

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** BPA is proposing to provide watershed restoration funds to several entities, including the Yakama Indian Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umatilla County, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Pendleton High School, the Umatilla Watershed Council; U.S. Forest Service, Walla Walla County Conservation District, Oregon Department of Transportation, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Washington Model Watersheds, and Idaho Model Watersheds. Restoration projects are proposed for streams in the Deschutes, John Day, Hood, Fifteenmile, Umatilla, Walla Walla, Grande Ronde, Methow, Yakima, Clearwater, Salmon, and Imnaha watersheds. The types of projects proposed include: riparian fencing to keep cattle out of streams; suppression of noxious weeds and revegetation of denuded streambanks to provide cover and reduce erosion; removal of "push up" type diversion dams and installation of control structures to eliminate passage barriers; conversion of irrigation diversions from streams to groundwater and/or sprinkler systems; consolidation of irrigation ditches; woody debris placement; streambank bioengineering and stabilization; dredge tailing removal; channel restoration; erosion control and stabilization of road banks; construction of sediment traps and overwintering habitat; removal of coffer dams and debris for passage improvement; dam reconstructing; and updating/rehabilitation of fish screens.

Further information is available from BPA at the address above.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on May 7, 1996.

Thomas C. McKinney,

*NEPA Compliance Officer for Environment, Fish and Wildlife Group.*

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# **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP96-386-000]

## **Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Application**

May 8, 1996.

Take notice that on April 29, 1996, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 1700 MacCorkle Avenue, SE., Charleston, West Virginia 25325-1273, filed in Docket No. CP96-386-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act for permission and approval to abandon certain certificated gathering facilities by spindown to Columbia Natural Resources, Inc. (CNR), a non-jurisdictional affiliate,<sup>1</sup> all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Columbia proposes to transfer to CNR certain certificated and uncertificated gathering facilities at net book value estimated to be \$28 million as of December 31, 1996, pursuant to a purchase and sale agreement dated April 25, 1996. Columbia explains that it intends to credit the net sales proceeds to the Stranded Facilities Charge in accordance with the tariff provisions placed into effect in its current Section 4 general rate case in Docket No. RP95-408-000.<sup>2</sup> Columbia states that the facilities are located in Fayette and Somerset Counties, Pennsylvania; Dickenson, Tazewell and Buchanan Counties, Virginia; Pike, Knott, Breathitt, Magoffin, Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Letcher and Martin Counties, Kentucky; and Kanawha, Boone, Cabell, Logan, Putnam, Wyoming, Raleigh, Fayette, Mercer, McDowell, Mingo, Wayne and Lincoln Counties, West Virginia. It is further stated that the facilities involve eighteen gathering systems that contain 2,729 miles of low pressure, predominately small diameter pipeline, 4,475 horsepower of compression, meters, *etc.*, (see the attached appendix). Columbia states that only twelve of the lines (totaling 51.4 miles of 2-12 inch pipeline) and one compressor station (900 horsepower),<sup>3</sup> and associated

<sup>1</sup> CNR has filed a companion petition for declaratory order in Docket No. CP96-385-000 for a determination that the facilities will be non-jurisdictional gathering facilities upon transfer to CNR.

<sup>2</sup> See General Terms and Conditions Section 46, Stranded Facilities Charge, of Columbia's tariff. The sale of gathering facilities proposed by this filing is a significant first step in Columbia's exit from the gathering business and the mitigation of the associated stranded costs.

<sup>3</sup> The Conaway Compressor Station is certificated and functionalized as a gathering facility.

points of delivery and receipt and various appurtenant facilities,<sup>4</sup> have been certificated; and certain certificated facilities are currently functionalized as transmission facilities and others are recorded as gathering facilities.

Columbia states that its proposal is the result of unbundling under Order No. 636 and the subsequent elimination of its merchant function. Furthermore, the proposal is part of the transfer and sale of a larger group of gathering facilities to CNR, which will operate the facilities on an open access, nonjurisdictional basis. Columbia advises that CNR owns an interest in over 6,500 oil and gas wells; has total acreage holdings of more than 2.3 million acres; and approximately two-thirds of CNR's natural gas production flows through the gathering facilities proposed to be transferred to CNR.

Columbia advises that it would file to refunctionalize to transmission any of its gathering facilities located between the facilities sold to CNR and Columbia's transmission facilities. Such refunctionalization would eliminate the possibility that a shipper would pay gathering charges to both CNR and Columbia if, prior to the proposed abandonment, only one such gathering charge would have been paid.

As more fully set forth in its application, Columbia requests:

(1) Authorization to abandon by sale to CNR the certificated facilities as further identified in Exhibits T, Z, and Z1.

(2) Approval of the accounting treatment specified in Exhibit Y.

(3) Such other authorizations as the Commission deems necessary including, without limitation, authority to abandon, conditioned upon the receipt by Columbia of Section 4 authorization to abandon service, the Points of Delivery as identified in Exhibit T which are served from the certificated facilities and the non-certificated gathering facilities to be sold to CNR.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before May 20, 1996, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations

<sup>4</sup> Columbia identifies Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc., and Mountaineer Gas Company, as local distribution companies, and Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc., as being involved as mainline tap customers with certificated points of delivery located on the gathering facilities to be spindown to CNR.

under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to

the jurisdiction conferred upon Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are required by the public convenience

and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Columbia to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

*Acting Secretary.*

#### APPENDIX—COLUMBIA GAS TRANSMISSION CORPORATION SUMMARY OF CERTIFICATED AND UNCERTIFICATED FACILITIES TO BE SPUNDOWN BY TRANSFER AND SALE TO CNR

Gathering system	Pipeline			System pressure (psig)	Compressor (HP)
	Length (miles)	Diameter (inches)	Total No.		
1 Summit .....	9	2-6	8	90-200	0
2 Ohiopyle .....	17	2-12	5	.....	0
3 Walbridge .....	143	2-8	267	40-80	0
4 Hubball-Horse Creek-Nye .....	.....	2-20	1,322	40-80	820
5 Buff Lick .....	212	( <sup>1</sup> )	286	2-100	Yes
6 Inez-Kermit .....	635	1-18	984	40-80	959
7 Beaver Creek .....	93	1-12	133	10-70	0
8 Boldman .....	288	1-18	364	50-180	0
9 Johns Creek .....	21	2-8	26	35-60	300
10 Canada (P-74) .....	95	2-10	151	100-120	300
11 Canada (P-28) .....	13	2-8	9	40-100	0
12 Conaway .....	121	2-20	149	70-120	900
				250-400	
13 Majestic Thacker .....	152	1-10	184	30-70	950
14 Briar Mountain .....	16	2-6	19	20-60	300
15 Stafford .....	32	1-6	49	45-75	Yes
16 Huff Creek (V-38) .....	.....	2-10	17	75-125	Yes
17 McDowell-Tazewell .....	41	2-6	46	30-50	0
18 Egeria .....	20	2-6	37	30-50	Yes

<sup>1</sup> Various.

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#### [Docket No. CP-96-385-000]

#### Columbia Natural Resources, Inc.; Notice of Petition for Declaratory Order

Take notice that on April 29, 1996, Columbia Natural Resources, Inc. (CNR),<sup>1</sup> P.O. Box 6070, Charleston, West Virginia 25362-0070, filed in Docket No. CP96-385-000 a petition pursuant to Section 16 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and Rule 207(a)(2) of the

<sup>1</sup> CNR is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Columbia Gas System, Inc.; headquartered in Charleston, West Virginia; and incorporated in Texas and licensed to do business in the States of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. CNR performs all the oil and gas drilling and production operations of The Columbia Gas System, Inc., in the Eastern United States. CNR owns an interest in over 6,500 oil and gas wells and has total acreage holdings of more than 2.3 million acres. Approximately two-thirds of CNR's natural gas production flows through the facilities subject to CNR's petition.

Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.207(a)(2)), for a declaratory order disclaiming Commission jurisdiction over certain facilities, operations, rates and the services provided through the facilities, all as more fully set forth in the petition which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

CNR seeks a declaratory order from the Commission finding that certain certificated and uncertificated natural gas gathering facilities, and the ownership and operation of those facilities, proposed to be acquired from Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) would not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under the NGA upon transfer of the facilities.<sup>2</sup> CNR seeks a determination that the Commission's authority to regulate rates under Sections 4 and 5 of the NGA does

<sup>2</sup> A companion application was filed by Columbia in Docket No. CP96-386-000 for authorization to abandon the certificated portion of the facilities by sale to CNR.

not extend to CNR's gathering system as it is proposed to be operated.

CNR states that the facilities are located in Fayette and Somerset Counties, Pennsylvania; Dickenson, Tazewell and Buchanan Counties, Virginia; Pike, Knott, Breathitt, Magoffin, Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Letcher and Martin Counties, Kentucky; and Kanawha, Boone, Cabell, Logan, Putnam, Wyoming, Raleigh, Fayette, Mercer, McDowell, Mingo, Wayne and Lincoln Counties, West Virginia. CNR describes the facilities as eighteen gathering systems composed of "web-type" or "backbone" configurations of lines that are of a size and operated at pressures consistent with the gathering function, located in a production area, upstream of processing facilities, and gather gas from receipt points for subsequent delivery to Columbia's transmission lines or to other points of delivery on the gathering system.

CNR asserts that the individual elements of the "Modified Primary Function" Test, when applied to these