

resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views; (4) determine the resource issues to be addressed in the EA; and (5) identify those issues that require a detailed analysis, as well as those issues that do not require a detailed analysis.

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and will become part of the formal record of the Commission's proceeding on the project. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to sign in before the meeting starts and to identify themselves clearly for the record.

Individuals, organizations and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the EA.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP98-203-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

March 30, 1999.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in this proceeding commencing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 1999, at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, for the purpose of drafting a settlement document in the above-referenced docket.

Any party, as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(c), or any participant as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(b), is invited to attend. Persons wishing to become a party must move to intervene and receive intervenor status pursuant to the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 385.214).

For additional information, please contact Sandra J. Delude at (202) 208-0583, Bob Keegan at (202) 208-0158, or Edith A. Gilmore at (202) 208-2158.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-8267 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Scoping Meeting and Site Visit, ND Soliciting Scoping Comments

March 30, 1999.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

a. *Type of Application:* New Major License

b. *Project No.:* 2161-006

c. *Date Filed:* June 26, 1998

d. *Applicant:* Rhinelander Paper Company

e. *Name of Project:* Rhinelander Hydroelectric Project

f. *Location:* On the Wisconsin River, at river mile 357, in the townships of Tomahawk, Newbold, Pine Lake, and Pelican, Oneida County, Wisconsin. There are no federal lands located within the project area.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contacts:*

Mr. Bruce Olson, Utility Superintendent, Rhinelander Paper Company, 515 West Davenport Street, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501, (715) 369-4244.

i. *FERC Contact:* Any questions on this notice should be addressed to Michael Spencer, E-mail address, michael.spencer@ferc.fed.us, or telephone (202) 219-2846.

j. *Deadline for filing scoping comments:* May 15, 1999.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenor filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project.

Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on the resource agency.

k. *Status of environmental analysis:* This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. *Description of the Project:* The project consists of the following existing facilities: (1) a main dam comprised of 370 feet of earth embankments, in two sections to the left and right of a spillway section containing two 10.7-

foot-wide steel roller gates; (2) a 965-foot-long power canal, with a single 26-foot-wide Taintor gate spillway structure located downstream of a 14-gate canal inlet structure, located adjacent to the right embankment of the dam; (3) an 8.5-mile-long, 3,576-acre impoundment with a normal water surface elevation of 1,555.45 feet above mean sea level (msl), and a normal storage capacity of 21,500 acre-feet; (4) a brick powerhouse located at the downstream end of the power canal, containing three horizontal Francis turbine units for a total installed capacity of 2,120 kilowatts (kW) and an average annual energy production of 10.692 gigawatt-hours (GWh); (5) switchgear connections with the adjacent paper mill; and (6) appurtenant facilities.

m. *Locations of the application:* A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address shown in item h.

n. *Scoping Process:* The Commission intends to prepare a multiple project Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed relicensing of the Rhinelander Project, Stevens Point Project (FERC No. 2110), and Biron Project (FERC No. 2192), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA will consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives to the proposed actions.

Scoping Meetings

The Commission will hold scoping meetings, one in the daytime and one in the evening, to help us identify the scope of issues to be addressed in the EA.

The daytime scoping meeting will focus on resource agency concerns, while the evening scoping meeting is primarily for public input. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist the staff in identifying the scope of the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Daytime Meeting

Friday, April 16, 1999, 9 a.m., Best Western Claridge Inn, 70 North Stevens