

constitute a complete filing. However, certain information which is needed to complete the processing of the Joint Facilities Application remains to be filed.² Complete and accurate filing of that information on the schedule stated in the joint applicants' March 18, 1997, filing is essential for the expeditious processing of the PNGTS project applications.

The Joint Facilities Application filed by Maritimes and PNGTS requests authorization to construct and operate approximately 99.8 miles of jointly-owned 30-inch O.D. pipeline and appurtenant facilities to accommodate natural gas volumes that would otherwise be transported through the same area by separate pipeline facilities. The Joint Facilities Application proposes joint facilities from Dracut, Massachusetts to Westbrook, Maine.

The instant amendment filed by PNGTS addresses the effects of the Joint Facilities Application on the cost of facilities and rates previously proposed by PNGTS. PNGTS states that it will file amendments to its tariff to reflect the Commission's directives with respect to Gas Industry Standards Board standards two to five months prior to placing its tariff into effect.

Based on its Case No. 2 proposed in Docket No. CP96-249-000, PNGTS states that its revised cost, after allocating its share of the joint facilities, is approximately \$302.9 million. The rates proposed by PNGTS have been revised to reflect PNGTS's allocated estimated cost of the joint facilities described in the Joint Facilities Application. PNGTS states that its rates will be leveled for an initial 20-year period and are based on the assumption that 80 percent of the cost of the facilities will be recovered through depreciation during the levelization period. PNGTS states that it will use a straight fixed-variable rate design for its firm service, and rates are based on a winter-day capacity design of 178,000 MMBtu per day. PNGTS does not propose to change the service offerings described in Docket No. CP96-249-003 which included firm transportation service (FT), interruptible transportation service (IT), and the possibility of negotiated rates. PNGTS states that winter period and off-peak services are available under the FT rate schedule.

PNGTS requests a supplemental preliminary determination no later than May 31, 1997, and a final certificate no later than August 31, 1997, in order to meet an in-service date of November 1, 1998.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said Amendment should, on or before April 15, 1997, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 or 385.214) 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 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 the 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 Amendment if no petition to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the Amendment is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a petition 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 procedures herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for PNGTS to appear or be represented at the hearing. Anyone who has already filed a motion to intervene in Docket Nos. CP96-249-000 or CP96-249-003 need not file again with the Commission.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-8071 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. ER97-2031-000, et al.]

Cinergy Services, Inc., et al.; Electric Rate and Corporate Regulation Filings

March 24, 1997.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. Cinergy Services, Inc.

[Docket No. ER97-2031-000]

Take notice that on March 11, 1997, Cinergy Services, Inc. (Cinergy),

tendered for filing on behalf of its operating companies, The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company (CG&E) and PSI Energy, Inc. (PSI), an Interchange Agreement, dated March 1, 1997 between Cinergy, CG&E, PSI and IUC Power Services (IUC).

The Interchange Agreement provides for the following service between Cinergy and IUC:

1. Exhibit A—Power Sales by IUC
2. Exhibit B—Power Sales by Cinergy

Cinergy and IUC have requested an effective date of one day after this initial filing of the Interchange Agreement.

Copies of the filing were served on IUC Power Services, the Kentucky Public Service Commission, the Michigan Public Service Commission, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

2. Ohio Edison Company, Pennsylvania Power Company, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and Toledo Edison Company

[Docket No. EC97-5-000]

Take notice that on March 21, 1997, Ohio Edison Company, Pennsylvania Power Company, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and Toledo Edison Company (the Applicants) filed additional information in support of their November 8, 1996, merger application. The supplement is a competitive screen analysis as required by the guidelines in the Commission's merger policy statement, *Inquiry Concerning the Commission's Merger Policy Under the Federal Power Act; Policy Statement*, Order No. 592, 77 FERC ¶ 61,263 (1996). By letter order dated January 15, 1997, the Commission requested the Applicants to supply this information.

Applicants state that they have served their filing, including an electronic copy of the data used to develop the competitive screen analysis, on all intervenors.

Comment date: May 20, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

3. Western Resources, Inc.

[Docket No. ER97-2032-000]

Take notice that on March 10, 1997, Western Resources, Inc., tendered for filing non-firm transmission agreements between Western Resources and Central Louisiana Electric Company, Inc. and TransCanada Power Corporation. Western Resources states that the purpose of the agreements is to permit

² See the March 21, 1997, OPR Director's letter to the joint applicants.

non-discriminatory access to the transmission facilities owned or controlled by Western Resources in accordance with Western Resources' open access transmission tariff on file with the Commission. The agreements are proposed to become effective as follows: Central Louisiana Electric Company, Inc., February 12, 1997; and TransCanada Power Corporation, March 3, 1997.

Copies of the filing were served upon Central Louisiana Electric Company, Inc., TransCanada Power Corporation and the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

4. Sierra Pacific Power Company

[Docket No. ER97-2033-000]

Take notice that on March 10, 1997, Sierra Pacific Power Company (Sierra), tendered for filing Service Agreements (Service Agreements) with the following entities for Non Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service under Sierra's Open Access Transmission Tariff (Tariff):

1. AIG Trading Corporation
2. Aquila Power Corporation
3. TransCanada Energy Ltd.
4. Northern California Power Agency

Sierra filed the executed Service Agreements with the Commission in compliance with Section 14.4 of the Tariff and applicable Commission Regulations. Sierra also submitted revised Sheet No. 148 to the Tariff, which is an updated list of all current subscribers. Sierra requests waiver of the Commission's notice requirements to permit and effective date for Attachment E, and to allow the Service Agreements to become effective according to their terms.

Copies of this filing were served upon the Public Service Commission of Nevada, the Public Utilities Commission of California and all interested parties.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

5. Puget Sound Energy, Inc.

[Docket No. ER97-2034-000]

Take notice that on March 10, 1997, Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (formerly Puget Sound Power & Light Company, Puget), tendered for filing an agreement amending its wholesale for resale power contract with the Port of Seattle (Purchaser). A copy of the filing was served on Purchaser.

Puget states that the agreement changes the term of the wholesale for resale power contract.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

6. Allegheny Power Service Corporation, on behalf of Monongahela Power Company, The Potomac Edison Company, and West Penn Power Company (Allegheny Power)

[Docket No. ER97-2035-000]

Take notice that on February 21, 1997, Allegheny Power Service Corporation on behalf of Monongahela Power Company, The Potomac Edison Company and West Penn Power Company (Allegheny Power) filed Supplement No. 21 to add two (2) new Customers to the Standard Generation Service Rate Schedule under which Allegheny Power offers standard generation and emergency service on an hourly, daily, weekly, monthly or yearly basis. Allegheny Power requests a waiver of notice requirements to make service available as of February 20, 1997, to EnerZ Corporation and Minnesota Power & Light Company.

Copies of the filing have been provided to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Maryland Public Service Commission, the Virginia State Corporation Commission, the West Virginia Public Service Commission, and all parties of record.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

7. Northern Indiana Public Service Company

[Docket No. ER97-2036-000]

Take notice that on February 21, 1997, Northern Indiana Public Service Company, tendered for filing an executed Standard Transmission Service Agreement for Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service between Northern Indiana Public Service Company and American Electric Power Services Corporation.

Under the Transmission Service Agreement, Northern Indiana Public Service Company will provide Point-to-Point Transmission Service to American Electric Power Services Corporation pursuant to the Transmission Service Tariff filed by Northern Indiana Public Service Company in Docket No. ER96-1426-000 and allowed to become effective by the Commission, and as amended in Docket No. OA96-47-000. *Northern Indiana Public Service Company*, 75 FERC ¶ 61,213 (1996). Northern Indiana Public Service Company has requested that the Service Agreement be allowed to become effective as of January 21, 1997.

Copies of this filing have been sent to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

8. The Montana Power Company

[Docket No. ER97-2037-000]

Take notice that on February 26, 1997, The Montana Power Company (Montana), tendered for filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pursuant to 18 CFR 35.13 Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service Agreements with Citizens Lehman Power Sales (Citizens Lehman) and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) under FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 5 (Open Access Transmission Tariff). The Citizens Lehman Service Agreement is signed, while the LADWP Service Agreement is filed unsigned.

