

environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) in the above-referenced docket.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The 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.

Northern wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Minnesota and Wisconsin to transport an additional 46, 400 million British thermal units per day of natural gas to six local distribution companies.

Northern seeks authority to:

- Abandon the 10,600-horsepower (hp) Owatonna Compressor Station in Steele County, Minnesota and construct and operate a new 10,600-hp Fairbault Compressor Station in Rice County, Minnesota;
- Extend its 30-inch-diameter C-line Extension by about 2.24 miles in Washington County, Minnesota;
- Increase the capacity of its Elk River system by extending the existing 20-inch-diameter Elk River Loop in two areas for a total of about 3.30 miles in Anoka County, Minnesota;
- Construct about 14.52 miles of 6-inch-diameter tie-over connecting the Paynesville and the Watkins branchlines in Stearns County, Minnesota;
- Install: (a) about 3.07 miles of 4-inch-diameter St. Michael Loop in Wright County, Minnesota; (b) about 5.01 miles of 8-inch-diameter Princeton Loop in Mille Lacs and Sherburne counties, Minnesota; and (c) about 1.96 miles of 4-inch-diameter Monticello Loop in Wright County, Minnesota;
- Modify three meter stations in Anoka County, Minnesota and two meter stations in Wright County, Minnesota; and
- Modify a meter station in St. Croix County, Wisconsin and a meter station in Buffalo County, Wisconsin.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

A limited number of copies of the EA are available from: Mr. Robert Kopka, Environmental Project Manager,

Environmental Review and Compliance Branch I, Office of Pipeline Regulation, PR-11.1, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-0282.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Written comments must reference Docket No. CP96-57-000, and be addressed to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.

Comments should be filed as soon as possible, but must be received no later than May 28, 1996, to ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on this proposal. A copy of any comments should also be sent to Mr. Robert Kopka, Environmental Project Manager, at the above address.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. 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).

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about this project is available from Mr. Robert Kopka, Environmental Project Manager. Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-11053 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

Notice of Application for Major New License

April 29, 1996.

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

- a. Type of Application: Major New License.
- b. Project No.: 1984-056.
- c. Date filed: January 25, 1996.
- d. Applicant: Wisconsin River Power Company.
- e. Name of Project: Petenwell-Castle Rock Project.
- f. Location: On the Wisconsin River in Adams, Juneau, and Wood Counties, Wisconsin.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a)-825(r).

h. Applicant Contact: Mr. Richard L. Hilliker, President, Wisconsin River Power Company, P.O. Box 8050, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495, (715) 422-3722.

i. FERC Contact: Robert Bell (202) 219-2806.

j. Comment Date: July 1, 1996.

k. Status of Environmental Analysis: This application is accepted for filing but is not ready for environmental analysis at this time—see attached standard paragraph E1.

l. Description of Project: The constructed project consists of the following developments:

Petenwell Development

(1) the Petenwell Dam consists of a series of dams and dikes 15,505 feet long and approximately 38 feet high; (2) an impoundment having a surface area of 25,180 acres, with a storage capacity of 495,000 acre-feet at normal water surface elevation of 923.9 feet msl; (3) an intake structure; (4) a powerhouse having 4 generating units having a total installed capacity of 20-MW; (5) a transmission line; and (6) appurtenant facilities.

Castle Rock Development

(1) the Castle Rock Dam consist of a series of dams and dikes 19,374 feet long and approximately 30 feet high; (2) an impoundment having a surface area of 14,900 acres and storage capacity of 136,000 acre-feet at normal water surface elevation of 881.9 feet msl; (3) an intake structure; (4) a powerhouse having 5 generating units having a total installed capacity of 15-MW; (5) a transmission line; and (6) appurtenant facilities.

No additional capacity is being proposed for this project under this new license.

m. Purpose of Project: Project power would be utilized for sale to Wisconsin River Power Company's customers.

n. This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs: B1 and E1.

o. Available Location of Application: A copy of the application, as amended and supplemented, is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, located at 888 North Capitol Street, Washington, D.C., 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at Mr. Richard L. Hilliker, President, Wisconsin River Power Company, P.O. Box 8050, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495, (715) 422-3722.

B1. Protests or Motions to Intervene—Anyone may submit a protest or a

motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, 385.211, and 385.214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests 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 protests or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular application.

E1. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time; therefore, the Commission is not now requesting comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions.

When the application is ready for environmental analysis, the Commission will issue a public notice requesting comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST" or "MOTION TO INTERVENE;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. Any of these documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies required by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. An additional copy must be sent to Director, Division of Project Review, Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, at the above address. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-11059 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

Notice of Application for Conduit Exemption

April 29, 1996.

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

- a. Type of Application: Conduit Exemption.
- b. Project No.: 11572-000.
- c. Date filed: February 8, 1996.
- d. Applicant: Roosevelt Water Conservation District.
- e. Name of Project: RWCD Conduit.
- f. Location: On the RWCD irrigation conduit, near Mesa City, in Maricopa County, Arizona.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 USC §§ 791(a)-825(r).
- h. Applicant Contact: Mr. Michael O. Leonard, General Manager, Roosevelt Water Conservation District, P.O. Box 100, Higley, AZ 85235.
- i. FERC Contact: Michael Spencer at (202) 219-2846.
- j. Deadline Date for Protests, Interventions, Terms and Conditions: June 21, 1996.
- k. Status of Environmental Analysis: This application is ready for environmental analysis at this time—see attached paragraph D4.

l. Description of Project: The proposed project would consist of: (1) a bifurcation attached to the applicant's existing irrigation conduit; (2) a 100-foot-long, 42-inch-diameter penstock; (3) a powerhouse containing one generating unit with a capacity of 860 kW and an average annual generation of 6,885 MWh.

m. Purpose of Project: Project power would be used by the applicant.

n. This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs: A2, A9, B, and D4.

A2. Development Application—Any qualified applicant desiring to file a competing application must submit to the Commission, on or before the specified deadline date for the particular application, a competing development application, or a notice of intent to file such an application. Submission of a timely notice of intent allows an interested person to file the competing development application no later than 120 days after the specified deadline date for the particular application. Applications for preliminary permits will not be accepted in response to this notice.

A9. Notice of intent—A notice of intent must specify the exact name, business address, and telephone number of the prospective applicant, and must include an unequivocal statement of intent to submit, if such an application may be filed, either a preliminary permit application or a development application (specify which type of application). A notice of intent must be served on the applicant(s) named in this public notice.

B. 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 the particular application.

D4. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—The application is ready for environmental analysis at this time, and the Commission is requesting comments, reply comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions.

The Commission directs, pursuant to Section 4.34(b) of the Regulations (see Order No. 533 issued May 8, 1991, 56 FR 23108, May 20, 1991) that all comments, recommendations, terms and conditions and prescriptions concerning the application be filed with the Commission within 60 days from the issuance date of this notice. All reply comments must be filed with the Commission within 105 days from the date of this notice.

Anyone may obtain an extension of time for these deadlines from the Commission only upon a showing of good cause or extraordinary circumstances in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2008.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST", "MOTION TO INTERVENE", "NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE COMPETING APPLICATION," "COMPETING APPLICATION," "COMMENTS," "REPLY COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS," "TERMS AND CONDITIONS," or "PRESCRIPTIONS;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. Any of these documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies required by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory