

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket Nos. CP17–56–000; CP17–57–000]

Texas Eastern Transmission, L.P.; Brazoria Interconnector Gas Pipeline, LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Stratton Ridge Expansion Project, and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

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 Stratton Ridge Expansion Project (Project) involving construction and operation of facilities by Texas Eastern Transmission, L.P. (Texas Eastern), and Brazoria Interconnector Gas Pipeline, LLC (BIG) (referred to as Applicants) in Brazoria, Chambers, San Jacinto, Waller, Shelby, and Lavaca Counties, Texas. The Commission will use this EA in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the project. You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EA. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before April 24, 2017.

If you sent comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on February 2, 2017, you will need to file those comments in Docket Nos. CP17–56–000 and CP17–57–000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should 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, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the

proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, 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 where compensation would be determined in accordance with state law.

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

Public Participation

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (202) 502–8258 or efiling@ferc.gov. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the *eComment* feature on the Commission's Web site (www.ferc.gov) under the link to *Documents and Filings*. This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically by using the *eFiling* feature on the Commission's Web site (www.ferc.gov) under the link to *Documents and Filings*. With *eFiling*, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New *eFiling* users must first create an account by clicking on "*eRegister*." If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select "Comment on a Filing" as the filing type; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address. Be sure to reference the project docket numbers (CP17–56–000, and CP17–57–000) with your submission: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

Summary of the Proposed Project

The Project is designed to provide the capacity necessary for Texas Eastern to transport up to 322,000 dekatherms per day of natural gas on a firm basis from

certain of Texas Eastern's existing interconnections to a delivery point on the BIG pipeline near Stratton Ridge, Texas.

The Applicant's Project would consist of the following facilities:

- The new Angleton Compressor Station, consisting of a 12,500 horsepower electric motor-driven compressor, as well as metering and regulation facilities, at an existing site owned by Texas Eastern;
 - a new 0.5 mile, 30-inch-diameter pipeline lateral in Brazoria County, Texas to interconnect with the BIG intrastate pipeline system;
 - a new aboveground wire-line launcher/receiver assembly site and interconnect valve site near milepost 0.5 of the BIG Interconnect;
 - Clean Burn equipment for one unit at Texas Eastern's existing Mont Belvieu Compressor Station in Chambers County, Texas;
 - modified station piping for pressure regulation at Texas Eastern's Joaquin Compressor Station in Shelby County, Texas;
 - modified existing launcher and receiver facilities at Texas Eastern's existing Huntsville Compressor Station, in San Jacinto County, Texas;
 - modified existing launcher and receiver facilities at Texas Eastern's Hempstead and Provident City station sites; in Waller and Lavaca County, Texas; and
 - replacement of existing 16-inch crossover piping and valve with new 24-inch crossover piping and valve at an existing facility approximately 0.2 mile southwest of the Provident City station site in Lavaca County, Texas.
- The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.¹

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would disturb about 143 acres of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline. Following construction, the Applicants would maintain about 48 acres for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental

¹ The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the **Federal Register**. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at www.ferc.gov using the link called "eLibrary" or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502–8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us² to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as “scoping.” The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

In the EA we will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils;
- land use;
- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- cultural resources;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- socioeconomics;
- air quality and noise;
- endangered and threatened species;
- public safety; and
- cumulative impacts

We will also evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

The EA will present our independent analysis of the issues. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, we may also publish and distribute the EA to the public for an allotted comment period. We will consider all comments on the EA before making our recommendations to the Commission. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section, beginning on page 2.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues of this project to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA.³ Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments

provided under the Public Participation section of this notice.

Consultations Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project’s potential effects on historic properties.⁴ We will define the project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPO as the project develops. On natural gas facility projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, compressor stations, and access roads). Our EA for this project will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by the Applicants.

This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Operational noise impacts
- Socioeconomic impacts
- Cumulative impacts

Environmental Mailing List

The environmental mailing list includes 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. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission’s regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits

comments on the project. We will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that we send the information related to this environmental review to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project.

If we publish and distribute the EA, copies of the EA will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the document instead of the CD version or would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Information Request (appendix 2).

