire others from Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia).

In Docket No. CP98-150-000, Millennium requests authorization to:

- Construct and operate 376.4 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline extending from an interconnection at the United

<sup>1</sup> Millennium Pipeline Company, L.P. and Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation filed their applications with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

<sup>2</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

States/Canadian border across Lake Erie through Erie County, Pennsylvania, and Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Steuben, Chemung, Tioga, Broome, Delaware, Sullivan, Orange, and Rockland Counties, New York to an interconnection with Columbia's existing 24-inch-diameter pipeline (Columbia's Line 10338) in Ramapo, Rockland County, New York;

- Acquire and operate 6.7 miles of Columbia's Line 10338 in Rockland County, New York;
- Construct and operate 39.3 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline extending from the end of Columbia's Line 10338 through Rockland and Westchester Counties to a point near the Westchester/Bronx County line in Mount Vernon, New York;
- Acquire and rebuild Columbia's Ramapo Measurement and Regulation Facility near Ramapo, Rockland, County, New York;
- Construct and operate the Wagoner Measurement Facility near Milford, Pike County, Pennsylvania and the Mount Vernon Regulation and Measurement Facility in Mount Vernon, Westchester County, New York;

• Acquire and operate an additional 9.6 miles of short pipeline segments (Columbia's Lines A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5, AD-31, N, U, and 1842) and 28 of Columbia's associated metering and regulating stations in various counties in New York and Pennsylvania;

- Acquire and operate 10.5 miles of 10- and 14-inch-diameter pipeline (Columbia's Line K and Line 1278) extending from Deerpark, Orange County, New York to Milford, Pike County, Pennsylvania; and

• Acquire and operate Columbia's Milford Compressor Station in Pike County, Pennsylvania.

In addition, in Docket No. CP98-156-000, Millennium requests a Presidential Permit authorizing construction, operation and maintenance of facilities at the International Border in Lake Erie for the importation of natural gas. These facilities would consist only of the portion of the mainline extending across the border in Lake Erie and will be evaluated in the EIS as part of the facilities described above.

In Docket No. CP98-151-000, Columbia proposes to abandon certain pipeline facilities, and to abandon and convey others to Millennium in New York and Pennsylvania. Specifically, Columbia requests authority to:

- Abandon in place 129.8 miles of 10- to 12-inch-diameter pipeline in Steuben, Chemung, Tioga, Broome and Delaware Counties, New York (Line A-5);
- Abandon and remove about 92.2 miles of 8- to 24-inch-diameter pipeline

<sup>2</sup> Order No. 889-A, III FERC Stats. & Regs. at 30,552.

(Line A-5) in Delaware, Sullivan, Orange, and Rockland Counties, New York (the Millennium pipeline generally would be installed in approximately the same location as these sections of abandoned pipelines);

- Abandon and convey to Millennium in New York:

- 4.0 miles of 6- and 12-inch-diameter pipeline in Steuben County (Line A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4);
- 1.9 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipeline in Chemung County (Line A-5)
- 2.6 miles of 6-inch-diameter pipeline in Tioga County (Line AD-31);
- 0.1 mile of 12-inch-diameter pipeline in Broome County (Line N);
- 0.7 mile of 6-inch-diameter pipeline in Delaware County (Line A-2);
- 0.1 mile of 4-inch-diameter pipeline in Orange County (Line U);
- 4.9 miles of 10- and 14-inch-diameter pipeline in Orange County (Line K);
- 6.7 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Rockland County (Line 10338); and
- 28 measuring stations (5 in Steuben County, 1 in Chemung County, 3 in Tioga County, 6 in Broome County, 2 in Delaware County, 1 in Sullivan County, 7 in Orange County, and 3 in Rockland County).

- Abandon and convey to Millennium in Pennsylvania:

- 0.2 mile of 8- to 14-inch-diameter pipeline in Pike County (Line 1842)
- 5.6 miles of 10- and 14-inch-diameter pipeline in Pike County (Line 1278); and
- 1 compressor station with 3 units totaling 1,050 horsepower (Milford Compressor Station).

- Install overpressure protection equipment at a number of measuring and regulating stations that would be conveyed to Millennium because of the higher maximum allowable operating pressure of the Millennium pipeline.

The general location of the major project facilities is shown in appendix 2. If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the project, please use the request form provided in appendix 4.

#### *Land Requirements for Construction*

Millennium would typically use a 75-foot-wide construction right-of-way to install the pipeline. Extra work areas beyond the 75-foot-wide construction right-of-way would be required at stream, wetland, road, and railroad crossings; for topsoil segregation in agricultural land; and for sidehill construction. The removal of Columbia's Line A-5 would be within the construction work areas identified for the proposed Millennium pipeline. Modifications to existing measuring

facilities would occur within the existing facilities. Other temporary land requirements would include those for pipeyards, contractor yards, and new access roads.

Millennium estimates that a total of about 10,497 acres of land would be disturbed by construction of the pipeline, the three measuring facilities, and other associated pipeline facilities such as launchers/receivers and block valves. About 86 percent of the on-land pipeline (382.8 miles) would be constructed adjacent to existing pipeline and powerline rights-of-way. The remaining 87.4 miles of pipeline (including the Lake Erie and Hudson River crossings) would be constructed on new right-of-way. Following construction, about 2,513 acres of land would be retained for operation of the pipeline facilities, of which about 943 acres would be new permanent right-of-way. All land used for temporary construction right-of-way and extra work areas would revert to previous uses entirely. Land uses such as agriculture, pasture, and lawns on the permanent right-of-way would be allowed to continue following construction.

#### *The EIS Process*

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental 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 EIS 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 EIS. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EIS. We encourage state and local government representatives to notify their constituents of this proposed action so that they may comment on their areas of concern.

#### *Currently Identified Environmental Issues*

The EIS will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project. We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities, interventions received, and the environmental information provided by Millennium and Columbia. These

issues are listed below. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list of issues and may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Geology and soils:
  - Crossing of one active and one reclaimed gravel pit and one quarry;
  - Crossing of limestone deposits in Orange County;
  - Crossing of the Ramapo fault in the vicinity of the pipeline to be acquired from Columbia;
  - Temporary and permanent impact on soils, including soils with a seasonable high water table, and soils with less than 6 feet to bedrock.
  - Mixing of topsoil and subsoil during construction in agricultural areas.
  - Compaction of soil by heavy equipment, and
  - Erosion control and restoration of the right-of-way.
- Water Resources:
  - Crossing of 317 perennial and 206 intermittent waterbodies;
  - 30.5 miles of pipeline construction within Lake Erie;
  - 2.4-mile-long crossing of the Hudson River;
  - Crossing of 30 perennial waterbodies over 100 feet wide, including Olean Creek, Genesee River, Cayuto Creek, Chenango River, Susquehanna River, West Branch Delaware River, Smith Mill Brook, Halfway Brook, Mongaup River (Rio Reservoir), Steeny Kill, Tributary Shingle Kill, Furnace Brook Lake, Teatown Lake, and 7 ponds;
  - 400 private wells and 1 public well within 150 feet of the construction work area;
  - Crossing of six designated sole source aquifers;
  - Crossing of the Belson and Chautauqua Creek protected public watersheds; and
  - Potentially contaminated sediments at waterbody crossing locations.
- Vegetation and Wildlife:
  - Crossing of 754 wetlands (totaling 48.0 miles and affecting about 442 acres), including 41 regulated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation;
  - Clearing about 1,127 acres of upland forest during construction;
  - Effect of construction on wildlife and fisheries habitat including a 6.2-mile-long crossing of the Mongaup Wildlife Management Area and a 2.4-mile-long crossing of Haverstraw Bay;
  - Crossing of unique vegetative communities; and
  - Effect on federally listed endangered and threatened species (bald eagle, dwarf wedge mussel, and bog turtle).
- Cultural Resources:

