

calling the project manager, Patti Pakkala at (202) 219-0025.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-25290 Filed 10-2-96; 8:45 am]

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[Project No. 11499-000; Project No. 11500-000]

Armstrong Energy Resources; Notice of Extension of Time

September 27, 1996.

Take notice that a 90-day extension of time for filing comments on Scoping Document I issued July 24, 1996, in the above referenced proceedings is granted. Comments which were due October 7, 1996, will now be due by January 6, 1997.

A subsequent public scoping meeting concerning the impact of transmission line right-of-way will be conducted at a future date following public notice of such meeting.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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[Project No. 3574-004 Montana]

Continental Hydro Corporation; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

September 27, 1996.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 F.R. 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for an original, major license for the Tiber Dam Hydroelectric Project (project), and has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project. The project is located at the Bureau of Reclamation's existing Tiber Dam and Lake Elwell, on the Marias River in Liberty County, Montana.

In the final EA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the existing and potential future environmental impacts of the project and has concluded that licensing the project, with appropriate environmental protective or enhancement measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the EA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2A, of the Commission's offices at

888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-25355 Filed 10-2-96; 8:45 am]

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[Project No. 2569-004; Project No. 2538-001]

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation Beebe Island Corporation; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

September 27, 1996.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) Regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the applications for new licenses for the Black River and Beebe Island Projects located in Jefferson County, New York, and has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the projects. In the FEA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the existing projects and has concluded that approval of the projects, with appropriate environmental protection or enhancement measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the FEA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2A of the Commission's offices at 808 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

For further information, please contact James Hunter at (202) 219-2839.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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[Project No. 2275-001]

Public Service Company of Colorado; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

September 27, 1996.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for a subsequent license for the existing Salida Hydroelectric Project, located on the South Arkansas River and on Fooses Creek in Chaffee County, Colorado, near the town of

Poncha Springs, and has prepared a final environmental assessment (EA) for the project.

On April 7, 1995, staff issued and distributed to all parties a draft EA, and requested that comments on the draft EA be filed with the Commission within 30 days. Comments were filed and are addressed in the final EA.

In the final EA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the existing and potential future environmental impacts of the project and has concluded that approval of the project, with appropriate environmental protective or enhancement measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect quality of the human environment.

Copies of the final EA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2-A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-25356 Filed 10-2-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket Nos. CP96-545-000; CP96-545-001; CP96-671-000; CP96-721-000]

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation; National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation; Tennessee Gas Pipe Line Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Seaboard Expansion and 1997 Niagara Expansion Projects, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

September 27, 1996.

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 construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the SeaBoard Expansion Project and 1997 Niagara Expansion Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.

Summary of the Proposed Projects

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in

¹ Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation's, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation's, and Tennessee Gas Pipe Line Company's applications were filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey to transport an additional 115 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd) of natural gas to customers in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York. To transport those volumes, Transco requests Commission authorization, in Docket Nos. CP96-545-000 and CP96-545-001, to:

- Construct and operate 10.6 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline loop² in Clinton and Lycoming Counties, Pennsylvania (Haneyville Loop);
- Construct and operate 6.7 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline loop in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania (Williamsport Loop);
- Construct and operate 5.5 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline loop in Middlesex and Union Counties, New Jersey (New Jersey Mainline Loop);
- Replace 6.3 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipeline with 6.3 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in Burlington County, New Jersey (Trenton-Woodbury Replacement);
- Install a 12-inch-diameter tap in Chester County, Pennsylvania (Delaware Power & Light Lateral Hot Tap);
- Install 15,000 additional horsepower (hp) at Compressor Station 205 in Mercer County, New Jersey;
- Operate six existing compressors at an uprated horsepower for a total of 1,740 hp at Compressor Station 200 in Chester County, Pennsylvania; and
- Modify the Linden Regulator Station in Union County, and the Milltown Regulator Station (and install a new pig launcher/receiver assembly) in Middlesex County, New Jersey.

National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Fuel) wants to transport up to 48,000 dekatherms of natural gas per day (Dthd) (about 48 MMcfd) from the Niagara import point to the interconnections between the National Fuel and Transco facilities at Leidy and Wharton, Pennsylvania. To transport those volumes, National Fuel requests Commission authorization, in Docket No. CP96-671-000, to:

- Increase the hp of 5 compressor units for a total of 1,300 hp at its existing Concord Compressor Station in Erie County, New York;
- Abandon 4 compressor units, totalling 1,290 hp and install 1 new 2,250 hp compressor at its existing Ellisburg Compressor Station in Potter County, Pennsylvania; and
- Increase the maximum allowable operating pressure of its existing Line X-North and Line XM-2 from 720 to 780

pounds per square inch gauge (psig) by installing or replacing valves, pressure control devices, and station piping at 7 existing metering and regulating stations in Erie and Niagara Counties, New York.

Tennessee Gas Pipe Line Company (Tennessee) operates the Lockport Compressor Station in Niagara County, New York which is jointly-owned with National Fuel. for National Fuel to transport additional volumes proposed in its 1997 Niagara Expansion Project, Tennessee requests Commission authorization, in Docket No. CP96-721-000, to:

- Uprate an existing compressor unit by 1,000 hp at its existing Lockport Compressor Station (CS 230C) in Niagara County, New York to expand the capacity of National Fuel's and Tennessee's jointly-owned Niagara Spur Loop Line.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1. Figure 1 shows the general location of Transco's proposed SeaBoard Expansion Project and Figure 2 shows the general location of National Fuel's proposed 1997 Niagara Expansion Project which includes Tennessee's proposed Niagara Spur Loop Line Project.³

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of Transco's proposed facilities would affect about 326.5 acres of land. Of this amount about 89.2 acres (27 percent) would be within existing, cleared rights-of-way. Following construction, about 253.1 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use and 73.4 acres would be maintained as new permanent pipeline right-of-way. Extra temporary work spaces would be required at various locations, including road, stream, and large wetland crossings. In addition, equipment staging and storage areas would be needed.

