

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2585-000]

Northbrook Carolina Hydro, LLC; Notice of Authorization for Continued Project Operation

September 13, 2000.

On January 4, 1999, Northbrook Carolina Hydro, LLC, licensee for the Idols Project No. 2585, filed an application for surrender of license pursuant to the Federal Power Act (FPA) and the Commission's regulations thereunder. Project No. 2585 is located on the Yadkin River in Forsyth and Davie Counties, North Carolina.

The license for Project No. 2585 was issued for a period ending July 31, 2000. Section 15(a)(1) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. 808(a)(1), requires the Commission, at the expiration of a license term, to issue from year to year an annual license to the then licensee under the terms and conditions of the prior license until a new license is issued, or the project is otherwise disposed of as provided in Section 15 or any other applicable section of the FPA. If the project's prior license waived the applicability of Section 15 of the FPA, then, based on Section 9(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 558(c), and as set forth at 18 CFR 16.21(a), if the licensee of such project has filed an application for a subsequent license, the licensee may continue to operate the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license after the minor or minor part license expires, until the Commission acts on its application. If the licensee of such a project has not filed an application for a subsequent license, then it may be required, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.21(b), to continue project operations until the Commission issues someone else a license for the project or otherwise orders disposition of the project.

If the project is subject to Section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that an annual license for Project No. 2585 is issued for a period effective August 1, 2000, through July 31, 2001, or until the issuance of a new license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first. If issuance of a new license (or other disposition) does not take place on or before July 31, 2001, notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.18(c), an annual license under Section 15(a)(1) of the FPA is renewed automatically without further order or notice by the Commission, unless the Commission orders otherwise.

If the project is not subject to Section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that Northbrook Carolina Hydro, LLC is authorized to continue operation of the Idols Project No. 2585 until such time as the Commission acts on its application for subsequent license.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-23980 Filed 9-18-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 11685-001 Ohio]

The Stockport Mill Country Inn; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

September 13, 2000.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 F.R. 47897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for an original license for the proposed Stockport Mill Country Inn Water Power Project, located on the Muskingum River, near the town of Stockport, Morgan County, Ohio, and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project. In the EA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the project and has concluded that licensing the project, with appropriate environmental protection measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the EA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2-A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. The EA may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm>. Please call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

Any comments should be filed within 30 days from the date of this notice and should be addressed to David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1-A, Washington, DC 20426. Please affix "Stockport Mill Country Inn Project No. 11685" to all

comments. For further information, contact Tom Dean at (202) 219-2778.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-23982 Filed 9-18-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP00-404-000]

Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Columbia Liberty Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Site Visit

September 13, 2000.

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 Columbia Liberty Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (Texas Eastern) in Chester and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania.¹ Texas Eastern proposes to expand its existing Philadelphia Lateral System to supply 84,000 dekatherms per day of natural gas to the Columbia Liberty Plant, a 567.7 megawatt gas-fired electric power plant presently being constructed in the Borough of Eddysburg in Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

If you are a landowner on Texas Eastern's existing or proposed route and receive this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The pipeline company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, 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 in accordance with state law.

A fact sheet prepared by FERC entitled "An Interstate Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" was attached to the project notice Texas Eastern provided to landowners. This

¹ Texas Eastern's application was filed with the Commission on July 13, 2000, under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain. It is available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us).

This Notice of Intent (NOI) is being sent to landowners along Texas Eastern's existing and proposed routes; Federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; regional environmental, and public interest groups Indian tribes that might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties in the area of potential effects; local libraries and newspapers; and the Commission's service list and parties to the proceeding. Government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern. Additionally, with this NOI we are asking Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA. These agencies may choose to participate once they have evaluated Texas Eastern's proposal relative to their agencies' responsibilities. Agencies who would like to request cooperating status should follow the instructions for filing comments described below.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Texas Eastern proposed to install one 4,000 horsepower electric compressor at its existing Eagle Compressor Station; to replace various segments of its existing 20-inch-diameter Line No. 1-A; and to construction about 0.6 mile of 12-inch-diameter pipeline and associated metering facilities to connect with the Columbia Liberty Plant. To supply the required volumes to the power plant Texas Eastern proposes to increase the operating pressure of Line No. 1-A from 400 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) to 656 psig.

