

action on the license application. The application will be processed according to the following Hydro Licensing

Schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

| Milestone   | Target date    |
|---|----------------|
| Issue Scoping Document .....                              | October 2018.  |
| Comments Due on Scoping Document .....                    | November 2018. |
| Issue Revised Scoping Document (if necessary) .....       | December 2018. |
| Issue Additional Information Request (if necessary) ..... | December 2018. |
| Additional Information Response Due .....                 | March 2019.    |
| Draft EIS Issued .....                                    | August 2019.   |
| Comments Due on Draft EIS .....                           | October 2019.  |
| Final EIS Issued .....                                    | December 2019. |

This notice informs all interested individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns, that: (1) The Commission staff has decided to prepare an EIS addressing the issues raised by the court; and (2) the comments, recommendations, and terms and conditions already on file with the Commission on the application will be taken into account in the EIS.

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to Aaron Liberty at (202) 502-6862, or by email at [aaron.liberty@ferc.gov](mailto:aaron.liberty@ferc.gov).

Dated: October 30, 2018.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-24107 Filed 11-2-18; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP18-89-000]

#### Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Empire North Project; Empire Pipeline, Inc.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Empire North Project, proposed by Empire Pipeline, Inc. (Empire) in the above-referenced docket. Empire requests authorization to construct and operate gas compression facilities in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, and Ontario County, New York.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of construction and operation of the Empire North Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not

constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The U.S. Department of Transportation participated as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EA. Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to resources potentially affected by the proposal and participate in the NEPA analysis.

The proposed Empire North Project includes the following facilities:

- A new 21,000 horsepower compressor station in Jackson Township, Tioga County, Pennsylvania;
- a new 32,000 horsepower compressor station in the Town of Farmington, Ontario County, New York;
- modifications of the existing regulator valves and station piping and installation of metering facilities at the existing New Victor Regulator Station in Ontario County, New York;
- minor modifications to the existing Jackson Meter and Regulator Station in Jackson Township, Tioga County, Pennsylvania; and
- upgrading the maximum allowable operating pressure of the Empire Connector Pipeline from 1,290 to 1,440 pounds per square inch gauge.

The Commission mailed a copy of the *Notice of Availability* to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; Native American tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. The EA is only available in electronic format. It may be viewed and downloaded from the FERC's website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)), on the Environmental Documents page (<https://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/eis.asp>). In addition, the EA may be accessed by using the eLibrary link on the FERC's website. Click on the eLibrary link (<https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>), click on General Search, and enter the docket number in the Docket Number field, excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP18-89). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range.

For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Your comments should focus on the EA's disclosure and discussion of potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that the Commission has the opportunity to consider your comments prior to making its decision on this project, it is important that we receive your comments in Washington, DC, on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on November 29, 2018.

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to file your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208-3676 or [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@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 website ([www.ferc.gov](http://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 also file your comments electronically using the eFiling feature on the Commission's website ([www.ferc.gov](http://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. You must select the type of filing you are making. If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select "Comment on a Filing;" 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 number (CP18-89-000) with your submission: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426

Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214). Motions to intervene are more fully described at <http://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/how-to/intervene.asp>. Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing or judicial review of the Commission's decision. The Commission may grant affected landowners and others with environmental concerns intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which no other party can adequately represent. Simply filing environmental comments will not give you intervenor status, but you do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) using the eLibrary link. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all 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 documents. Go to [www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp).

Dated: October 30, 2018.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-24105 Filed 11-2-18; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**[Docket No. RM98-1-000]**

**Records Governing Off-the-Record Communications; Public Notice**

This constitutes notice, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2201(b), of the receipt of prohibited and exempt off-the-record communications.

Order No. 607 (64 FR 51222, September 22, 1999) requires Commission decisional employees, who make or receive a prohibited or exempt off-the-record communication relevant to the merits of a contested proceeding, to deliver to the Secretary of the Commission, a copy of the communication, if written, or a summary of the substance of any oral communication.

Prohibited communications are included in a public, non-decisional file associated with, but not a part of, the decisional record of the proceeding. Unless the Commission

determines that the prohibited communication and any responses thereto should become a part of the decisional record, the prohibited off-the-record communication will not be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision. Parties to a proceeding may seek the opportunity to respond to any facts or contentions made in a prohibited off-the-record communication, and may request that the Commission place the prohibited communication and responses thereto in the decisional record. The Commission will grant such a request only when it determines that fairness so requires. Any person identified below as having made a prohibited off-the-record communication shall serve the document on all parties listed on the official service list for the applicable proceeding in accordance with Rule 2010, 18 CFR 385.2010.

Exempt off-the-record communications are included in the decisional record of the proceeding, unless the communication was with a cooperating agency as described by 40 CFR 1501.6, made under 18 CFR 385.2201(e)(1)(v).

The following is a list of off-the-record communications recently received by the Secretary of the Commission. The communications listed are grouped by docket numbers in ascending order. These filings are available for electronic review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website 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, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

| Docket No.            | File date  | Presenter or requester  |
|-----------------------|------------|---|
| <b>Prohibited:</b>    |            |   |
| 1. CP17-117-000 ..... | 10-16-2018 | Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber. President and CEO James Dignan. |
| CP17-118-000 .....    | .....      |   |
| <b>Exempt:</b>        |            |   |
| 1. CP17-101-000 ..... | 10-16-2018 | FERC Staff. <sup>1</sup>  |
| 2. CP17-101-000 ..... | 10-16-2018 | FERC Staff. <sup>2</sup>  |
| 3. CP17-41-000 .....  | 10-23-2018 | FERC Staff. <sup>3</sup>  |
| 4. CP17-117-000 ..... | 10-25-2018 | State of Louisiana.   |
| CP17-118-000 .....    | .....      | House Representative Taylor F. Barras.                              |

Dated: October 30, 2018.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-24096 Filed 11-2-18; 8:45 am]

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<sup>1</sup> Conference Call Notes for meeting on October 3, 2018 with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

<sup>2</sup> Conference Call Notes for meeting on October 3, 2018 with Transco.

<sup>3</sup> Conference Call Notes for meeting on October 19, 2018 with Environmental Resources Managements, Inc., Eagle LNG Partners Jacksonville, LLC, Cardno, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[FRL-9986-04-Region 3]**

**Delegation of Authority to the State of West Virginia To Implement and Enforce Additional or Revised National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants Standards and New Source Performance Standards**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of delegation of authority.

**SUMMARY:** On September 11, 2017 and September 21, 2018, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent the State of West Virginia (West Virginia) letters acknowledging that West Virginia's delegation of authority to implement and enforce the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) had been updated, as provided for under previously approved delegation mechanisms. To inform regulated facilities and the public, EPA is making