Construction of the pipelines would require a 75-foot-wide right-of-way. The Haneyville and Williamsport Loops would be constructed at an offset of 25 feet from existing pipelines and would require about 44.8 and 26.1 acres of new permanent right-of-way, respectively. The Trenton-Woodbury Replacement would be installed in the same location as the existing 12-inch-diameter pipeline after it is removed and would not require any new permanent right-of-way. For about 3.8 miles of the New Jersey Mainline Loop no new permanent

right-of-way would be required because it would be constructed entirely within existing Public Service Electric & Gas or Transco rights-of-way. About 0.6 mile of the New Jersey Mainline Loop would require about 2.5 acres of new permanent right-of-way.

Additions or expansions at Compressor Station 200, the Linden Regulator Station, and the Milltown Regulator Station would be within existing fence lines and would not require additional land. An existing 4.5-acre fenced area at Compressor Station 205 may be expanded and require an additional 0.3 acre of land. Installation of the Delaware Power & Light Lateral Hot Tap would temporarily affect 0.5 acre of land all of which would be located in Transco's existing right-of-way.

Construction of National Fuel's and Tennessee's proposed facilities would occur within existing fence lines and would not require additional land. Increase in the maximum allowable operating pressure on National Fuel's Line X—North and Line XM-2 pipelines would not require any ground disturbance.

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 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 Notice of Intent, 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. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA 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 and wetlands
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Threatened and endangered species
- Cultural resources
- Hazardous waste
- Air quality and noise

² A loop is a segment of pipeline that is usually installed adjacent to an existing pipeline and connected to it at both ends. A loop allows more gas to be moved through that part of the pipeline system.

³ The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or 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 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, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, 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 recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Transco, National Fuel, and Tennessee. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list. The list of issues may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis. For Transco's proposed SeaBoard Expansion Project the issues are:

- Effects of blasting on water wells, structures, septic systems, and other utilities;
- Crossing of Pine and Lycoming Creeks, two of the largest waterbodies crossed in Pennsylvania;
- Crossing of high quality, trout stocked or coldwater fisheries in Pennsylvania, including North Fork Tombs Run, Lower Pine Bottom Run, and Staver Run;
- Crossing of significant wetlands associated with Woodbridge Creek, Marshes Creek, and Rahway River in New Jersey;
- Clearing of trees and disturbance of wildlife habitat;
- Construction through Tiadaghton State Forest and State Game Land No. 89 in Pennsylvania;
- Crossing of potential geologic and soil hazard areas, including areas of severe erosion (slopes greater than 6 percent grade) or areas prone to rock failure in Pennsylvania;
- Potential to expose contaminated soils in New Jersey;
- Potential to encounter acid soils in New Jersey;
- Crossing of a property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;

- Construction in heavily congested residential, commercial, and industrial areas; and

- Potential to increase noise levels.

For National Fuel's proposed 1997 Niagara Expansion Project, which includes Tennessee's proposed Niagara Spur Loop Line Project, the issues are:

- Construction in residential, commercial, and industrial areas; and
- Potential to increase noise levels.

Public Participation and Scoping Meeting

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket Nos. CP96-545-000 and CP96-545-001 for Transco's SeaBoard Expansion Project; CP96-671-000 for National Fuel's 1997 Niagara Expansion Project; and CP96-721-000 for Tennessee's Niagara Spur Loop Line Project.
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Ms. Lauren O'Donnell, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 72-57, Washington, DC 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before October 28, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Ms. O'Donnell at the above address.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an "intervenor". 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 copies of its filings to all other parties. If you want to become an intervenor you must 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).

The date for filing of 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 scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Ms. Lauren O'Donnell, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-0325.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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[Project Nos. 2631-000, et al.]

Hydroelectric Applications [International Paper Company, et al.]; Notice of Applications

Take notice that the following hydroelectric applications have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection:

- 1a. *Type of filing:* Notice of Intent to File An Application for a New License.
- b. *Project No.:* 2631.
- c. *Date filed:* August 8, 1996.
- d. *Submitted By:* International Paper Company, current licensee.
- e. *Name of Project:* Woronoco.
- f. *Location:* On the Westfield River, near the Town of Russell, Hampden County, Massachusetts.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Section 15 of the Federal Power Act, 18 CFR 16.6 of the Commission's regulations.
- h. *Effective date of original license:* May 1, 1965.
- i. *Expiration date of original license:* September 1, 2001.
- j. The project consists of: (1) The 985-foot-long, 30-foot-high North Dam having a 320-foot-long concrete-gravity spillway section surmounted by 2.5-foot-high flashboards and having a 6-foot-wide, 6-foot-high steel sluice gate, and a 655-foot-long earthfill section; (2) the 350-foot-long, 53-foot-high concrete-gravity South Dam having an overflow spillway surmounted by 2.5-foot-high flashboards and having a 6-foot-wide, 6-foot-high steel sluice gate; (3) a reservoir having a 46-acre surface area at normal pool elevation 231.5 feet msl; (4) a headgate house containing a trash rack with power rake and a timber gate; (5) an 11-foot-diameter, 550-foot-long steel penstock; (6) a powerhouse containing three generating units with a total installed capacity of 2,690-kW; (7) a switching station; and (8) appurtenant facilities.
- k. Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.7, information on the project is available