

proceeding. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create a free account, which can be created by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. This filing is considered a "Comment on Filing."

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this EA. You must file your request to intervene as specified above.¹ You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1-866-208-FERC or on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link on the FERC Internet Web site also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to

the documents. Go to the eSubscription link on the FERC Internet Web site.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2170-029—Alaska]

Chugach Electric Association; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

November 17, 2006.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission or FERC) regulations (18 CFR Part 380), Commission staff has reviewed the application for license for the Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2170-029) and has prepared an environmental assessment (EA). The project is located on Cooper Lake, Cooper Creek and Kenai Lake on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. The EA contains the staff's analysis of the potential environmental effects of the project and concludes that licensing the project, with appropriate environmental protective measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

A copy of the EA is on file with the Commission and is available for public inspection. The EA may also be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access documents. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Any comments should be filed within 30 days from the issuance date of this notice, and should be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1-A, Washington, DC 20426. Please affix "Saranac River Project No. 2738" to all comments. Comments may be filed electronically via Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "eFiling" link. For further

information, contact David Turner at (202) 502-6091.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project; Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Priest Rapids Project

November 17, 2006.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (18 CFR Part 380 [FERC Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897]), the Office of Energy Projects staff (staff) has reviewed the application for a New Major License for the Priest Rapids Project (FERC No. 2114-116), located on the Columbia River in Grant, Yakima, Kittitas, Douglas, Benton, and Chelan Counties, Washington, and has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (final EIS) for the project. The project occupies about 3,104 acres of federal lands managed by the U.S.: Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Energy, Department of the Army, and Fish and Wildlife Service.

The final EIS contains staff's analysis of the applicant's proposal and the alternatives for relicensing the Priest Rapids Project. The final EIS documents the views of the Commission staff and of government agencies, non-government organizations, affected Indian tribes, the public, and the license applicant.

A copy of the final EIS is available for review in the Commission Public Reference Branch, Room 2A, located at 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. The final EIS may also be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the eLibrary link. Enter docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, 202-502-8659.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects.

¹ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

For assistance, contact FERC Online Support. For further information, please contact Kim A. Nguyen at (202) 502-6105 or at kim.nguyen@ferc.gov.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[FERC Docket No. PF06-36-000]

Colorado Interstate Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed High Plains Expansion Project; Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Site Visit and Open House Meeting Attendance

November 17, 2006.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that discusses the environmental impacts of the High Plains Expansion Project (project) involving construction and operation of by Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG) in Weld, Morgan, and Adams Counties, Colorado. These facilities would consist of about 170 miles of 24-inch and 30-inch-diameter pipeline in four separate pipeline segments. The EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision making process to determine if the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

The project is currently in the preliminary stages of design and at this time a formal application has not been filed with the Commission. For this project, the Commission is initiating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review prior to receiving the formal application. This pre-filing process allows interested stakeholders to become involved early in the project planning and to identify and resolve issues before a formal application is filed with the FERC. A docket number (PF06-36-000) has been established to place information filed by CIG and related documents issued or received by the Commission, into the public record.¹ Once a formal application is filed with the FERC, a new docket number will be established.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping period that will be used to

gather environmental input from the public and interested agencies on the Project. Please note that the scoping period will close on January 6, 2007. Details on how to submit comments are provided in the Public Participation section of this notice.

This notice is being sent to potentially affected landowners along the Project route; federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; and local libraries and newspapers.

With this notice, we² are asking federal, state, and local agencies 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 responsibilities. Agencies which would like to request cooperating status should follow the instructions for filing comments described later in this notice. We encourage government representatives to notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

Some affected landowners may be contacted by a project representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed pipeline. If so, the company should seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. In the event that the Project is certificated by the Commission, that approval conveys the right of eminent domain for securing easements for the pipeline. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is available for viewing on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

Summary of the Proposed Project

CIG is proposing to expand its existing pipeline system along Colorado's Front Range in order to provide additional transportation services to this rapidly growing market. Specifically, CIG is proposing to construct approximately 170 miles of 24-inch and 30-inch-diameter pipeline

in four separate pipeline segments in Weld, Morgan, and Adams Counties, Colorado as described below. The general locations of the proposed pipelines are shown in the figure included as Appendix 1³.

The Project consists of the following facilities:

- Line 250A—64.5 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipe and 20.5 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipe and 2 interconnect meter station facilities;
- Line 251A—58 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipe and 2 interconnect meter station facilities;
- Line 252A—14.9 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipe and 1 interconnect meter station facility;
- Line 253A—6.1 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipe and 2 interconnect meter station facilities;
- Seven new meter stations and eighteen new block valves; and
- Pig launcher/receivers at the beginning and ending of the four new pipeline segments.

The entire project when completed would carry a total capacity of approximately 874,000 decatherms of gas per day. CIG is requesting approval such that the facilities are completed and put into service by August 2008. CIG proposes to begin construction in February 2008.

Land Requirements for Construction

CIG would use a typical 100-foot-wide construction right-of-way for the project. Additional work area would be required at certain feature crossings (e.g., waterbodies, wetlands, roads, and railroad crossings), staging areas, pipe yards, contractor's yards, and widening of certain access roads.

Based on preliminary information, it is estimated that construction of the proposed facilities would disturb about 2,000 acres of land. Of the 2,000 acres, about 1,000 acres would be temporary disturbed and about 1,000 acres would be permanently maintained for operation of the pipeline within a 50-foot-wide permanent right-of-way, and as aboveground facility sites.

Following construction, all temporary workspaces would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

The EIS Process

The FERC will be the lead federal agency for the preparation of the EIS.

³ The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies (excluding maps) are available on the Commission's Internet website (<http://www.ferc.gov>) at the "eLibrary" link or from the Commission's Public Reference Room at (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the end of this notice.

¹ To view information in the docket, follow the instructions for using the eLibrary link at the end of this notice.

² "We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects.