

monthly Cost of Ownership Charge equal to the rate for transmission-or distribution-level, utility-or customer-financed facilities in PG&E's then-currently effective Electric Rule 2, as filed with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). PG&E's currently effective Special Facilities rates are contained in the CPUC's Advice Letter 1960-G/1587-E, effective August 5, 1996, a copy of which was included in PG&E's August 6, 1999 filing in FERC Docket No. ER99-4045-000 as Attachment 3.

Copies of this filing have been served upon the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the CPUC.

Comment date: December 14, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

23. Deseret Generation and Transmission Co-operative, Inc.

[Docket No. ER00-659-000]

Take notice that on November 24, 1999, Deseret Generation & Transmission Co-operative, Inc. (Deseret), tendered for filing an executed Power Sale Confirmation Agreement between Deseret and Constellation Power Source, Inc., regarding a long-term power purchase and sale transaction under the Western Systems Power Pool Agreement.

Comment date: December 14, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

24. UtiliCorp United Inc. and St. Joseph Light & Power Company; UtiliCorp United Inc. and The Empire District Electric Company

[Docket Nos. EC00-27-000 and EC00-28-000]

Take notice that on November 23, 1999, UtiliCorp United Inc. (UtiliCorp) and St. Joseph Light & Power (St. Joseph) and UtiliCorp and The Empire District Electric Company (Empire) (collectively, the Applicants) filed a Joint Application pursuant to Section 203 of the Federal Power Act and Part 33 of the Commission's regulations requesting authorization and approval of proposed mergers and resulting dispositions of jurisdictional facilities between UtiliCorp and St. Joseph and UtiliCorp and Empire. In both transactions, UtiliCorp will be the surviving corporation and will continue to provide electric service through separate control areas in Colorado, Missouri-Kansas, and West Virginia. The mergers will not affect any contract for the purchase, sale, or interchange of electric energy since the merging companies will continue to operate as separate entities.

The Applicants have submitted testimony and other evidence in support of the request that the mergers be approved. The Applicants have requested that the Commission issue its approval of the merger expeditiously without conducting an evidentiary hearing.

Comment date: January 24, 2000, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

25. California Power Exchange Corporation

[Docket Nos. EL99-75-002, EC96-19-051, and ER96-1663-053]

Take notice that on November 24, 1999, the California Power Exchange Corporation (PX) tendered for filing certain amendments to its bylaws. CalPX states that this filing is in compliance with the Commission's October 30, 1997 order in Docket Nos. EC96-19-000, et al. and its declaratory order issued August 5, 1999 in Docket No. EL99-75-000.

Comment date: December 27, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

26. American Energy Trading, Inc.

[Docket No. ER97-360-012]

Take notice that on November 22, 1999, American Energy Trading, Inc. filed their quarterly report for the quarter ending September 30, 1999, for information only.

Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 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. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-32004 Filed 12-9-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-14-000]

Buccaneer Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Buccaneer Gas Pipeline Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings and Site Visits

December 6, 1999.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) and the Minerals Management Service (MMS) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Buccaneer Gas Pipeline Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Buccaneer Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (Buccaneer) in Alabama, the Gulf of Mexico, and Florida.¹ These facilities would consist of about 674 miles of various diameter pipeline, 75,000 horsepower (hp) of compression, 14 metering and regulating (M&R) stations, and a liquids separation facility. Due to the division of proposed facilities between onshore and offshore areas, the FERC will focus on analysis of onshore issues. The MMS will have primary responsibility for offshore analysis and will coordinate with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding state waters review. This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity. The application and other supplemental filings in this docket are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. General information about the MMS and detailed information regarding the Gulf of Mexico can be accessed at the MMS Internet website (www.mms.gov).

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a

¹ Buccaneer's application was filed with the Commission on October 28, 1999, under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to 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 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

The FERC is the lead agency for the EIS. The MMS is a Federal cooperating agency for this project because the MMS has jurisdiction by law as well as special expertise regarding the potential environmental impacts associated with that portion of the proposed pipeline that would be installed on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Additionally, with this notice we are asking a number of Federal and State agencies (see appendix 2) with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS. These agencies may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their agencies' responsibilities.

