

Transco to abandon certain pipeline facilities, located in offshore Texas, which are portions of the North Padre Island Gathering System and the Central Texas Gathering System (North Padre and Central Texas Gathering Systems), by transfer to Williams Gas Processing-Gulf Coast Company, L.P. (WGP), an affiliate of Transco, 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).

Transco proposes to abandon 3.83 miles of 10-inch pipeline and 18.79 miles of 20-inch pipeline of the North Padre Gathering System, located in the North Padre Island Area and the North Padre Island Area East Addition, offshore Texas by transfer to WFP. Transco also proposes to abandon 4.96 miles of 6-inch pipeline, 4.19 miles of 8-inch pipeline, 3.77 miles of 10-inch pipeline, 64.79 miles of 12-inch pipeline, 11.56 miles of 16-inch pipeline, 116.48 miles of 20-inch pipeline, 23.42 miles of 24-inch pipeline, and 41.15 miles of 30-inch pipeline of the Central Texas Gathering System, located in the Galveston Area, the Brazos Area, the Brazos Area South Addition, the Matagorda Island Area, and the Mustang Island Area East Addition, offshore Texas by transfer to WGP. Transco advises that the facilities will be transferred at net book value, which has been calculated at \$34,893,250 as of October 31, 2000.

Transco also requests authorization to abandon its Rate Schedule X-66, under which Transco states that gas has not flowed since 1989. Transco asserts that it has either notified or has caused the notification of the affected parties of its intent to terminate and abandon the affected services, and WGP will begin discussions with the affected parties for continued service.

WGP has concurrently filed a petition for a declaratory order in Docket No. CP01-32-000 requesting that the Commission determine that WGP's acquisition, ownership, and operation of the facilities at issue not subject WGP or any portion of WGP's facilities, rates, or services to the jurisdiction of the Commission under the Natural Gas Act.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Randall R. Conklin, Vice President and General Counsel, and Gisela Charches, Senior Attorney at (713) 215-2000, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation, P.O. Box 1396, Houston, Texas 77251.

There are two ways to become involved in the Commission's review of

this project. First, any person wishing to obtain legal status by becoming a party to the proceedings for this project should, on or before December 21, 2000, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.10). A person obtaining party status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by all other parties. A party must submit 14 copies of filings made with the Commission and must mail a copy to the applicant and to every other party in the proceeding. Only parties to the proceeding can ask for court review of Commission orders in the proceeding.

However, a person does not have to intervene in order to have comments considered. The second way to participate is by filing with the Secretary of the Commission, as soon as possible, an original and two copies of comments in support of or in opposition to this project. The Commission will consider these comments in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but the filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that persons filing comments in opposition to the project provide copies of their protests only to the party or parties directly involved in the protest.

Persons who wish to comment only on the environmental review of this project should submit an original and two copies of their comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Environmental commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of the environmental documents, and will be notified of meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Environmental commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, the non-party commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission (except for the mailing of environmental documents issued by the Commission) and will not have the right to seek court review of the Commission's final order.

The Commission may issue a preliminary determination on non-environmental issues prior to the completion of its review of the

environmental aspects of the projects. This preliminary determination typically considers such issues as the need for the project and its economic effect on existing customers of the applicant, on other pipelines in the area, and on landowners and communities. For example, the Commission considers the extent to which the applicant may need to exercise eminent domain to obtain rights-of-way for the proposed project and balances that against the non-environmental benefits to be provided by the project. Therefore, if a person has comments on community and landowner impacts from this proposal, it is important either to file comments or to intervene as early in the process as possible.

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>.

If the Commission decides to set the application for a formal hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, the Commission will issue another notice describing that process. At the end of the Commission's review process, a final Commission order approving or denying a certificate will be issued.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP01-32-000]

Williams Gas Processing—Gulf Coast Company, L.P.; Notice of Petition for Declaratory Order

November 30, 2000.

