Comments: Comments are invited on:
(1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility;
(2) the accuracy of the agency’s estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
(3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and
(4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP18–13–000]

Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Line 8000 Replacement 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 Line 8000 Replacement Project involving the abandonment, construction, and operation of facilities by Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC (Columbia) in Mineral County, West Virginia and Allegany County, Maryland. 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.

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing and has expert staff to answer questions. A notice about ways you can use to submit comments to the Commission will be published in the Federal Register (FR) and will be available on the Commission’s website (www.ferc.gov).

To Know? This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including how to participate in 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 will help the Commission evaluate input from the public and interested agencies and will be considered as part of this proceeding.

A brief overview of this project, the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies, and ways you can use to submit comments to the Commission are described in this notice.

The estimated hourly cost (wages plus benefits) for record keeping is $32.74/hour for a file clerk (occupation code 43–4071). This figure of 120 transmission entities is based on the assumption that each agreement will be between 1 nuclear plant and 2 transmission entities (60 * 2 = 120). However, there is some double counting in this figure because some transmission entities may be party to multiple agreements with multiple nuclear plants. The double counting does not affect the burden estimate, and the correct number of unique respondents will be reported to OMB.

The estimated hourly cost (wages plus benefits) for record keeping is $32.74/hour for a file clerk (occupation code 43–4071).

The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff to answer questions. A notice about ways you can use to submit comments to the Commission will be published in the Federal Register (FR) and will be available on the Commission’s website (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 and has expert staff to answer questions. A notice about ways you can use to submit comments to the Commission will be published in the Federal Register (FR) and will be available on the Commission’s website (www.ferc.gov).

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The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff to answer questions. A notice about ways you can use to submit comments to the Commission will be published in the Federal Register (FR) and will be available on the Commission’s website (www.ferc.gov).

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The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff to answer questions. A notice about ways you can use to submit comments to the Commission will be published in the Federal Register (FR) and will be available on the Commission’s website (www.ferc.gov).
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us 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. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

### Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would disturb about 288 acres of land for the pipelines and minor aboveground facilities. Following construction, Columbia would maintain about 71 acres for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses. Approximately 85 percent of the new Line 8000 pipeline would be co-located within the right-of-way of the existing Line 8000 pipeline (to be abandoned). Approximately 15 percent of the new Line 8000 pipeline would be located within a new right-of-way due to construction constraints that prevent co-location with the pipeline to be abandoned.

### The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us 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. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

### 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 Offices (SHPO), and to solicit their views and those of other government
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.

agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project’s potential effects on historic properties. We will define the project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPOs 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.

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 grantees, 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 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 website. 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 website 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., CP18–13). 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 those filings, document summaries, and direct links to the 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.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 2017–27729 Filed 12–22–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Petition for Declaratory Order

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<tr>
<th>Docket Nos.</th>
<th>Franklin Energy Storage One, LLC.</th>
<th>Franklin Energy Storage Two, LLC.</th>
<th>Franklin Energy Storage Three, LLC.</th>
<th>Franklin Energy Storage Four, LLC.</th>
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<td>EL18–50–000</td>
<td>QF17–581–001</td>
<td>QF17–582–002</td>
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Any person desiring to intervene or to protest in this proceeding must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Petitioner.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper, using the FERC Online links at http://www.ferc.gov. To facilitate electronic service, persons with internet access who will eFile a document and/or be listed as a contact for an intervenor must create and validate an eRegistration account using the eRegistration link. Select the eFiling link to log on and submit the intervention or protests.

Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 5 copies of the intervention or protest to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The filings in the above proceeding are accessible in the Commission’s eLibrary system by clicking on the appropriate link in the above list. They are also available for review in the Commission’s Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an eSubscription link on the website that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added.