- Impact on historic and prehistoric and archaeological sites;
- Impact on historic structures and landscapes; and
- Native American and tribal concerns.
  - Land Use:
- Effect on 22.5 acres of vineyards, 2.0 acres of orchards, 5.0 acres of plant nurseries, and 18.9 acres of sod farm;
- Effect on 175 business or commercial structures and 363 residences within 50 feet of the construction work area;
- Effect of in-street construction within more densely populated areas;
- Effect on rivers listed on either the national or state scenic river inventories (Chautauqua Creek, and Genesee, Cohocton, West Branch and East Branch Delaware, and Wallkill Rivers);
- Crossing of bicycle and hiking trails, including the Finger Lakes/North Country and Appalachian National Scenic Trails; and
- Crossing of conservation/recreation areas, including Sterling Forest, Palisades Interstate Park, Kakiat Park, Teatown Lake Reservation, and New York State Scenic Byway.
  - Socioeconomics:
- Impact on property; and
- Effect of construction workforce on demands for services in surrounding areas.
  - Reliability and Safety

- Cumulative Impact:
- Assessment of the combined effect of the proposed project with other projects which have been or may be proposed in the same region with a similar time frame.

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- Alternatives:
  - Assessment of alternative systems and other routes to reduce or avoid impact on various resource areas;
  - Assessment of alternative landfalls for the Lake Erie crossing; and
  - Assessment of alternative routes using existing highway rights-of-way such as Route 17.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be presented in a Draft EIS which will be mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service lists for these proceedings. A 45-day comment period will be allotted for review of the Draft EIS. We will consider all comments on the Draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a Final EIS. The Final EIS will include our response to all comments received.

*Public Participation and Scoping Meetings*

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

- Reference Docket No. CP98-150-000 and CP98-151-000
- Send two copies of your comments to: David P. Boergers, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label *one* copy for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.2; and
- Please mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before March 30, 1998.

In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments, you are invited to attend one of the five public scoping meetings that will be held in the project area at the following times and locations:

Docket No. CP98-150-000

Date	Time	Location
Monday, March 16, 1998 .....	7:00 p.m .....	Northeast High School Cafeteria, 1901 Freeport Road, North East, Pennsylvania, (814) 725-8671.
Tuesday, March 17, 1998 .....	7:00 p.m .....	Wellsville Elementary School, Multilearning Center, 50/98 School Street, Wellsville, New York, (716) 593-6700.
Wednesday, March 18, 1998 .....	7:00 p.m .....	Binghamton High School Auditorium, 31 Main Street, Binghamton, New York, (607) 762-8200.
Tuesday, March 24, 1998 .....	7:00 p.m .....	Mount Vernon High School Auditorium, 100 California Road, Mount Vernon, New York, (914) 665-5000.
Wednesday, March 25, 1998 .....	7:00 p.m .....	Port Jervis High School Cafeteria, Rural Route 209, Port Jervis, New York, (914) 858-3110.

The purpose of the scoping meetings is to obtain input from state and local governments and from the public. Federal agencies have formal channels for input into the Federal process as cooperating agencies (including separate meetings, where appropriate). Federal agencies are expected to transmit their comments directly to the FERC and not use the scoping meetings for this purpose. Local agencies are requested to provide information on other plans and projects which might conflict with, or have cumulative effects, when considered in combination with the Millennium Pipeline Project.

Millennium and Columbia will be present at the scoping meetings to

describe their proposals. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and present oral comments on the environmental issues which they believe should be addressed in the Draft EIS. A list will be available at the public meetings to allow speakers to sign up. A transcript will be made of the meetings and the comments will be made part of the Commission's record in these proceedings.

On the above dates, we will also be conducting limited site visits in the project area in the vicinity of each scoping meeting location. Anyone interested in participating in the site visit may contact the Commission's Office of External Affairs (identified at

the end of this notice) for more details and must provide their own transportation.