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an “intervenor” which is an official party to the Commission’s proceeding. Intervenors play 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. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are in the “Document-less Intervention Guide” under the “e-filing” link on the Commission’s Web site. Motions to intervene are more fully described at <http://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/how-to/intervene.asp>.

Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission’s Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC Web site at 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 (*i.e.*, CP17–56, CP17–57). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range.

For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208–3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502–8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission 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

² “We,” “us,” and “our” refer to the environmental staff of the Commission’s Office of Energy Projects.

³ The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, part 1501.6.

⁴ The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

Finally, public sessions or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx along with other related information.

Dated: March 24, 2017.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-06418 Filed 3-31-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2520-076]

Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC; 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

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

- a. *Type of Application:* Major License.
- b. *Project No.:* 2520-076.
- c. *Date filed:* August 31, 2016.
- d. *Applicant:* Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC (Great Lakes Hydro).
- e. *Name of Project:* Mattaceunk Hydroelectric Project.
- f. *Location:* The existing project is located on the Penobscot River in Aroostook and Penobscot Counties, Maine. The project does not affect federal lands.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. 791 (a)-825(r).
- h. *Applicant Contact:* Kevin Bernier, Senior Compliance Specialist, Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC, 1024 Central Street, Millinocket, Maine 04462; Telephone (207) 723-4341, x118.
- i. *FERC Contact:* Adam Peer, (202) 502-8449 or adam.peer@ferc.gov.
- j. *Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary prescriptions:* 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene, protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions using the

Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-2520-076.

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.

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

l. The existing Mattaceunk Hydroelectric Project consists of: (1) A 1,060-foot-long, 45-foot-high dam (Weldon Dam) with a crest elevation of 236.0 feet (USGS datum), and includes: (i) A 110-foot-long earthen embankment extending to the left abutment; (ii) a combined intake and powerhouse structure; (iii) an upstream fish ladder; (iv) a 10-foot-wide log sluice structure, controlled by an 8-foot-high vertical slide gate; (v) a 90-foot-long, 19-foot-high gated spillway with a single roller gate; (vi) a 657.5-foot-long, 70-foot high concrete gravity overflow spillway with 4-foot-high flashboards to create a maximum flashboard crest elevation of 240.0 feet; and (vii) a retaining wall at the right abutment; (2) a 1,664-acre reservoir with a total storage capacity of 20,981 acre-feet at a normal pool elevation of 240.00 feet (USGS datum); (3) a 142-foot-long, 99-foot-wide powerhouse (Weldon Station) integral to the dam containing two Kaplan turbines rated at 5,479 kilowatt (kW) and two fixed-blade propeller turbines rated at 5,489 kW, each driving a 6,000 kilovolt-ampere (kVA), 4,800 kW vertical synchronous generator for an authorized installed capacity of 19.2 megawatts (MW); (4) a downstream fishway; (5) an outdoor substation adjacent to the powerhouse; (6) a 9-mile-long, 34.5-kilovolt (kV) transmission line within a 120-foot-wide right of way; and (7)

appurtenant facilities. The project generates about 123,332 megawatt-hours (MWh) annually.

The Mattaceunk Project is operated with minimal fluctuations of the reservoir surface elevation. Flexibility on reservoir elevations is required to provide for safe installation of the project's flashboards and to allow an adequate margin for wave action, debris loads, or sudden pool increases that might cause flashboard failure. The existing license requires a reservoir surface elevation no lower than 1.0 foot below the dam crest elevation of 236.0 feet when the 4-foot-high flashboards are not in use, and no lower than 2.0 feet below the top of flashboard elevation of 240.0 feet when the 4-foot-high flashboards are in use. The existing license also requires a year-round continuous minimum flow of 1,674 cubic feet per second (cfs) or inflow, whichever is less, and a daily average minimum flow of 2,392 cfs from July 1 through September 30 and 2,000 cfs from October 1 through June 30, unless inflow is less than the stated daily average minimum flows (in which case outflow from the project must equal the inflow to the project). Great Lakes Hydro proposes to: (1) Install a seasonal upstream eel ramp; (2) install an upstream passage structure for American shad, alewife, and blueback herring; (3) install trashracks having 1-inch clear spacing to the full depth of the turbine intakes during the fish passage season; and (4) improve the recreation facility at the downstream angler access area.

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. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

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. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, and .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in