The FERC is concurrently issuing a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the Gulfstream Project, Docket No. CP00-6-000. Both the Buccaneer and Gulfstream Projects share a similar point of origin, cross the Gulf of Mexico, and reach landfall near Tampa, Florida. Furthermore, the two projects could potentially serve some of the same markets in Central Florida, particularly in Polk County. For these reasons we are asking your help on how to evaluate these projects. We are also soliciting comments on the preparation of a single EIS on both projects, or a separate EIS on each project. We will hold joint

scoping meetings at locations where we believe there is a reasonable amount of overlap of the potentially affected parties. Maps showing the proposed Buccaneer Project are in appendix 3 and maps showing the location of both projects are included in appendix 4.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Buccaneer proposes to construct and operate a new natural gas pipeline system with a transportation capacity of approximately .9 billion cubic feet per day from the Mobile Bay area in Alabama to markets in Florida. The State of Florida is experiencing a substantial increase in demand for electric power that is tied to the growth of population in the state. Specifically, Buccaneer seeks authority to construct and operate the following:

- About 411.2 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline from Mobile County, Alabama, across the Gulf of Mexico to a point in Pasco County, Florida.
- About 121.5 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in Pasco, Polk, Osceola, and Orange Counties, Florida;
- About 141.5 miles of 16- to 30-inch-diameter laterals in Pasco, Polk, Hardee, Lake, Osceola, Orange, and Brevard Counties, Florida;
- 14 M&R stations in Mobile County, Alabama and Pasco, Polk, Hardee, Lake, Osceola, Orange, and Brevard Counties, Florida; and
- A new 75,000 hp compressor station in Mobile County, Alabama and a new Liquids Separation Facility in Pasco County, Florida.

The proposed facilities are summarized in tables 1, 2, and 3 below. The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 3. If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the project send in your request using the form in appendix 6.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of onshore pipeline facilities for the Buccaneer Gas Pipeline Project would affect a total of about

3,851 acres of land including 3,610 acres required for pipeline construction and extra workspace, 46 acres for construction of the aboveground facilities, and 195 acres for contractor, mobilization, and pipe storage yards. Over 70 construction access road locations have been identified. Total land requirements for the onshore permanent right-of-way would be about 1,628 acres. The remaining 2,223 acres of onshore land affected by construction would be restored and returned to its former use.

Approximately 184 miles (70 percent) of the proposed onshore pipelines in Florida would be installed within or adjacent to various existing utility rights-of-way. Buccaneer would typically use a 110-foot-wide construction right-of-way width for the 36-inch- and 30-inch-diameter pipelines. In general, the construction right-of-way width for the 24-inch to 16-inch-diameter lateral pipelines would be from 100 to 75 feet in width. Additional extra temporary work areas may be necessary for waterbody, highway and railroad crossings, additional topsoil storage, and pipe storage and equipment yards.

Following construction and restoration of the right-of-way and temporary work spaces, Buccaneer would generally retain a new 50-foot-wide permanent easement. The remaining portion of the construction right-of-way would be temporary and returned to landowners for their use without restrictions after appropriate reclamation efforts are successful.

Constructing the offshore portion of the Buccaneer Gas Pipeline Project would affect about 1,825 acres of sea floor. Land requirements for operation of the offshore permanent right-of-way would be about 9,866 acres (based on MMS-required 200-foot-wide operation right-of-way width which is greater than the proposed construction right-of-way width).

TABLE 1.—PROPOSED MAINLINE PIPELINES FOR THE BUCCANEER GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

Facility/County or marine area	Mileposts begin—end	Segment length (miles)	Diameter (inches)	County, State
Alabama Mainline:				
Mobile County	0.00—4.14	4.14	36"	Mobile County.
Offshore	4.14—16.66	12.52	36"	State Waters.
Subtotal		16.66		Alabama.
Gulf of Mexico Mainline:				

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's website at the "RIMS" link or from the Commission's Public

Reference and files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. For instructions on connecting to RIMS refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the

appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

TABLE 1.—PROPOSED MAINLINE PIPELINES FOR THE BUCCANEER GAS PIPELINE PROJECT—Continued

Facility/County or marine area	Mileposts begin–end	Segment length (miles)	Diameter (inches)	County, State
Mobile	16.66–50.91	34.25	36"	Gulf of Mexico.
Pensacola	50.91–105.01	54.10	36"	Gulf of Mexico.
Destin Dome	105.01–187.13	82.12	36"	Gulf of Mexico.
Apalachicola	187.13–214.79	27.66	36"	Gulf of Mexico.
Florida Middle Ground	214.79–331.63	116.84	36"	Gulf of Mexico.
Tarpon Springs	331.63–393.43	61.80	36"	Gulf of Mexico.
Subtotal		376.77		Gulf of Mexico.
Florida Mainline:				
Offshore	393.43–411.12	17.69	36"	State Waters.
Pasco County	411.12–411.21	0.09	36"	Pasco County.
Pasco County	0.00–46.24	46.24	36"	Pasco County.
Polk County	0.00–38.95	38.95	36"	Polk County.
Osceola County	0.00–15.59	15.59	36"	Osceola County.
Orange County	0.00–20.68	20.68	36"	Orange County.
Subtotal		139.24		Florida.
Total Mainline		532.67		

TABLE 2.—PROPOSED LATERAL PIPELINES FOR THE BUCCANEER GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

Lateral	Mileposts begin–end	Length (miles)	Diameter (inches)	County, State
Anclote	0.00–0.10	0.10	16"	Pasco County, FL.
Lakeland Interconnect	0.00–0.26	0.26	16"	Polk County, FL.
Tiger Bay	0.00–37.99	37.99	30"	Polk County, FL.
Hines	0.00–2.85	2.85	20"	Polk County, FL.
Polk	0.00–1.52	1.52	20"	Polk County, FL.
Payne Creek	0.00–14.04	14.04	20"	Polk County, FL.
	14.04–14.88	0.84	20"	Hardee County, FL.
Leesburg	0.00–9.52	9.52	24"	Polk County, FL.
	9.52–46.60	37.08	24"	Lake County, FL.
Intercession City	0.00–0.28	0.28	16"	Osceola County, FL.
Cane Island	0.00–0.13	0.13	16"	Osceola County, FL.
Stanton	0.00–0.78	0.78	16"	Orange County, FL.
Oleander	0.00–19.21	19.21	30"	Orange County, FL.
	19.21–25.21	6.00	30"	Brevard County, FL.
	25.21–34.68	9.47	24"	Brevard County, FL.
Indian River	0.00–0.29	0.29	18"	Brevard County, FL.
Cape Canaveral	0.00–1.11	1.11	18"	Brevard County, FL.
Total Laterals		141.47		

TABLE 3.—ABOVEGROUND FACILITIES FOR THE BUCCANEER GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

Facility	Mainline/lateral	Milepost	Maximum volume MMcf/day	County, State
Compressor Station 1	Alabama Mainline	0.00	900	Alabama
Buccaneer Meter Station	Alabama Mainline	0.00	900	Mobile County
				Mobile County
				Florida
Liquids Separation Facility	Pasco County Mainline	0.00	900	Pasco County
Anclote M&R	Anclote Lateral	0.10	100	Pasco County
Lakeland Interconnect M&R	Lakeland Interconnect Lateral	0.26	100	Polk County
Tiger Bay M&R	Tiger Bay Lateral	37.44	120	Polk County
Hines M&R	Hines Lateral	2.85	120	Polk County

TABLE 3.—ABOVEGROUND FACILITIES FOR THE BUCCANEER GAS PIPELINE PROJECT—Continued

Facility	Mainline/lateral	Milepost	Maximum volume MMcf/day	County, State
Polk M&R	Polk Lateral	1.52	120	Polk County
Payne Creek M&R	Payne Creek Lateral	14.88	120	Hardee County
Leesburg M&R	Leesburg Lateral	46.60	170	Lake County
Intercession City M&R	Intercession City Lateral	0.28	60	Osceola County
Cane Island M&R	Cane Island Lateral	0.13	100	Osceola County
Stanton M&R	Stanton Lateral	0.78	80	Orange County
Oleander M&R	Oleander Lateral	34.68	220	Brevard County
Indian River M&R	Indian River Lateral	0.29	100	Brevard County
Cape Canaveral M&R	Cape Canaveral Lateral	1.11	100	Brevard County

MMcf/day = Million cubic feet per day.
M&R = meter and regulating station.

The EIS 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 EIS on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EIS. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EIS. 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 EIS will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology, mineral resources, and soils
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
- Coastal and marine resources
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Endangered and threatened species
- Land ownership and use
- Recreation and public interest areas
- Visual resources and aesthetics
- Cultural resources
- Air quality and noise
- Hazardous waste
- Socioeconomics
- Pipeline safety
- Alternatives

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the Draft EIS which will be mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, affected landowners and other interested individuals, newspapers,

libraries, and the Commission’s official service list for this proceeding. A 45-day comment period will be allotted for review of the Draft EIS. We will consider all comments on the Draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a Final EIS. The Final EIS will include our response to each comment received and will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether to approve the project.

