DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 14857–000]

Watterra Energy, LLC; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications

On September 11, 2017, Watterra Energy, LLC (Watterra Energy) filed a preliminary permit application pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act proposing to study the feasibility of the proposed Saylorville Dam Hydroelectric Project No. 14857–000, to be located at the existing Saylorville Dam on the Des Moines River, near the City of Des Moines in Polk County, Iowa. Saylorville Dam is owned by the United States government and operated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owner’s express permission.

Watterra Energy’s proposed project would consist of: (1) a new 20-foot-diameter steel penstock that would be inserted into an existing 22-foot-diameter by 640-foot-long concrete conduit; (2) a new 55-foot-wide by 70-foot-long by 30-foot-high concrete powerhouse; (3) three new 5.22-megawatt (MW) turbines, with a combined generating capacity of 15.66 MW; (4) a new 70-foot-long by 55-foot-wide substation; (5) a new 7,900-foot-long, 13.8-kilovolt transmission line; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The project would have an estimated annual generation of 58 gigawatt-hours.

Applicant Contact: Mr. Craig Dalton, 220 W. Main Street, Hamilton, MT 59840; (406) 384–0080.

FERC Contact: Tyrone A. Williams, (202) 502–6331.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications 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–14857–000.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the eLibrary link of Commission’s Web site at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/eLibrary.asp. Enter the docket number (P–14857) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: September 27, 2017.

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission


Florida Southeast Connection, LLC; Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC; Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC; Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Southeast Market Pipelines Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the Southeast Market Pipelines Project (SMP Project). The SMP Project is composed of three separate, but related, interstate natural gas transmission pipeline projects. These projects are: Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC’s Hillabee Expansion Project in Docket No. CP15–16–000; Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC’s Sabal Trail Project in Docket No. CP15–17–000; and Florida Southeast Connection, LLC’s Florida Southeast Connection Project in Docket No. CP14–554–000. Together, these projects involve the construction and operation of approximately 685 miles of pipeline and associated facilities.

The draft SEIS has been prepared to address the August 22, 2017 Opinion issued by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia regarding the Commission’s environmental review of the SMP Project. The draft SEIS incorporates by reference and expands upon the analysis contained within the December 2015 final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the SMP Project. The draft SEIS estimates the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the SMP Project’s customers’ downstream facilities, describes the methodology used to determine these estimates, discusses context for understanding the magnitude of these emissions, and addresses the value of using the social cost of carbon (SCC).

As described in the executive summary of the FEIS, and based on the environmental analysis section of the FEIS and this draft SEIS, we conclude that constructing and operating the SMP Project would result in temporary and permanent impacts on the environment. We also conclude that with the applicants’ implementation of their respective impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, as well as their adherence to the measures we have required to further avoid, minimize, and mitigate these impacts, operating the SMP Project would not result in a significant impact on the environment.

Commission staff has mailed copies of the draft SEIS to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners, other interested individuals and groups; and newspapers and libraries in the project area. Additionally, the draft SEIS is available for public viewing on the FERC’s Web site (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. A limited number of copies of the draft EIS are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502–8371.

Any person wishing to comment on the draft SEIS may do so. The Commission will only consider comments on the draft SEIS, and not on the FEIS or the Commission’s orders in this proceeding, on which the public...