

Copies of the full text of the Order are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-18522 Filed 7-20-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 309-PA]

Sithe Piney LLC; Notice of Pennsylvania Electric Company's Request to Use Alternative Procedures in Filing a License Application

July 15, 1999.

On June 24, 1999, the existing licensee, Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec), filed a request to use alternative procedures for submitting an application for new license for the existing Sithe Piney Hydroelectric Project No. 309. The project is located on the Clarion River, in Clarion County, Pennsylvania.

The project consists of: (1) the 427-foot-long and 139-foot-high concrete arch dam with crest elevation of 1,075 ft. msl, an 84-foot-long left non-overflow wall, and a 200-foot-long right non-overflow wall; (2) an 800-acre surface area reservoir; (3) an 84-foot-wide integral intake; (4) three 230-foot-long; 14-foot-diameter penstocks; (5) a powerhouse with 3 generating units totaling 28,300 kilowatts; (6) a 250-foot-long tailrace; (7) 700-foot-long and 900-foot-long transmission lines; and (8) appurtenant facilities.

Penelec states that it has discussed the applicant prepared environmental assessment process with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and that those agencies have expressed support for the use of alternative procedures. Penelec is developing a draft communications protocol that will be distributed to the other participants in the relicensing process.

The purpose of this notice is to invite any additional comments on Penelec's request to use the alternative procedures, pursuant to Section 4.34(i) of the Commission's regulations.¹ Additional notices seeking comments on the specific project proposal, interventions and protests, and

recommended terms and conditions will be issued at a later date.

The alternative procedures being requested here combine the prefiling consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing Penelec to complete and file an Environmental Assessment (EA) in lieu of Exhibit E of the license application. This process differs from the traditional way the applicant prepares a license application because the prefiling consultation with agencies, Indian tribes, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) is done concurrently with the environmental review process rather than waiting for the Commission staff to conduct its environmental review of the application after it is filed with the Commission. The alternative procedures are intended to simplify and expedite the licensing process by combining the prefiling consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants.

Applicant Prepared EA Process and Piney Project Schedule

Penelec has distributed an Information Package for the proposed project to state and federal resource agencies, and NGOs. Penelec has held an initial consultation meeting to discuss potential issues by the participants, and is currently conducting studies. Penelec has submitted a proposed schedule for the alternative licensing process that leads to the filing of a license application by October 2000.

Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on Penelec's proposal to use the alternative procedures to file an application for the Piney Hydroelectric Project.

Filing Requirements

The comments must be filed by providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, Dockets—Room 1A, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All comment filing must bear the heading "Comments on the Alternative Procedures," and include the project name and number (Piney Hydroelectric Project No. 309).

For further information on this process, please contact William Guey-Lee of the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission at 202-219-2808 or E-mail at william.gueylee@ferc.fed.us.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-405-001]

TCP Gathering Co.; Tariff Filing

July 15, 1999.

Take notice that on July 13, 1999, TCP Gathering Co. (TCP) tendered for filing of its FERC Gas Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheet with an effective date of August 1, 1999:

Substitute Fourth Revised Sheet No. 103A

TCP is submitting this filing to correct an inadvertent omission of the various GISB Standards from the previously effective "by reference" tariff sheet.

TCP states that copies of this filing have been served upon all affected firm customers of TCP and applicable state agencies.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed as provided in Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. 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 proceedings. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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¹ Order No. 596, Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects, 81 FERC ¶61,103 (1997).