

of the Federal Power Act, filed an amendment to MAPP Schedule F.

Comment date: July 2, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

26. Public Service Company of Colorado

[Docket No. ER98-3347-000]

Take notice that on June 12, 1998, Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company, Public Service Company of Colorado (PS Colorado), and Southwestern Public Service Company (collectively New Century) has filed revisions to its open-access transmission tariff pending in this docket. New Century states that the primary purpose of the proposed revisions is to modify the priority of non-firm use on the PS Colorado system to accommodate PS Colorado's membership in the Rocky Mountain Reserve Group.

Comment date: July 2, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

27. Indianapolis Power and Light Company

[Docket No. ES98-34-000]

Take notice that on May 29, 1998, Indianapolis Power and Light Company filed an application, under § 204 of the Federal Power Act, seeking authorization to issue unsecured short-term securities, from time to time, in an aggregate principal amount of not more than \$500,000,000 outstanding at any one time, during the period of September 1, 1998 through August 31, 2000, with final maturities of one year or less from the date of issue.

Comment date: July 17, 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. 98-16704 Filed 6-23-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-546-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed RIPX Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

June 18, 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 Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation's (Columbia) proposal to abandon its Derricks Creek Storage Field in Kanawha County, West Virginia and replace it with working gas capacity and deliverability at the Ripley Storage Field in Jackson County, West Virginia.

The abandonment of the Derricks Creek Storage Field in Kanawha County, West Virginia includes 13.1 miles of pipeline. In addition, the project would require the construction and operation of 3.5 miles of various diameter storage pipeline at the Ripley Storage Field, drilling six new storage wells, improving the deliverability of nine existing wells, and increasing the capacity of the Ripley Storage Field in Jackson County, West Virginia. This EA on the RIPX Project¹ 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 receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to abandon, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The pipeline company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an

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

agreement, 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 1.²

Summary of the Proposed Project

Columbia seeks authorization for the following:

- Abandonment in place of the Derricks Creek Storage Field in its entirety consisting of 13.1 miles of various diameter pipeline and 20 active storage wells;
- Construction of approximately 3.5 miles of various diameter storage pipeline, drilling six new storage wells, and improving the deliverability of nine existing wells at the Ripley Storage Field;
- Increase the capacity of the Ripley Storage Field by 0.8 billion cubic feet (BCF) of gas;
- Conversion of two observation wells to active injection/withdrawal wells, and conversion of three very low performance wells to observation wells; and
- Abandonment by sale of up to 5.4 BCF of base gas within the two storage fields.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 2.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 66.2 acres of land. Following construction, about 18.8 acres would be maintained as permanent pipeline right-of-way and about 20.0 acres would be required for new well sites and aboveground facilities. The remaining 27.4 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

The EA 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 EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of

² 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, NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Endangered and threatened species
- Public safety
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Air quality and noise
- Hazardous waste

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section on pages 4 and 5 of this notice.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Columbia. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- A total of about 18.9 acres of forest would be disturbed.
- The project would cross two perennial streams, eight intermittent streams and 4 wetlands.
- Blasting may be required in some areas.

- Three private water wells are located within 150 feet of the construction work area.

- Wells may need to be plugged at Derricks Creek Storage Field.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations/routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Acting 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, PR-11.2;

- Reference Docket No. CP98-546-000; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before July 20, 1998.

If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to remain on our mailing list, please return the Information Request (appendix 4). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor." Intervenors play a more formal role in the process. 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 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. 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). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. You do not need intervenor status to

have your environmental comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-16708 Filed 6-23-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6115-9]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Small System Survey

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Small System Survey, ICR # 1863.01. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before August 24, 1998.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Office of Ground Water Drinking Water, Mail Code: 4607; 401 M Street, SW; Washington, DC 20460. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by contacting Kimberly Miller at (202) 260-1891, writing to her at the above address or sending her an e-mail at Miller.KimberlyD@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Cunningham, (202) 260-9535 / (202) 401-6135 / Cunningham.Nancy@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are public drinking water systems that are supplied by surface water and serve fewer than 10,000 people.

Title: Small System Survey; EPA ICR No. 1863.01.

Abstract: The Environmental Protection Agency has developed three interrelated Supplemental Surveys as part of an ongoing, scientific research and information collection program