*Becoming an Intervenor*

In addition to involvement in the EIS scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding, known as 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 on the Commission's service lists for these proceedings. 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 3).

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in these proceedings 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.

#### *Environmental Mailing List*

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. It is also being sent to all potential right-of-way grantors to solicit focused comments regarding environmental considerations related to the proposed project. As details of the project become established, representatives of Millennium will directly contact landowners, communities, and public agencies concerning any other matters, including acquisition of permits and rights-of-way.

Anyone offering scoping comments will be automatically kept on our environmental mailing list for this project. If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to keep informed and receive copies of the Draft and Final EISs, please return the Information Request (appendix 4). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

For procedural information, please write to the Secretary of the Commission. Additional procedural or other information about the proposed project is available from Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-5532 Filed 3-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Intent to File an Application for a New License

February 26, 1998.

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.:* 271.

c. *Date filed:* February 4, 1998.

d. *Submitted By:* Entergy Arkansas, Inc., current licensee.

e. *Name of Project:* Carpenter-Rommel Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On the Ouachita River, in Garland and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas.

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:* July 1, 1980.

i. *Expiration date of current license:* February 28, 2003.

j. The project consists of the:

*Carpenter Development* comprising: (1) a 115-foot-high, 1,160-foot-long concrete gravity-type dam including a 439-foot-long spillway controlled by ten 26-foot-high by 34-foot-wide Taintor gates; (2) a 18.5-mile-long, 7,200-acre reservoir at elevation 400 feet USGS datum; (3) an integral intake and powerhouse containing two generating units with a total capacity of 56,000 kW; (4) two 115-kV transmission lines; and (5) appurtenant facilities.

*Rommel Development* comprising: (1) a 75-foot-high, 900-foot-long concrete Ambursen-type dam including a 258-foot-long spillway controlled by twelve 15-foot-high by 27-foot-wide Taintor gates; (2) a 11.3-mile-long, 1,940-acre reservoir at elevation 305 feet msl datum; (3) an integral intake and powerhouse containing three generating units with a total capacity of 9,300 kW; (4) two 565-foot-long, 34.5 kV transmission lines, one 72-foot-long, 115 kV transmission line; and (5) appurtenant facilities.

k. Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.7, information on the project is available at: Lake Catherine Plant, P.O. Box 218, Hwy. 270 West, Jones Mill, AR 72105, (501) 844-2148.

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 February 28, 2001.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-5514 Filed 3-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Public Outreach Meeting; Denver, CO

February 26, 1998.

The Office of Hydropower Licensing will hold a public Outreach Meeting in Denver, Colorado, on Thursday, March 26, 1998. The Outreach Meeting is scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. and finish at 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Outreach program is to familiarize federal, state, and other government agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations, licensees, and other interested parties with the Commission's hydropower licensing program. The topics for the Outreach Meeting are pre-licensing, licensing, and post-licensing procedures for hydroelectric projects in Colorado whose licenses expire between calendar years 2000 and 2010.

Staff from the Commission's Office of Hydropower Licensing will preside over the meetings.

The location of the Outreach Meeting is: Sheraton Denver West Hotel & Conference Center, 360 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, CO 80228, (303) 987-2000.

If you plan to attend, please notify John Blair, Western Outreach Coordinator, fax: 202-219-2152; telephone: 202-219-2845.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-5502 Filed 3-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Public Outreach Meeting; Park City, UT

February 26, 1998.

The Office of Hydropower Licensing will hold a public Outreach Meeting in Park City, Utah, on Tuesday, March 24, 1998. The Outreach Meeting is scheduled to start at 9:00 A.M. and finish at 5:00 P.M.

The purpose of the Outreach program is to familiarize federal, state, and other government agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations, licensees, and other interested parties with the Commission's hydropower licensing program. The topics for the Outreach Meeting are pre-licensing, licensing, and post-licensing procedures for hydroelectric projects in Utah whose