

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings of comments, protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the eFile link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically may mail similar pleadings to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. Hand delivered submissions in docketed proceedings should be delivered to Health and Human Services, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Comment Date: 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on December 30, 2020.

Dated: December 15, 2020.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-28089 Filed 12-18-20; 8:45 am]

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Dated: December 15, 2020.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-28093 Filed 12-18-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP20-503-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Northern Lights 2021 Expansion Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Northern Lights 2021 Expansion Project (Project), proposed by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) in the above-referenced docket. Northern requests authorization to construct the Project, which will consist of (1) an 0.80-mile-long extension of its 24-inch-diameter Willmar D Branch Line; (2) a 0.63-mile-long 24-inch-diameter Carlton Interconnect Loop; (3) replacement of the 0.08-mile-long 8-inch-diameter Viking Interconnect Branch Line with a 12-inch-diameter branch line of the same length; (4) a new compressor station (Hinckley Compressor Station); (5) modifications of the Pierz Compressor Station and Interconnect; and (6) additional above-grade facilities including a launcher, receiver, and valve setting. The Project facilities would be in Dakota, Scott, Carlton, Morrison, and Pine counties in Minnesota.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the Northern Lights 2021 Expansion Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). 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 Commission mailed a copy of the *Notice of Availability* to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups; and newspapers and libraries in the project area. The EA is only available in electronic format. It may be viewed and downloaded from the FERC's website

(www.ferc.gov), on the natural gas environmental documents page (<https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environment/environmental-documents>). In addition, the EA may be accessed by using the eLibrary link on the FERC's website. Click on the eLibrary link (<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search>), select General Search and enter the docket number in the Docket Number field, excluding the last three digits (i.e. CP20-503). 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 EA is not a decision document.

It presents Commission staff's independent analysis of the environmental issues for the Commission to consider when addressing the merits of all issues in this proceeding. 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 January 14, 2021.

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. 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) under the link to FERC Online. 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) under the link to FERC Online. 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

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings

Take notice that the Commission has received the following Natural Gas Pipeline Rate and Refund Report filings:

Docket Numbers: RP21-308-000.

Applicants: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC.

Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing; Negotiated Rate—CNG Amended NRA 510796 to be effective 12/15/2020.

Filed Date: 12/14/20.

Accession Number: 20201214-5065.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 12/28/20.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system (<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp>) by querying the docket number.

Any person desiring to intervene or protest in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For other information, call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the Commission. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP20-503-000) on your letter. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Filing environmental comments will not give you intervenor status, but you do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered. Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing or judicial review of the Commission's decision. At this point in this proceeding, the timeframe for filing timely intervention requests has expired. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene out-of-time pursuant to Rule 214(b)(3) and (d) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214(b)(3) and (d)) and show good cause why the time limitation should be waived. Motions to intervene are more fully described at <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/ferc-online/how-guides>.

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) 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 <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview> to register for eSubscription.

Dated: December 15, 2020.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-28095 Filed 12-18-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Reauthorization of Permits, Maintenance, and Vegetation Management on Western Area Power Administration Transmission Lines on National Forest System Lands, Colorado, Nebraska, and Utah (DOE/EIS-0442)

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Record of decision.

SUMMARY: The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) has determined that it will implement the proposed action, or Project, as described in the *Reauthorization of Maintenance and Vegetation Management on Western Area Power Administration Transmission Lines on Forest Service Lands, Colorado, Nebraska, and Utah* final environmental impact statement (Final EIS) (DOE/EIS-0442). The proposed action includes changing WAPA's vegetation management and facility maintenance practices in some rights-of-way (ROWs) along approximately 273 miles of electrical transmission lines on National Forest System (NFS) lands in Colorado, Nebraska, and Utah. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) was a joint lead agency on the EIS and proposes to authorize the changes through new Special Use Permits (SUPs) and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plans. This Record of Decision (ROD) was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) NEPA regulations.

DATES: The ROD was effective when it was signed by WAPA's Administrator on December 8, 2020. All known interested parties, agencies, tribes, and the public will be notified of this ROD directly via the Project mailing list and via paid advertising, news releases, or other appropriate means.

ADDRESSES: The Final EIS, this ROD, and other Project documents are available on the Project website at <https://www.wapa.gov/transmission/EnvironmentalReviewNEPA/Pages/vegetation-management.aspx>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information on the Project, the EIS process or this ROD, please contact Ms. E. Lynn Burkett at Headquarters A9400, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 281213, Lakewood, CO 80228-8213, email

burkett@wapa.gov, telephone (720) 962-7000. For general information on the DOE NEPA review process, please contact Brian Costner, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-54, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585-0119, email AskNEPA@hq.doe.gov, telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756, facsimile (202) 586-7031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: WAPA is a Federal power marketing administration within DOE that markets and delivers Federal wholesale electric power (principally hydroelectric power) to municipalities, rural electric cooperatives, public utilities, irrigation districts, Federal and State agencies, Native American tribes, and other wholesale customers in 15 western and central States. WAPA's Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region (RM) operates in Arizona, Colorado, most of Wyoming, and portions of Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Utah.

Background

On August 10, 1996, during a period of high temperatures and high electricity demand, a transmission line sagged into filbert trees near Portland, Oregon, leading to a cascade of power outages as far away as southern California. Executive Order 13212, Actions To Expedite Energy-Related Projects (May 18, 2001), declared the increased production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner to be essential to the well-being of the American people and called for the improvement and streamlining of cooperation among Federal agencies to expedite projects that would increase the production, transmission, or conservation of energy. In August 2003, the cascading results of another equipment failure led to an enormous power outage in the Northeast and Midwest, affecting approximately 45 million people in the United States and 10 million people in Ontario, Canada. The U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force found that, again, transmission line sag into overgrown trees in rural Ohio sparked the outage.

In response to these outages, Congress added, as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-58), a new section 215 to the Federal Power Act. Among other things, the new section 215 authorized the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to certify an "Electric Reliability Organization" to create mandatory and enforceable reliability standards, subject to FERC review and approval. FERC certified the North American Electric