

April 14, 1997, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., 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 and 18 CFR 385.211) and the Regulations 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 the 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 the 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 the request should be granted. 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 Ashland to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-7849 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP97-263-000]

Ashland Exploration, Inc.; Notice of Application

March 24, 1997.

Take notice that on March 21, 1997, Ashland Exploration, Inc. (Ashland), 14701 Saint Mary's Lane, Houston, Texas 77079, completed the filing of an abbreviated application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act initially submitted on February 24, 1997. Ashland requests authorization to modify its remaining Martha Field pipeline facilities to accept the interconnection of a tap with the facilities to be constructed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee) and to install and operate compression

associated with the Tennessee tap. Ashland also requests modification of its current certificate authority to deliver gas from Kentucky to West Virginia for sale to Mountaineer Gas Company to permit it to deliver gas to any buyer, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to the public for inspection.

The remaining Martha Field pipeline facilities consist of approximately 6.9 miles of pipeline in the State of Kentucky which terminates in the State of West Virginia, approximately 6,000 feet from Ashland's Catlettsburg, Kentucky refinery.

Any persons desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should, on or before April 14, 1997, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., 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 and 18 CFR 385.211) and the Regulations 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 the 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 the 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 the request should be granted. 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 Ashland to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-7850 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket Nos. CP96-213-000, -001, and -004, and CP96-559-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corp. and Texas Eastern Transmission Corp.; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Market Expansion Project

March 24, 1997.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) and Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (Texas Eastern) in the above-referenced dockets.

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.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the proposed natural gas transmission pipelines, compression, storage field pipeline and well head facilities, and points of delivery and measurement facilities in Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The activities and facilities proposed by Columbia include:

- construct 50 miles of new, loop, and replacement pipeline and uprate the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of about 282 miles of pipeline;
- construct, relocate, and/or uprate about 32,209 horsepower (hp) of compression at 12 existing compressor stations, construct 20,975 total hp at two new compressor stations, and abandon about 8,280 hp of compression at five existing compressor stations;
- increase the performance capability of 13 existing storage fields, including construction of 36 new wells, construction of about 23 miles of 4- to 24-inch-diameter storage field pipeline, abandonment of about 7 miles of 2- to 10-inch-diameter storage field pipeline, and "well enhancement" work at about 277 existing storage wells; and
- upgrade or replace facilities at 12 existing meter stations and construct 2 new meter stations.

The activities and facilities proposed by Texas Eastern include:

- replace about 26 miles of idled 20- and 24-inch-diameter pipeline in three sections;
- upgrade two existing compressor stations by a total of 6,000 hp and

construct 13,400 hp of compression at one existing compressor station; and

- upgrade an existing interconnection with Columbia.

The purpose of the facilities proposed by Columbia would be to provide 506,795 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) of additional firm transportation and storage service to 23 customers. In order to provide the proposed firm entitlements to its customers, Columbia proposes to lease 141,500 Dth/d of firm capacity from Texas Eastern. The facilities proposed by Texas Eastern are needed to provide this delivery capacity on a daily basis to Columbia.

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.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Written comments must reference Docket Nos. CP96-213-000, -001, and -004 and CP96-559-000 and be addressed to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Comments should be filed as soon as possible, but must be received no later than April 23, 1997, to ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on this proposal.

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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-7847 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. CP97-291-000]

**Southern Natural Gas Company,
Destin Pipeline Company, L.L.C.;
Notice of Application**

March 24, 1997.

Take notice that on March 14, 1997, Southern Natural Gas Company (Southern), P.O. Box 2563, Birmingham, Alabama 35202-2563, and Destin Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (Destin), P.O. Box 2563, Birmingham, Alabama 35202-2563, filed in Docket No. CP97-291-000 a joint application pursuant to Sections 7(c) and 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate certain pipeline measurement and related facilities in Franklin, Attala and Jefferson Counties, Mississippi; approval of Southern's abandonment of capacity by lease to Destin and Destin's acquisition thereof and pregranted abandonment and reacquisition of such capacity; and approval of rolled-in rate treatment for the capacity lease payments and revenues and cost-of-service of the proposed facilities, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Destin states that in related Docket No. CP96-655-001, *et al.*, Destin is seeking authorization to construct, own and operate one offshore platform, 76 miles of 36-inch offshore pipeline facilities, 134 miles of 36-inch and 30-inch onshore pipeline facilities, two miles of 16-inch onshore pipeline facilities, two onshore compression facilities and related pipeline interconnection, measurement and appurtenant facilities, designed to transport large quantities of natural gas from deepwater areas and production along the Destin Corridor to downstream pipeline interconnections in southern and central Mississippi. Destin states that the Destin Pipeline will extend in a northerly direction from Main Pass Block 260, Gulf of Mexico, to an onshore terminus at its interconnection with Southern near Enterprise, Mississippi. In addition to Southern, Destin states that it will physically interconnect with four other interstate pipelines: Florida Gas Transmission Corporation, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company and Koch Gateway Pipeline Company. In addition, related Docket No. CP96-655-001, *et al.*, provides for two additional delivery points to Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (Texas Eastern) in Mississippi. Accordingly, in Docket No. CP97-291-

000, Southern and Destin propose for Southern to lease capacity on its pipeline system to Destin to enable Destin to offer Texas Eastern as a delivery point on its system.

It is stated that Southern has agreed to lease to Destin, capacity on its pipeline system to the extent necessary to permit Destin to deliver up to 200 MMcf per day of natural gas (MMcfd) from an interconnection to be constructed between Destin's proposed pipeline system and Southern's pipeline at Southern's existing Enterprise compressor station in Clarke County, Mississippi to Texas Eastern (a) on a firm basis at a new meter station to be constructed by Southern at an interconnection with Texas Eastern on Southern's Cranfield-Gwinville Line in Franklin County, Mississippi (Union Church meter station) or (b) on an interruptible basis at Southern's existing interconnection with Texas Eastern downstream of Southern's Pickens compressor station on Southern's North Main Line in Attala County, Mississippi (Kosciusko meter station). Southern states that while it does not currently have an agreement with Texas Eastern for the proposed interconnection at the Union Church meter station, Southern will request such interconnection upon receipt of the authorization requested herein. It is stated that although Southern will continue to own and operate the facilities, Destin proposes to render open access transportation services to Destin's shippers by means of its leased capacity in Southern's system under the terms and conditions of Destin's FERC Gas Tariff, thus providing Destin with a seamless transportation service to its shippers without constructing duplicative facilities.

Southern requests authorization to construct and install the Union Church meter station in Franklin County, Mississippi, which will consist of one measurement station with dual 8-inch rotary meters, including tap, metering and appurtenant facilities, sized to handle 200 MMcfd on Southern's Cranfield-Gwinville Line; to modify its existing Gwinville compressor station on Southern's Franklin-Gwinville Lines in Jefferson County, Mississippi, to allow 200 MMcfd to flow west from Gwinville to the Union Church meter station; and to modify to its existing Kosciusko meter station on Southern's Second North Main Line, Attala County, Mississippi, to expand the delivery capacity into Texas Eastern to 200 MMcfd. It is stated that the total estimated cost of the facilities to be constructed is \$1.7 million.