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**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-19790 Filed 10-5-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11879-001—Idaho]

#### Symbiotics, LLC; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

September 28, 2007.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) regulations (18 CFR part 380), Commission staff have reviewed the license application for the Chester Diversion Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 11879) and have prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed action. The project is located on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Fremont County, Idaho, downstream of some of the most well-known fly fishing areas in the country.

Symbiotics, LLC (applicant) filed an application for license with the Commission for an original license for the 3.3-megawatt (MW) Chester Diversion Hydroelectric Project, using the existing Cross Cut Diversion dam (Chester Diversion dam).<sup>1</sup> In this draft

<sup>1</sup> The Chester Diversion dam was initially constructed as the "Cross Cut Diversion dam" because it served as the diversion dam for the Cross Cut irrigation canal. It now also serves as the diversion dam for the Last Chance irrigation canal, and because of its location near Chester, Idaho, is now referred to as the Chester Diversion dam.

EA, Commission staff analyzes the probable environmental effects of construction and operation of the project and have concluded that approval of the license, with appropriate staff-recommended environmental measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the draft EA are available for review in Public Reference Room 2-A of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC. The draft EA also may be viewed on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 502-6088, or on the Commission's Web site using the eLibrary link. For assistance with eLibrary, contact [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or call toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY contact (202) 502-8659.

Any comments on the draft EA should be filed within 30 days of the date of this notice and should be addressed to Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Please reference "Chester Diversion Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 11879-001" on all comments. 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's Web site under the "e-Filing" link.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PF07-14-000]

#### CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Tontitown Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

September 26, 2007.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will

While both names are appropriate, we use the "Chester Diversion" moniker for consistency and clarity in this EA.

discuss the environmental impacts of constructing and operating the CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company's (CenterPoint) proposed Tontitown Project (Project).

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process<sup>1</sup> public comment period we will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies about the proposed Project. Your input will help the Commission staff determine which issues need to be evaluated in the EA. Please note that the scoping period will close on October 27, 2007.

This notice is being sent to affected landowners; Federal, State, and local government representatives and agencies; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; other interested parties in this proceeding; and local libraries and newspapers. We encourage government representatives to notify their constituents of this proposed Project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

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 prepared by the Commission 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 Website (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

#### Summary of the Proposed Project

CenterPoint proposes to modify its existing interstate natural gas transmission system. Specifically, CenterPoint proposes to construct and operate approximately 16.0 miles of 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (OM-1-A pipeline) and ancillary facilities adjacent to an existing interstate natural gas pipeline in Logan and Franklin Counties, Arkansas.

<sup>1</sup> The National Environmental Policy Act requires the Commission to undertake a process to identify and address concerns the public may have about a proposed project. This process is commonly referred to as the "scoping process".

CenterPoint also proposes to construct and operate a 10,310-horsepower gas turbine-driven compressor station (Poteau Compressor Station) along existing natural gas pipelines in Le Flore County, Oklahoma.

Map depicting the proposed facilities are provided in Appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

#### Land Requirements for Construction

Construction and operation of the proposed pipeline would require the use of temporary and permanent rights-of-way. CenterPoint has indicated that it would utilize existing right-of-way easements adjacent to the proposed pipeline to the extent practicable. Construction and operation of the proposed compressor station would require the temporary and permanent use of up to 12.0 acres of land.

#### The Environmental Review and Assessment Processes

The Commission's staff has initiated a pre-filing environmental review of CenterPoint's proposed project. The purpose of the pre-filing environmental review is to identify and resolve potential environmental issues prior to the submission of an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (Certificate) by CenterPoint. During a pre-filing environmental review, the public is encouraged to comment on environmental issues related to the proposed Project. Upon completion of staff's pre-filing environmental review, CenterPoint has indicated that it would file an application for a Certificate. Based upon the pre-filing environmental review and CenterPoint's application, staff will prepare an EA as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which requires the Commission to consider the environmental impacts of a proposed project whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate.

The Commission's staff will prepare an EA that will discuss the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed Project under the following general headings:

- Geology and Soils.
- Water Resources and Wetlands.
- Fisheries, Vegetation and Wildlife.
- Threatened and Endangered

Species.

- Air Quality and Noise.
- Land Use.
- Cultural Resources.
- Pipeline Safety and Reliability.

The Commission's staff will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed Project including system and route alternatives and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid potential impacts to affected environmental resources.

As noted previously, the NEPA also requires the Commission to undertake a process to identify and address concerns the public may have about a proposed project. This process is commonly referred to as the "scoping process". The main goal of the "scoping process" is to identify public concerns so that they can be considered in the Commission's environmental review. Therefore, to satisfy NEPA requirements, the Commission requests comments on environmental issues that should be considered in its environmental review and assessment. To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section of this notice.

Upon completion of the staff's environmental review and depending on the issues identified and/or comments received during the "scoping" process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, State and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; affected landowners; other interested parties; local libraries and newspapers; and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A 30-day comment period would be allotted for review of the EA if it is published. Staff would consider all comments submitted concerning the EA before making their recommendations to the Commission.

Federal, state, or local agencies wishing to participate in staff's environmental review and the subsequent development of an EA may request "cooperating agency" status. Cooperating agencies are encouraged to participate in the scoping process and provide staff with written comments concerning the proposed Project. Agencies wanting to participate as a cooperating agency should send a letter as indicated in the public participation section of this notice describing the extent to which they would like to be involved.