The general location of Texas Eastern's proposed facilities is shown on the map attached as appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the Texas Eastern's proposed facilities would affect about 39.3 acres of land. Texas Eastern proposes to use 10.4 acres for construction of the new Liberty Lateral

and 28.9 acres for replacing segments on Line 1-A. Following construction, about 3.5 acres would be retained as new permanent right-of-way for the new pipeline facilities. The remaining 35.8 acres of temporary work space would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

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 us³ to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this NOI, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, affected landowners, regional public interest groups, Indian tribes, local newspapers and libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of construction and operation of the proposed project. We have already identified a number of issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Texas Eastern. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Biological Resources—Impacts on the bog turtle, a Federally listed endangered species.
- Land Use—Impacts to residents within 50 feet of construction.
- Noise—Affects from the addition of a 4,000 horsepower compressor unit.

Public Participation and Site Visit

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations or routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Gas Group 1, PJ-11.1;
- Reference Docket No. CP00-404-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before October 13, 2000.

[If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to remain on our mailing list, please return the Information Request (appendix 3). If you do not return the Information Request, you may be removed from the environmental mailing list.]

On September 29, 2000, the Office of Energy Projects staff will conduct a precertification site visit of the project route and possible reroutes. All parties may attend. Those planning to attend must provide their own transportation. We will be meeting in the parking lot at the Ramada Inn in Essington at 8:30 am.

For further information on attending the site visit, please contact the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-0004.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor." Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. If you want to become an intervenor you must

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's website at the "RIMS" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. For instructions on connecting to RIMS refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

³ "Us," "we," and "our" refer to the environment staff of the FERC's Office of Pipeline Regulation.

file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 2). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-0004 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-23976 Filed 9-18-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Amendment of License and Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Protests

September 13, 2000.

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

(a) *Type of Application:* Amendment of license for the non-project use of project lands and waters: the construction and operation of a water intake and a portion of planned raw water pumping facilities on 0.2 acres of project lands, and the withdrawal of up to 28 million gallons per day (GPD) from Blewett Falls Lake.

b. *Project No:* 2206-014.

c. *Date Filed:* August 31, 2000.

d. *Applicant:* Carolina Power and Light Company.

e. *Name of Project:* Yadkin-Pee Dee River Project.

f. *Location:* Near Blewett Dam in Richmond County, North Carolina.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Larry Mann, Carolina Power and Light Company, PO Box 1551, 411 Fayetteville Street Mall, Raleigh, NC 27602, (919) 546-6889.

i. *FERC Contact:* Any questions on this notice should be addressed to Jim Haimes at (202) 219-2780, or e-mail address: james.haimes@ferc.fed.us.

j. *Deadline for filing comments and or motions:* 30 days from the issuance date of this notice.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. Please include the project number (P-2206-014) on any comments or motions filed.

k. *Description of Project:* Carolina Power and Light Company (applicant) requests Commission authorization to grant an easement to Richmond County, North Carolina, for (1) the construction and operation of a water intake and a portion of planned raw water pumping facilities on 0.212 acres of project lands; and (2) the withdrawal of up to 28 million gallons per day (MGD) from Blewett Falls Lake for municipal water supply.

l. *Locations of the application:* Copies of the application are available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The application also may be viewed on the Web at www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm. Call (202) 208-2222 for assistance. Copies of the application also are available for inspection and reproduction at the addresses in item h, above.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list for the proposed amendment of license should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

n. *Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene*—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, .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 accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments,

protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for this notice.

o. *Filing and Service of Responsive Documents*—Any filing must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS", "PROTESTS", OR "MOTION TO INTERVENE", as applicable, and the Project Number of the subject application, No. 2206-014. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon Applicant's representative specified in item h, above.

p. *Agency Comments*—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If any agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representative.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-23979 Filed 9-18-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6871-7]

Draft Guidance Document for Nutrient Trading in the Chesapeake Bay

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Chesapeake Bay Program has developed a Draft Guidance Document for Nutrient Trading in the Chesapeake Bay. The document presents fundamental principles and guidelines for nutrient trading in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This document is available to the public for review from September 8, 2000 through October 27, 2000.

The document is available starting September 8, 2000 at the following website: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/trading.html>. You may request a paper copy by calling Julie Trask at 410-267-5753 or by e-mail at trask.julie@epa.gov. All comments must be sent to the appropriate state contact listed below by Oct. 27, 2000:

DC: Ann Goode, DC Dept. Health, 202-535-2965, anngoode@hotmail.com
PA: Stuart Gansell, PA Dept. Environmental Protection, 717-783-7420, morris.silver@dep.state.pa.us