To ensure that your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section beginning on page 9.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

The EIS will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project. FERC and MMS have already identified a number of issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Buccaneer. Some of these issues are listed below.

This is a preliminary list of issues and will be changed based on your comments and our analysis. Currently identified environmental issues for the Buccaneer Gas Pipeline Project include:

- Effect of construction on 136 perennial waterbody crossings, including about 39 waterbodies 100 feet wide or greater;
- Crossing six waterbodies classified as Outstanding Florida Waters;
- Erosion control and potential for sediment transport to waterbodies and wetlands;
- Effect of construction on aquifers at or near the land surface;
- Effect of construction on 448 wetland crossings, including about 129 acres of permanent alteration of wetlands;
- Clearing of about 825 acres of forest;

- Effect on wildlife, fisheries, and rare plant habitats, both onshore and offshore;
- Potential to affect 58 federally endangered and threatened species and 116 state-protected species including the bald eagle, Florida scrub jay, red-cockaded woodpecker, Atlantic gulf sturgeon, and West Indian manatee;
- Effect on marine resources, including subsurface geology, live bottom habitat, seagrass beds, and essential fish habitat;
- Potential to affect commercial and recreational boating operations;
- Potential to affect military marine training operations;
- Potential for sinkhole formation and flooding;
- Construction through or along the edge of active or inactive surface mines;
- Effect on historic and prehistoric archaeological sites and historic structures;
- Impact on about 206 residences potentially within 50 feet of the construction right-of-way;
- Potential impact on 11 planned residential areas and 19 Developments of Regional Impact;
- Potential introduction and control of non-native species;
- Effect on speciality crops such as citrus groves;
- Effect on public lands and special use areas including the Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve, Green Swamp, Starkey Wilderness Park, Tasohatchee State Preserve, and Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem;
- Effect on bird rookeries;
- Visual effect of above ground facilities on surrounding areas;
- Effect on local air quality and noise environment as a result of compressor station operations; and
- Combined effect of the proposed project with other projects, including other natural gas pipelines, which

have been or may be proposed in the same region and similar time frames.

Public Participation and Scoping Meetings

You can make a difference by providing us with our specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commenter, your concerns will be addressed in the EIS and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including

alternative 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 comments to: David P. Boergers, 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 II, PR-11.2.

- Reference Docket No. CP00-14-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before *January 21, 2000*.

In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments, we invite you to attend the public scoping meetings the FERC will conduct in the project area. The locations and times for these meetings are listed below.

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS FOR THE BUCCANEER GAS PIPELINE PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Date and Time	Location	Phone
January 4, 2000; 7:00 p.m.	Mobile Convention Center, 1 South Water Street, Mobile, Alabama ³	334-208-2128
January 5, 2000; 7:00 p.m.	Clarion Hotel, 5316 U.S. Highway 19, New Port Richey, Florida	727-847-9005
January 11, 2000; 7:00 p.m.	Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, The Florida Room, 500 3rd Street, NW, Winter Haven, Florida ³ .	863-291-5820
January 12, 2000; 7:00 p.m.	Holiday Inn, 2145 E. Irlto Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, Florida.	407-846-4646
January 13, 2000; 7:00 p.m.	City of Titusville Council Chambers, 55 South Washington Avenue, Titusville, Florida.	321-383-5774

The public meetings are designed to provide you with more detailed information and another opportunity to offer your comments on the proposed project. Prior to the start of the meetings, company representatives will be available to informally discuss the project. At 7:00 p.m. each company will provide a summary discussion of the project (about 10 minutes each). Then the comment period will begin. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and to present comments on the environmental issues they believe should be addressed in the Draft EIS. A transcript of each meeting will be made so that your comments will be accurately recorded.

On the dates of the meetings, our staff will also be visiting some project areas. Anyone interested in participating in a site visit may contact the Commission's Office of External Affairs identified at the end of appendix 1 of this notice for more details and must provide their own transportation.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EIS scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor." Intervenor 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 5). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Environmental Mailing List

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. It is also being sent to all identified potential right-of-way grantors. As details of the project become established, representatives of

Buccaneer Gas Pipeline Project may also separately contact landowners, communities, and public agencies concerning project matters, including acquisition of permits and rights-of-way.