Take notice that on November 20, 2000, Williams Gas Processing—Gulf Coast Company, L.P. (WGP), P.O. Box 1396, Houston, Texas 77251, in Docket No. CP01-32-000 filed a petition for a declaratory order requesting that the Commission declare that certain pipeline facilities located almost entirely in offshore waters on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), offshore Texas to be acquired from WGP's affiliate, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco), would have the primary function of gathering of natural gas and would thereby be exempt from the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to Section 1(b) of the Natural Gas Act,

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).

WGP states that the pipeline facilities at issue consist of portions of the North Padre Island Gathering System (North Padre) and the Central Texas Gathering System (Central Texas). Specifically, WGP states that the North Padre facilities consist of 3.83 miles of 10-inch pipeline that begins in North Padre Island (NPI) Block 967 and ends at NPI Block 956 and 18.79 miles of 20-inch pipeline that begins in East Addition Block A-42 and ends at NPI Block 956, offshore Texas. WGP states that the Central Texas facilities consist of 4.96 miles of 6-inch pipeline, 4.19 miles of 8-inch pipeline, 3.77 miles of 10-inch pipeline, 64.79 miles of 12-inch pipeline, 11.56 miles of 16-inch pipeline, 116.48 miles of 20-inch pipeline, 23.42 miles of 24-inch pipeline, and 41.15 miles of 30-inch pipeline in the Brazos Area Block 538, offshore Texas.

Under a Transfer and Assignment Agreement entered into by WGP and Transco, WGP indicates that it will provide gathering services in a manner consistent with open access and non-discriminatory principles. WGP advises that no customers presently receive direct sales service from the subject facilities pursuant to right-of-way agreements or other sales agreements, therefore, no direct sales service will be terminated as a result of the transfer.

WGP states that the primary function of the facilities is gathering, consistent with the criteria set forth in *Farmland Industries, Inc.* (23 FERC ¶ 61,063 (1983)), as modified in subsequent orders, and in *Sea Robin Pipeline Co.* (87 FERC ¶ 61,384 (1999), reh'g denied, 92 FERC ¶ 61,072 (2000)).

WGP advises that this petition is a companion to Transco's concurrently filed application in Docket No. CP01-34-000 to abandon the subject facilities by transfer to WGP.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Steve Springer, Senior Vice President, at (713) 439-2454, Williams Gas Processing-Gulf Coast Company, L.P., Houston, Texas 77251.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said Application should on or before December 21, 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 18 CFR 385.214) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (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 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 Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before The Commission or its designee on this Application if no petition to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the abandonment is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a petition 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 WGP to appear or be represented at the hearing.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-30981 Filed 12-5-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Proposed Change in Land Rights, and Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Protests

November 30, 2000.

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

a. *Type of Application:* Change in Land Rights.

b. *Project No:* 2738-049.

c. *Date Filed:* September 27, 2000.

d. *Applicant:* New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG).

e. *Name of Project:* Saranac River Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* The subject parcel is located upstream from the Kents Falls dam, near the Kents Falls Reservoir, in Clinton County, New York.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Carol A. Howland, Project Environmental Specialist, NYSEG, P.O. Box 5224, Binghamton, New York, 13902, (607) 729-2551.

i. *FERC Contact:* Any questions concerning this notice should be addressed to Paul Friedman at (202) 208-1108; e-mail: paul.friedman@ferc.fed.us.

j. *Deadline for filing comments, motions, or protests:* January 5, 2001.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. Please include the Project No. (2738-049) on any comments or motions filed. Comments 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 web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

k. *Description of Project:* The Kents Falls development consists of: (1) a 172-foot-wide, 59-foot-high, concrete gravity dam; (2) a reservoir with a surface area of 43 acres; (3) a penstock; (4) a powerhouse; (5) headworks; (6) surge tank; and (7) appurtenant facilities. The change in land rights would be for a 101 acre parcel located within the project boundary for the Kents Falls development. The purpose of the change in land rights is to allow the licensee to convey project lands to Clinton County, to allow for the future expansion of the county's adjacent existing land fill.

l. *Locations of this 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, Washington, D.C. 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The filing may be viewed on <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 in item h. above.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene—Anyone may submit