#### Currently Identified Environmental Issues

The Commission's staff has already identified numerous environmental issues it thinks deserves consideration based on its review of preliminary information submitted by CenterPoint. These issues include potential impacts to:

- Land use.
- Residences.
- Federally-listed threatened and endangered species.
- Cultural resources; and
- Air and noise quality.

#### Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the proposed Project. By becoming a commentor, your comments and concerns will be considered in the environmental review, addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. Generally, comments are submitted regarding potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that your comments are properly recorded, please mail them to our office on or before October 27, 2007. When filing comments please:

- Send an original and two copies of your letter to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of your comments to the attention of Gas Branch 2, DG2E; and reference Pre-Filing Docket No. PF07-14-000 on the original and both copies.

Please note that the Commission encourages the electronic filing of comments. To file electronic comments online please see the instructions<sup>3</sup> on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Please note before you can file electronic comments with the Commission you will need to create a free online account.

Once CenterPoint files an application for a Certificate with the Commission, a stakeholder may choose to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor." Intervenors are allotted a more formal role in the process and are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission's final ruling. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are available on the Commission's Web site. Please note that requests to intervene will not be accepted until an application for a Certificate is filed with the Commission.

#### Environmental Mailing List

An effort has been made to send this notice to all individuals, organizations, and government entities that might be

<sup>2</sup>The appendices referenced to in this notice will not be printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies of these appendices are available on the Commission's Web site (excluding maps) at <http://www.ferc.gov> or from the Commission's Public Reference Room—(202) 502-8371.

<sup>3</sup> 18 Code of Federal Regulations 385.2001(a)(1)(iii).

interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed Project. This includes all landowners who are potential right-of-way grantors, landowners whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, and landowners with homes within distances defined in the Commission's regulations of certain aboveground facilities.

If you would like to remain on the environmental mailing list for this proposed Project, please return the Mailing List Retention Form found in Appendix 2. If you do not comment on this proposed Project or return this form, you will be removed from the Commission's environmental mailing list.

#### Availability of Additional Information

Additional information about the proposed Project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at 1-866-208 FERC (3372) or through the Commission's "eLibrary" which can be found online at <http://www.ferc.gov>. For assistance with the Commission's "eLibrary", contact the helpline at 1-866-208-3676, TTY (202) 502-8659, or at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov).

Additionally, the FERC now offers a free service called eSubscription that allows stakeholders to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time stakeholders spend researching proceedings by automatically providing them with notification of filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. To register for this service, go to <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>.

If applicable, public meetings or site visits associated with this proposed Project will be posted on the Commission's calendar which can be found online at <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx>.

#### Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-19775 Filed 10-5-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 7528-009]

#### Public Service Company of New Hampshire; Notice of Application Accepted for Filing, Soliciting Motions To Intervene and Protests, Ready for Environmental Analysis, and Soliciting Comments, Recommendations, Preliminary Terms and Conditions, and Preliminary Fishway Prescriptions

September 25, 2007.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* Subsequent License.

b. *Project No.:* 7528-009.

c. *Date Filed:* July 30, 2007.

d. *Applicant:* Public Service Company of New Hampshire.

e. *Name of Project:* Canaan Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* The project is located on the northern Connecticut River in Coos County, New Hampshire and Essex County, Vermont. The project does not occupy United States land.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* James K. Kerns, Project Manager, Public Service Company of New Hampshire, 780 North Commercial Street, Manchester, NH 03101 (603) 634-2936.

i. *FERC Contact:* Kristen Murphy (202) 502-6236 or [kristen.murphy@ferc.gov](mailto:kristen.murphy@ferc.gov).

j. The deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions is November 27, 2007, in accordance with the schedule set by the Commission's August 10, 2007, Notice of Application Tendered; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must

also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

Motions to intervene, protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions may be filed electronically via the 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 (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the "e-Filing" link.

k. This application has been accepted for filing and is ready for environmental analysis.

l. The existing project consist of: (1) A 275-foot-long, 14.5-foot-high concrete gravity dam with a spillway equipped with 3.5-foot-high wooden flashboards, utilized year-round; (2) a 20-acre reservoir with a gross storage capacity of approximately 200 acre-feet; (3) an intake structure with a 12.5-foot-wide, 12-foot-high timber gate leading to; (4) a 1,360-foot-long, 9-foot-diameter wood stave penstock; (5) two 21.3-foot-high, 15.3-foot-diameter steel surge tanks; (6) a powerhouse with one generating unit with an installed capacity of 1,100 kW; and (7) appurtenant facilities. The estimated average annual generation of the project is 7,300 megawatt-hours.

The project is currently operated in a run-of-river mode. Under the existing license, a total minimum flow of 136 cfs or inflow, whichever is less, is released downstream of the dam, with 50 cfs released through the 1,600-foot-long bypassed reach and the remaining 86 cfs released through the project turbine. As proposed, the project would continue to be operated in a run-of-river mode. Further, a total minimum flow of 165 cfs or inflow, whichever is less, would be released downstream of the project dam through the bypassed reach.

m. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may 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 the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, 202-502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.