

(Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124, filed in Docket No. CP01-16-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for permission and approval to abandon Unit #12, with appurtenances, at the Stevens Co. #2 compressor station located in Stevens County, Kansas, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Specifically, Northern requests authority to abandon and remove Unit #12, as skid-mounted 506 hp rental unit,¹ and appurtenant facilities consisting of suction and discharge piping, control and exhaust equipment, a foundation, fuel metering and similar equipment. Northern states that the unit will be removed and returned to the rental company, and the appurtenant facilities will be disposed of or returned to inventory. Northern asserts that the compressor unit is no longer required due to changes in the operating conditions that have eliminated the need for this compressor unit. Northern also states that the abandonment will not: (1) impact any firm service obligations to its customers; (2) result in the abandonment of service to any of Northern's existing shippers; or (3) adversely effect capacity.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Keith L. Petersen, Director, Certificates and Report for Northern, 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124, at (402) 398-7421 or Michele Winckowski, Senior Regulatory Analyst, at (402) 398-7082.

Any person desiring to be heard or any person desiring to make any protests with reference to said application should on or before November 16, 2000, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 or 385.214) and the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a

¹ This rental compressor unit was installed pursuant to Northern's blanket certificate authority granted by order in Docket No. CP82-401-000 issued on September 1, 1982 (20 FERC ¶ 62,410).

party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules. Beginning November 1, 2000, comments and protests may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the NGA and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Northern to appear or be represented at the hearing.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-27997 Filed 10-31-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP01-13-000]

Southern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Albany Compressor Station Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

October 26, 2000.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Albany Compressor Station Project involving the operation of facilities by Southern Natural Gas Company (Southern) in Dougherty County, Georgia.¹ The proposal consists of

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

returning to full time operation an existing backup compressor unit at the Albany Compressor Station. This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" was attached to the project notice Southern provided to landowners. This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Southern wants to reinstate a 1,232 horsepower reciprocating compressor unit at the Albany Compressor Station to full time service. At this time the unit is only used as a backup unit that is available in the event other facilities on the system are taken out of service for maintenance or repair.

The location of the Albany Compressor Station is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

The compressor unit was installed at the Albany Compressor Station in 1982. No ground disturbance would be required. All activities would be confined to the existing Albany Compressor Station.

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 us³ 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 Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments

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, 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.

³ "We", "us", and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP).

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 change in the operation of the Albany Compressor Station. In particular the EA will focus on the changes in noise and air emissions resulting from the increased operation of the compressor unit.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed 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 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 below.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

Because the compressor unit has already been installed, we have identified only two issues that we think deserve additional attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Southern. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Increase in air emissions caused by operating the compressor unit full time.
- Increase in noise from the compressor station.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentor, 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), 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 an original and two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas 2.
- Reference Docket No. CP01-13-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before November 27, 2000. Beginning November 1, 2000, comments and protests may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

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 2). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-0004 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. 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 CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER01-172-000, et al.]

Illinois Power Company, et al.; Electric Rate and Corporate Regulation Filings

October 25, 2000.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. Illinois Power Company

[Docket No. ER01-172-000]

Take notice that on October 20, 2000, Illinois Power Company (IP), 500 South 27th Street, Decatur, Illinois 65251-2200, tendered for filing with the Commission Service Agreements for Firm Short-Term Point-To-Point Transmission Service and for Non-Firm Point-To-Point Transmission Service with NRG Power Marketing Inc. (NRG) and with Ameren Energy Marketing Company (Ameren). The Agreements have been entered into pursuant to IP's Open Access Transmission Tariff.

IP requests an effective date of September 25, 2000 for the Agreements with NRG, an effective date of October 2, 2000 for the Agreements with Ameren, and a waiver of the Commission's notice requirement.

IP has served a copy of the filing on NRG and Ameren.

Comment date: November 9, 2000, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

2. Lighthouse Energy Trading Company, Inc.

[Docket No. ER01-174-000]

Take notice that on October 20, 2000, Lighthouse Energy Trading Company, Inc., a South Dakota Corporation, (Lighthouse) petitioned the Commission for acceptance of Lighthouse Rate Schedule FERC No. 1; the granting of certain blanket approvals, including the authority to sell electricity at market-