discuss issues related to the responsiveness of regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs) to their customers and other stakeholders. Various parties filed specific proposals in the above-referenced proceedings to address perceived problems with stakeholder and Board processes and configurations. For example, during the Order No. 719 compliance period, the Ohio Consumers’ Council filed a motion to lodge a report on RTO/ISO governance written by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA). In the report, NASUCA argues that existing RTO/ISO structures prevent effective participation by end-user consumers for three reasons: (1) The decision-making process is complicated, (2) the decision-making process is time-intensive, and (3) most consumers and their advocates lack the resources required to meaningfully monitor and influence the stakeholder process. NASUCA argues that for these reasons, there is a lack of adequate retail consumer involvement under the current structure, which may lead to decisions that do not adequately consider the price of electricity to residential consumers.

To address these concerns, NASUCA recommends the Commission take action to reorganize the RTO/ISO stakeholder process and governance structure. First, NASUCA states that it is necessary to have all RTO/ISO Board meetings open to the public and include remote participation by teleconference wherever possible. Next, NASUCA proposes a revised governance structure that reflects consumer interests at the Board level, through the inclusion of two Board members with Consumer Advocate experience, at the Committee level, through a Standing Committee dedicated to Consumer Affairs, and within the RTO/ISO, through a Division of Consumer Affairs. NASUCA also recommends the creation of a funding mechanism, via RTO/ISO fees, which would provide resources for public representatives of consumers to support consumer positions at all levels of the stakeholder process.

In addition to the proposals made by NASUCA, other commenters argue that RTOs and ISOs must take further steps to satisfy the criteria established in Order No. 719 on responsiveness to customers and other stakeholders, including proposals to reduce the number of RTO and ISO meetings by streamlining approval processes and to include language in RTO and ISO mission statements reflecting consumer interests.

The technical conference will provide the Commission staff with the opportunity to further explore these concerns and proposals with the parties and the RTOs and ISOs. These dockets will remain open for 30 days following the conference in order to provide an opportunity for the filing of written comments. Attached is an agenda for the conference.

This conference will be webcast. All interested parties are invited, and there is no registration fee to attend.

FERC conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations please send an e-mail to accessibility@ferc.gov or call toll free (866) 208–3372 (voice) or (202) 502–8659 (TTY), or send a fax to (202) 208–2106 with the required accommodations.

Questions about the technical conference may be directed to Kurt Longo at kurt.longo@ferc.gov, (202) 502–8048.

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2010–919 Filed 1–19–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
[Docket No. PF09–15–000]

Dominion Transmission, Inc.; Notice of Public Scoping Meetings for the Appalachian Gateway Project

January 8, 2010.

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 Appalachian Gateway Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Dominion Transmission, Inc. (DTI) in northeastern West Virginia (WV) and southwestern Pennsylvania (PA). The EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the dates and locations of the scoping meetings FERC staff will be holding to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the project. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues need to be evaluated in the EA. You are invited to attend the public scoping meetings that have been scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 6 p.m. (EST), Youghiogheny Ballroom, 100 Riverside Drive, West Newton, PA.

Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 6 p.m. (EST), Waynesburg Central High School—Auditorium, 30 Zimmerman Drive, Waynesburg, PA.

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 6 p.m. (EST), Valley High School—Auditorium, One Lumberjack Lane, Pine Grove, WV.

Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 6 PM (EST), Riverside High School—Auditorium, #1 Warrier Way, Belle, WV.

This notice is being sent to the Commission’s current environmental mailing for this project, which includes affected landowners; federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. State and local government representatives are asked to notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

Summary of the Planned Project

DTI plans to construct and operate approximately 110 miles of 20-, 24-, and 30-inch diameter natural gas pipeline and associated aboveground facilities in northeastern West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania. According to DTI, its project would provide about 484,260 dekatherms of natural gas per day of firm transportation services from increasing gas production in the Appalachian region of West Virginia and Pennsylvania to the east coast markets.

