

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission

Project No. [1494-140]

Grand River Dam Authority; Notice of
Availability of Draft Environmental
Assessment

March 26, 1998.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47910), the Office of Hydropower Licensing (OHL) has reviewed an application for approval of new marina facilities. Grand River Dam Authority proposes to permit Paul Staten, d/b/a Hanger 51—Shangri-La Airpark, (permittee) to construct new marina docking facilities on Isles' End Cove on Grand Lake, the project reservoir. The permittee requests permission to construct a breakwater and six boat docks containing a total of 146 slips. The proposed dock facilities would be located on the northwest shore of the cove adjacent to the Shagri-La Airpark. The Pensacola Project is on the Grand River, in Craig, Delaware, Mayes, and Ottawa Counties, Oklahoma.

the DEA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the DEA can be obtained by calling the Commission's Public Reference Room at (202) 208-1371. In the DEA, staff concludes that approval of the licensee's proposal would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Please submit any comments within 30 days from the date of this notice. Comments should be addressed to: Mr. David P. Boergers, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Please affix Project No. 1494-140 to all comments. For further information, please contact the project manager, Jon Cofrancesco at (202) 219-0079.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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[Docket No. CP96-153-004]

Southern Natural Gas Company;
Notice of Intent to Prepare an
Environmental Assessment for the
Proposed Amended North Alabama
Pipeline Project and Request for
Comments on Environmental Issues

March 27, 1998.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of about 27.1 miles of 16- and 12-inch-diameter pipeline and two meter stations proposed in the Amended North Alabama Pipeline Project.¹ This notice constitutes a scoping process and the comments received in response to this notice will be used to identify significant environmental issues including whether there is a need to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (supplemental EIS). The EA (or supplemental EIS) will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

If you are a landowner whose property will be crossed by the proposed project, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The pipeline company may seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement relative to land use and access. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, the pipeline has the right to use eminent domain. Therefore, if negotiations fail to produce an agreement between the pipeline company and landowner, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law. A fact sheet addressing a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain, is attached to this notice as appendix 1.

Background

On May 30, 1997, the Commission issued a certificate in Docket Nos. CP96-153-000 and CP96-153-002 authorizing Southern Natural Gas

Company (Southern) to construct about 109.5 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline, 8.5 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipeline, two compressor units (4,700 horsepower (HP) and 1,600 HP), and three meter stations subject to the conditions in the Order. The certificated route included a crossing of the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (Wheeler NWR) along the Triana Variation subject to the approval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). After the issuance of the certificate, the FWS determined that this route is not consistent with the FWS policy of issuing rights-of-way only within existing corridors. On February 4, 1998, Southern filed an application with the Commission to change the northern end of the certificated route. The proposed amended 27.1-mile-long route follows existing corridors including Interstate 65 across the Wheeler NWR in the vicinity of the Tennessee River, a powerline right-of-way north of the river, and other rights-of-way.

The EA will only cover the amended route of the pipeline from milepost (MP) 95.25 adjacent to Interstate 67 (about MP 91.2 on the previously certificated route) to the new Huntsville Meter Station, including the Decatur Lateral and Decatur Meter Station. There is no change in the facilities south of MP 95.25 and they will not be reexamined in the EA.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Southern proposes to modify the certificated route of the North Alabama Pipeline in Alabama. Southern still proposes to deliver a total of 69,000 cubic feet per day of natural gas at the Decatur and Huntsville Meter Stations for Decatur Utilities, Huntsville Utilities Gas System, and Marshall County Gas District. The facilities that will be studied in the EA include:

- about 26.9 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline in Morgan, Limestone, and Madison Counties, Alabama;
- about 0.2 mile of 12-inch-diameter pipeline in Morgan County, Alabama;
- the Decatur Meter Station in Morgan County, Alabama; and
- The relocated Huntsville Meter Station in Madison County, Alabama.

The detailed location of the facilities is shown in appendix 2.²

²The 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.

¹Southern Natural Gas Company's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.