A copy of the filing was served upon Citizens Lehman and LADWP.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

9. Central Maine Power Company

[Docket No. ER97-2039-000]

Take notice that on March 6, 1997, Central Maine Power Company (CMP), tendered for filing a service agreement for Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission service entered into with The Power Company of America, L.P. Service will be provided pursuant to CMP's Open Access Transmission Tariff, designated rate schedule CMP—FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 3, as supplemented.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

10. Central Maine Power Company

[Docket No. ER97-2040-000]

Take notice that on March 6, 1997, Central Maine Power Company (CMP), tendered for filing a service agreement for Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission service with CNG Power Services Corporation. Service will be provided pursuant to CMP's Open Access Transmission Tariff, designated rate schedule CMP—FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 3, as supplemented.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

11. Maine Electric Power Company

[Docket No. ER97-2041-000]

Take notice that on March 6, 1997, Maine Electric Power Company

(MEPCO), tendered for filing a service agreement for Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission service with The Power Company of America, L.P. Service will be provided pursuant to CMP's Open Access Transmission Tariff, designated rate schedule MEPCO—FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, as supplemented.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

12. Maine Electric Power Company

[Docket No. ER97-2042-000]

Take notice that on March 6, 1997, Maine Electric Power Company (MEPCO), tendered for filing a service agreement for Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service with Green Mountain Power Corporation. Service will be provided pursuant to CMP's Open Access Transmission Tariff, designated rate schedule CMP—FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, as supplemented.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

13. Northeast Utilities Service Company

[Docket No. ER97-2044-000]

Take notice that on January 14, 1997, Northeast Utilities Service Company (NUSCO), tendered for filing a Service Agreement with New England Power Company (NEP) under the NU System Companies' System Power Sales/Exchange Tariff No. 6.

NUSCO states that a copy of this filing has been mailed to NEP.

NUSCO requests that the Service Agreement become effective February 1, 1997.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

14. AMVEST Power, Inc.

[Docket No. ER97-2045-000]

Take notice that on February 26, 1997, AMVEST Power, Inc., tendered for filing, pursuant to Rule 207 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.207, an application for waivers and blanket approvals under various Regulations of the Commission, and an order accepting its Rate Schedule No. 1, to be effective April 28, 1997, or the date that the Commission issues an order in this proceeding, whichever is earlier. AMVEST Power, Inc., intends to engage in electric energy and capacity transactions as a marketer.

Comment date: April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-8069 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

[Docket No. CP97-202-000]

USG Pipeline Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed USG Pipeline Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

March 25, 1997.

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, about 14.5 miles of 10-inch-diameter pipeline and appurtenances, proposed in the USG pipeline Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

Summary of the Proposed Project

USG Pipeline Company (USGPC) wants to construct facilities in order to transport up to 7,000 Dekatherms per day to United States Gypsum Company (USGC) near Bridgeport, Alabama, where USGC is planning to construct a nonjurisdictional wallboard manufacturing plant. USGPC's facilities would be constructed in Tennessee and Alabama and would consist of:

- About 14.5 miles of 10-inch-diameter pipeline commencing at interconnecting facilities with East

Tennessee Natural Gas Company in Marion County, Tennessee, and ending in Jackson County, Alabama;

- A block valve assembly in Marion County, Tennessee, near milepost (MP) 6.85; and
- Launching and receiving facilities in Marion County, Tennessee, at MP 0.0, and Jackson County, Alabama, at MP 14.5, respectively;

USGPC has also identified a alternative pipeline route.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.² If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the project, or procedural information, please write to the Secretary of the Commission.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities for the preferred route would require about 148.0 acres of mostly agricultural land. Following construction, about 87.9 acres of existing right-of-way (ROW) would continue to be maintained as permanent ROW. If the alternative pipeline route is chosen, construction activities would take place almost entirely on existing railroad ROW.

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.
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands.

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, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

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