

environmental issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA document.

The agency scoping meeting will be held on November 18, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection, Room LW-4, Ray Building-AMHI Complex, Hospital Street (Rt. 9), Augusta, ME 04333. For more details, interested parties should contact Dana Murch, Maine DEP, at (207) 287-3901, prior to the meeting date.

The public scoping meeting will be held on November 18, 1996, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Central High School, 194 Center St., Nobleboro, Maine 04555.

The Commission will decide, based on the application, and agency and public comments at the scoping session, whether licensing the Damariscotta Mills Project constitutes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Irrespective of the Commission's determination to prepare an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement for the Damariscotta Mills Project, the Commission staff will not hold additional scoping meetings other than those scheduled, as listed above.

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the Commission staff will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the NEPA document; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantified data, on the resources at issue, and (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA document. Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed.

Meeting Procedures

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and become a part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the Damariscotta Mills Project. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to identify themselves for the record.

Concerned parties are encouraged to offer us verbal guidance during public meetings. Speaking time allowed for individuals will be determined before each meeting, based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the approximate amount of time available for the session, but all speakers will be provided at least 5 minutes to present their views.

All those attending the meeting are urged to refrain from making any communications concerning the merits of the application to any member of the Commission staff outside of the established process for developing the record as stated in the record of the proceeding.

Persons choosing not to speak but wishing to express an opinion, as well as speakers unable to summarize their positions within their allotted time, may submit written statements for inclusion in the public record no later than December 20, 1996.

All filings should contain an original and 8 copies. Failure to file an original and 8 copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner. See 18 CFR 4.34(h). In addition, commenters may submit a copy of their comments on a 3½-inch diskette formatted for MS-DOS based computers. In light of our ability to translate MS-DOS based materials, the text need only be submitted in the format and version that it was generated (i.e., MS Word, WordPerfect 5.1/5.2, ASCII, etc.). It is not necessary to reformat word processor generated text to ASCII. For Macintosh users, it would be helpful to save the documents in Macintosh word processor format and then write them to files on a diskette formatted for MS-DOS machines. All comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, and should clearly show the following captions on the first page: Damariscotta Mills Hydro Project, FERC No. 11566.

Further, interested persons are reminded of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures, requiring parties or interceders (as defined in 18 CFR 385.2010) to file documents on each person whose name is on the official service list for this proceeding. See 18 CFR 4.34(b).

The Commission staff will consider all written comments and may issue a Scoping Document II (SDII). SDII will include a revised list of issues, based on the scoping sessions.

For further information regarding the scoping process, please contact Rich Takacs, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Hydropower Licensing, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20426 at (202) 219-2840, or Ed Lee at (202) 219-2809.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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[Project No. 11472-000-ME]

Consolidated Hydro Maine, Inc.; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

November 1, 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 application for license for the Burnham Hydroelectric Project, located in Somerset and Waldo Counties, Maine, and has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the project. In the FEA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the existing unlicensed project and has concluded that approval of 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 FEA 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. 96-28604 Filed 11-6-96; 8:45 am]

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[Project No. 1962-000-CA]

Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

November 1, 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 application for a new license for the Rock Creek-Cresta Hydroelectric Project, located on the North Fork Feather River in Northern California, and has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the project. In the DEA, the Commission's staff analyzed the potential environmental impacts of relicensing the existing project and concluded that approval of the project, 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 DEA are available for review in the Public Reference and Files

Maintenance Branch of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Any comments should be filed within 45 days from the date of this notice and should be addressed to Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Please affix "Rock Creek-Cresta Hydroelectric Project, No. 1962-000" to all comments. For further information, please contact Jim Haimes at (202) 219-2780.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-28603 Filed 11-6-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. CP96-655-000]

Destin Pipeline Company Inc.; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Destin Pipeline Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

November 1, 1996.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the Destin Pipeline Project.¹ This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether to approve the project.

We are asking a number of Federal Agencies to indicate whether they wish to cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS. These agencies are listed in appendix 1 and may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their agencies' responsibilities.² To date, the U.S. Forest Service, DeSoto National Forest Chickasawhay Ranger District has requested cooperating agency status.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Destin Pipeline Company Inc. (Destin) wants to build new natural gas pipeline and compression facilities in the Gulf of Mexico and southeastern Mississippi to transport 1 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas to downstream

interconnections in Mississippi. Destin requests Commission authorization, in Docket No. CP96-655-000, to construct and operate the following facilities:

- 72.8 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico extending from Main Pass Block 248 to a point of landfall near the city of Pascagoula in Jackson County, Mississippi;
- 116.8 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline extending northward through Jackson, George, Greene, Wayne, and Clark Counties, Mississippi to interconnections with the existing pipeline systems of Florida Gas Transmission Company (Florida Gas) and Transcontinental Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) near Shubuta, Mississippi;
- 17 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline within Clarke County from the interconnection with Transco to Southern Natural Gas Company's (Southern) existing Enterprise Compressor Station near Enterprise, Mississippi;
- 2.4 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline loop in Clarke County, Mississippi extending westward from Southern's Enterprise Compressor Station to an interconnection with Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee);
- One new 14,100-horsepower (hp) compressor station near the coastline in Jackson County, Mississippi;
- One new 11,600-hp compressor station in Greene County, Mississippi;
- Five new meter stations, one each in George and Attala Counties and three in Clarke County, Mississippi; and
- Two new offshore platforms in the U.S. territorial waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 2. If you are interested in viewing detailed maps of a specific portion of the Destin Pipeline Project, please attend one of the public scoping meetings identified in this notice, or contact the EIS project manager at the phone number or address listed at the end of this notice.

Land Requirements for Construction

Based on information supplied by Destin, over 50 percent of the proposed onshore pipeline would parallel existing road, pipeline, or powerline rights-of-way. Following construction, about 640 acres would be maintained as new right-of-way. Another 858 acres of temporarily disturbed land would be restored and allowed to revert entirely to its former use.

Building the Destin Pipeline Project would require onshore construction rights-of-way ranging from 90 to 110 feet

wide. Following construction, a 40-foot-wide permanent right-of-way would be retained where the pipeline would be adjacent to existing utility rights-of-way and a 50-foot-wide permanent right-of-way would be retained in all other areas. Additional temporary work areas would be required on each side of road, railroad, river, and stream crossings. The two new compressor stations would each require about 2.8 acres of land. Each of the five new meter stations would require about one acre of land.

The EIS 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 EIS 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 EIS. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EIS. 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 EIS will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project. We have already identified a number of issues under each topic that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of each topic that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by the applicant. These issues are listed below. This is a preliminary list of issues and may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- **Geology and Soils**
 - Seismology and areas susceptible to landslide.
 - Prime farmland soils.
 - Erosion control and right-of-way restoration.
- **Water Resources**
 - Effect of construction on areas with shallow groundwater.
 - Effect of construction on crossings of perennial waterbodies including 3 ponds, the Chickasawhay River, and 2 crossings of the Escatawpa River.
 - Impact on wetland hydrology.
 - Consistency with Mississippi

¹ Destin Pipeline Company Inc.'s application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

² 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.