The Appalachian Gateway Project would consist of the following facilities:

- Approximately 43.1 miles of 30-inch diameter pipeline in Marshall County, WV and Greene County, PA;
- Approximately 54.2 miles of 24-inch diameter pipeline in Greene, Washington, Allegheny, and Westmoreland Counties, PA;
- Approximately 5.2 miles of 20-inch diameter pipeline loop in Kanawha County, WV and 6 miles of 24-inch diameter pipeline loop in Greene County, PA;\(^1\)
- A total of approximately 1.5 miles of various diameter discharge and suction pipelines to serve the Lewis-Wetzel Compressor Station (Wetzel County, WV) and the Morrison Compressor Station (Harrison County, WV):
  - Two new compressor stations on new sites: Burch Ridge Station

\(^1\)A pipeline loop is constructed parallel to an existing pipeline to increase capacity.
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Commission Staff Attendance at Organization of MISO States and Midwest ISO Meetings

January 12, 2010.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hereby gives notice that members of the Commission and Commission staff may attend the following Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc.-related and Organization of MISO States (OMS) meetings:

Regional Expansion and Criteria & Benefits Task Force

January 14, 2010, Thursday, St. Paul, MN; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT
January 15, 2010, Friday, St. Paul, MN; 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. CT
January 25, 2010, Monday, Carmel, IN; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET
January 26, 2010, Tuesday, Carmel, IN; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET
February 11, 2010, Thursday, St. Paul, MN; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT
February 12, 2010, Friday, St. Paul, MN; 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. CT
February 22, 2010, Monday, Carmel, IN; 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET
February 23, 2010, Tuesday, Carmel, IN; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET
March 11, 2010, Thursday, St. Paul, MN; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT
March 12, 2010, Friday, St. Paul, MN; 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. CT
March 22, 2010, Monday, Carmel, IN; 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET
March 23, 2010, Tuesday, Carmel, IN; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET
April 8, 2010, Thursday, St. Paul, MN; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT
April 9, 2010, Friday, St. Paul, MN; 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. CT
April 19, 2010, Monday, Carmel, IN; 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET
April 20, 2010, Tuesday, Carmel, IN; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET
May 13, 2010, Thursday, St. Paul, MN; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT
May 14, 2010, Friday, St. Paul, MN; 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. CT
May 24, 2010, Monday, Carmel, IN; 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET
May 25, 2010, Tuesday, Carmel, IN; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET
June 10, 2010, Thursday, St. Paul, MN; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT
June 11, 2010, Friday, St. Paul, MN; 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. CT
June 21, 2010, Monday, Carmel, IN; 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET
June 22, 2010, Tuesday, Carmel, IN; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET
July 8, 2010, Thursday, St. Paul, MN; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT
July 9, 2010, Friday, St. Paul, MN; 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. CT
July 19, 2010, Monday, Carmel, IN; 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET
July 20, 2010, Tuesday, Carmel, IN; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET

OMS Cost Allocation and Regional Planning

January 12, 2010, Tuesday: Hilton Garden Inn, 411 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT.
January 13, 2010, Wednesday: Hilton Garden Inn, 411 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT.
February 9, 2010, Tuesday, St. Paul, MN; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT
February 10, 2010, Wednesday, St. Paul, MN; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT
March 9, 2010, Tuesday, St. Paul, MN; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT
March 10, 2010, Wednesday, St. Paul, MN; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT

All meetings scheduled to be held in Carmel will take place at: Midwest ISO Headquarters, 720 City Center Drive, Carmel, IN 46032.

Except as otherwise noted above, the meetings scheduled to be held in St. Paul will take place at: 1125 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN 55108, and Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101–2147.

Further information may be found at http://www.midwesttiso.org. The above-referenced meetings are open to the public.

The discussions at each of the meetings described above may address matters at issue in the following proceedings:

Docket No. AD07–12, Reliability Standard Compliance and Enforcement in Regions with Independent System Operators and Regional Transmission Organizations


Docket No. ER02–488, Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc.


Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission’s Office of External Affairs, at 1–866–208–FERC or on the FERC 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 (PF09–15). 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 also provides access to the texts of formal dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching dockets by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to the documents. Go to http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribersnew.htm.

Finally, any additional public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission’s calendar located at http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx along with other related information.

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary.