

authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2964-006]

City of Sturgis; Notice of Site Visit and Scoping Meetings Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

September 24, 1998.

On March 31, 1998, the City of Sturgis, Michigan (applicant) filed an application for new license for the Sturgis Hydro Project, located on the St. Joseph's River in St. Joseph County, near Centerville, Michigan.

The purpose of this notice is to: (1) advise all parties as to the proposed scope of the staff's environmental analysis, including cumulative effects, and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis; and (2) advise all parties of their opportunity for comment.

Scoping Process

The Commission's scoping objectives are to:

- Identify significant environmental issues;
- Determine the depth of analysis appropriate to each issue;
- Identify the resource issues not requiring detailed analysis; and
- Identify reasonable project alternatives.

The purpose of the scoping process is to identify significant issues related to the proposed action and to determine what issues should be addressed in the environmental document to be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The document entitled "Scoping Document" (SD) will be circulated shortly to enable appropriate federal, state, and local resource agencies, developers, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations (NGO'S), and other interested parties to effectively participate in and contribute to the scoping process. SD provides a brief description of the proposed action, project alternatives, the geographic and temporal scope of a cumulative effects analysis, and a list of preliminary issues identified by staff.

Project Site Visit

The applicant and the Commission staff will conduct a site visit of the Sturgis Hydro Project on October 13, 1998, at 1:30 p.m. They will meet at the hydroelectric facility. All interested individuals, NGO's and agencies are invited to attend. All participants are responsible for their own transportation. For more details, interested parties should contact Mr. John Griffith, Electric Department Superintendent, at (616) 651-2321, prior to the site visit date.

Scoping Meetings

The Commission staff will hold scoping meetings on October 13 and 14, 1998, in preparation for completing an Environmental Assessment (EA), under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for relicensing the Sturgis Hydro Project.

Commission staff will hold the scoping meetings in the vicinity of the Sturgis Hydro Project: one evening meeting and one morning meeting. The evening will focus on receiving input from the public, whereas the afternoon meeting will focus on resource agency concerns. We invite all interested agencies, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. The times and locations of these meetings are shown below.

Evening Scoping Meeting: October 13, 1998, 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m., Sturges-Young Auditorium, 201 North Nottawa Rd., Sturgis, MI 49091, (616) 651-2321

Morning Scoping Meeting: October 14, 1998, 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., Sturges-Young Auditorium, 201 North Nottawa Rd., Sturgis, MI 49091, (616) 651-2321

To help focus discussions, we will distribute a Scoping Document (SD) outlining the areas to be addressed at the meetings to the parties on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of the SD also will be available at the scoping meetings.

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will: (1) summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements on environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA, including opinions in favor of, or in opposition to, the staff's preliminary list of issues; (4)

determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the EA; and (5) identify resource issues that will not require detailed analysis in the EA.

The Scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (oral and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the project. Before each meeting starts, all individuals who attend, especially those individuals that intend to make statements during the meeting, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record prior to speaking. Time allotted for presentations will be determined by staff based on the length of the meetings and the number of people wanting to speak. All individuals wishing to speak will be provided at least five minutes to present their views.

Interested parties who choose not to speak, or are unable to attend the scoping meetings, may provide written comments and information to the Commission until November 13, 1998. Written comments and information should be submitted to the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

The first page of all filings should indicate "Sturgis Hydro Project, FERC No. 2964-006" at the top of the page. All findings sent to the Secretary of the Commission should contain an original and eight copies. Failure to file an original and eight copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner. Furthermore, participants in this proceeding are reminded that if they file comments with the Commission, they must serve a copy of their filing to the parties on the Commission's service list.

For further information, please contact Patrick Murphy at (202) 219-2659.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. GT98-92-000]

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company; Notice of Tariff Filing

September 24, 1998.

Take notice that on September 16, 1998, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee), P.O. Box 2511, Houston, Texas 77252, tendered for filing and