

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP10-65-000]

**Mississippi Hub, LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Expansion Project II and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues**

March 10, 2010.

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 Expansion Project II (Project) involving construction and operation of facilities by Mississippi Hub, LLC (MS HUB) in Simpson, Jefferson Davis and Covington Counties, Mississippi. This EA will be used by the Commission 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. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues need to be evaluated in the EA. Please note that the scoping period will close on April 9, 2010.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this Project. State and local government representatives are asked to notify their constituents of this planned Project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

**Summary of the Proposed Project**

MS HUB proposes to construct and operate at its previously certificated Natural Gas Handling Facility Site (NGHFS): Two new salt dome storage caverns; 37,305 horsepower (HP) of additional compression; and ancillary equipment. The Project would expand the NGHFS storage capacity from 22.1 billion cubic feet (Bcf) to 44.2 Bcf and working gas capacity from 7.1 Bcf to 14.2 Bcf. The Project would also increase the NGHFS delivery capacity from 1.4 Bcf per day (Bcf/d) to 2.8 Bcf/d and injection capacity from 0.8 Bcf/d to 1.5 Bcf/d. According to MS HUB, its Project would meet the growing need for high-deliverability natural gas storage in the Gulf Coast region of the United States in markets served directly and indirectly by the natural gas pipelines that traverse the region.

The Project would consist of the following facilities:

- Two 11.05 Bcf salt dome storage caverns;
  - Three 7,700 HP electric motor-driven compressors;
  - Three 4,735 HP natural gas-fired reciprocating engine compressors;
  - Two 350 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscf/d) gas dehydration units;
  - Four 12 million British Thermal Units per hour (MMBtu/hr) natural gas withdrawal heaters;
  - One 1,250 kilowatt (kW) emergency generator; and
  - Ancillary piping and equipment.
- The general location of the Project facilities is shown in Appendix 1.<sup>1</sup>

**Land Requirements for Construction**

Construction of the proposed facilities would take place entirely within the previously certificated 80-acre NGHFS.

**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<sup>2</sup> 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. All comments received will be considered 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 under these general headings:

- Geology and soils;
- Land use;
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- Cultural resources;
- Vegetation and wildlife;
- Air quality and noise;
- Endangered and threatened species; and
- Public safety.

We will also evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed Project or

<sup>1</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the link called "eLibrary" or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

<sup>2</sup> "We", "us", and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

portions of the Project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be presented in the EA. The EA will be placed in the public record and, depending on the comments received during the scoping process, may be published and distributed to the public. A comment period will be allotted if the EA is published for review. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission. To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section below.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA. These agencies may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their responsibilities. Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the Public Participation section of this notice.

**Public Participation**

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the Project. Your comments should focus on the 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 your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before April 9, 2010.

For your convenience, there are three methods which you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert eFiling staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov).

(1) You may file your comments electronically by using the Quick Comment feature, which is located at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the link called "*Documents and Filings*". A Quick Comment is an easy method for interested persons to submit text-only comments on a project;

(2) You may file your comments electronically by using the "eFiling" feature that is listed under the "*Documents and Filings*" link. eFiling involves preparing your submission in the same manner as you would if filing

on paper, and then saving the file on your computer's hard drive. You will attach that file to your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on the links called "Sign up" or "eRegister". You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. A comment on a particular project is considered a "Comment on a Filing"; or

(3) You may file a paper copy of your comments at the following address: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

#### 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 who own land 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 the EA is published for distribution, 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. Intervenor 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 included in the User's Guide under the "e-filing" link on the Commission's Web site.

#### 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 Web

site at <http://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., CP10-65). 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. 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 now 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 <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>.

Finally, public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx> along with other related information.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP10-337-000]

#### Wyoming Interstate Company, Inc.; Notice of Technical Conference

March 10, 2010.

Take notice that Commission Staff will convene a technical conference in the above-referenced proceeding on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at 9 a.m. (EST), in a room to be designated at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The purpose of the conference is to address all issues arising from Wyoming Interstate Company's (WIC's) January 28, 2010 tariff filing. That filing was intended to revise the gas quality allocation procedures that WIC may implement when differing carbon dioxide or Btu standards on downstream pipelines cause these downstream pipelines to restrict or cease receipts into their pipeline systems to enforce their own gas quality specifications.

WIC should be prepared to address all concerns raised by the parties in their comments to the filing, and to provide additional technical, engineering, and operational support for its proposed gas quality allocation procedures.

Consistent with the Commission's policy statement on gas quality issues, WIC should also be prepared to explain how its proposal conforms with or differs from the Interim Guidelines and principles. See *Natural Gas Interchangeability, Policy Statement on Provisions Governing Natural Gas Quality and Interchangeability in Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Company Tariffs*, 115 FERC ¶ 61,325 (2006) P 34, 37.

Further, WIC should be prepared to identify and discuss any existing gas quality waivers on its system, including how long those waivers have been in place. Any party proposing alternatives to WIC's proposals should be prepared to support its position with adequate technical, engineering, and operational information.

FERC conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations please send an e-mail to [accessibility@ferc.gov](mailto:accessibility@ferc.gov) or call toll free (866) 208-3372 (voice) or (202) 502-8659 (TTY), or send a fax to (202) 208-2106 with the required accommodations.

All interested persons are permitted to attend. For further information please contact Michael.Freeman at (202) 502-6367 or at [Michael.Freeman@ferc.gov](mailto:Michael.Freeman@ferc.gov).

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2010-5775 Filed 3-16-10; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Southeastern Power Administration

#### Proposed Rate Adjustment, Public Forum, and Opportunities for Public Review and Comment for Georgia-Alabama-South Carolina System of Projects

**AGENCY:** Southeastern Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rate.

**SUMMARY:** Southeastern Power Administration (Southeastern) proposes to revise existing schedules of rates and charges applicable to the sale of power from the Georgia-Alabama-South Carolina System of Projects effective for a 5-year period, October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2015. Additionally, opportunities will be