All commenters will be retained on our mailing list. If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to keep informed and receive copies of the Draft and Final EISs, you must return the Information Request (appendix 6). If you do not send comments or return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of external Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the

³ Scoping meetings at Mobile, Alabama and Winter Haven Florida would involve joint meetings for the Buccaneer and Gulfstream Projects.

CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-32007 Filed 12-9-99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Commission

Gulfstream Natural Gas System, L.L.C.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Gulfstream Pipeline Project, Request for comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings and Site Visit

December 6, 1999.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) and the Minerals Management Service (MMS) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Gulfstream Pipeline Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Gulfstream Natural Gas System, L.L.C. (Gulfstream) in Alabama, Mississippi, the Gulf of Mexico, and Florida.¹ These facilities would consist of about 744 miles of various diameter pipeline, 120,000 horsepower (hp) of compression, a pressure regulating station, 20 meter stations, 3 manifold stations, 5 take-off stations, 25 mainline valve sites, and 17 pig launchers or receivers. This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity. Due to the division of proposed facilities between onshore and offshore areas, the FERC will focus on analysis on onshore issues. The MMS will have primary responsibility for offshore analysis and will coordinate with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding state waters review. The application and other supplemental filings in this docket are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the

CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. General information about the MMS and detailed information regarding the Gulf of Mexico can be accessed at the MMS Internet website (www.mms.gov).

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, 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 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 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

The FERC is the lead agency and the MMS is a federal cooperating agency for this project because the MMS has jurisdiction by law as well as special expertise regarding the potential environmental impacts associated with the portion of the proposed pipeline that would be installed on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Additionally, with this notice we are asking a number of Federal and state agencies (see appendix 2) with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS. These agencies may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their agencies' responsibilities.

The FERC is concurrently issuing a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the Buccaneer Project, Docket No. CP00-14-000. The Gulfstream and Buccaneer Projects share a similar point of origin, cross the Gulf of Mexico, and reach landfall near Tampa, Florida. Furthermore, the two projects could potentially serve some of the same markets in central Florida, particularly in Polk County. For these reasons we are asking your help on how to evaluate these projects. We are soliciting comments on whether to prepare a single EIS for both projects, or a separate EIS for each project. We will hold joint scoping meetings at locations where we

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's website at the "RIMS" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. For instructions on connecting to RIMS refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

believe there is a reasonable amount of overlap of the potentially affected parties. Maps showing the proposed Gulfstream project are in appendix 3 and maps showing the locations of both projects are included in appendix 4.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Gulfstream's proposed project would transport to Florida up to 1.13 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas from sources in Alabama and Mississippi. The State of Florida is experiencing a substantial increase in demand for electric power that is tied to the growth of population in the state.

The proposed Gulfstream project would traverse southeast Mississippi and southwest Alabama, the Gulf of Mexico, and Florida. The natural gas supply line would originate at a supply meter station in Jackson County, Mississippi. Gulfstream seeks authority to construct and operate the following:

- About 11.5 miles of 36-inch diameter pipeline in Jackson County and in offshore waters of Mississippi;
- About 37.6 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in Mobile County and in offshore waters of Alabama;
- About 378.2 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and 24.4 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in waters of the State of Florida;
- About 52.7 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in Manatee, Hardee, and Polk Counties, Florida;
- About 122.8 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline in Hardee, Highlands, Martin, Okeechobee, and Polk Counties, Florida, and about 101.0 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Hardee, Polk, Osceola, Martin, St. Lucie, and Palm Beach Counties, Florida;
- About 15.8 miles of 16-inch-diameter sublaterals pipeline in Hardee and Polk Counties, Florida;
- 20 metering stations in Jackson county, Mississippi, Mobile County, Alabama and Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, and Polk Counties, Florida;
- A 120,000-horsepower compressor station in Mobile County, Alabama; and
- Pig launching and/or receiving facilities, a pressure regulator station, and 25 mainline valves at various locations.

Overall, the Gulfstream project would consist of approximately 744 miles of new pipeline. See tables 1 and 2 for a listing of project facilities. The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 3. If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the project send in your request using the form in appendix 6.

¹ Gulfstream's application was filed with the Commission on October 15, 1999, under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.