

Company (Williston Basin), 200 North Third Street, Suite 300, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501, filed in Docket No. CP97-660-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 157.211) for authorization to utilize an existing tap to effectuate natural gas transportation deliveries to Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota), for ultimate use by additional residential customers in Roosevelt County, Montana. Williston Basin makes such request under its blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-487-000, *et al.*, pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Williston Basin states that it received a request from Montana-Dakota, a local distribution company, for authorization to add additional residential customers to an existing transmission line tap located in Roosevelt County, Montana. The estimated additional volume to be delivered is 220 Mcf per year. Williston Basin is proposing to use the existing residential farm tap to effectuate additional natural gas transportation deliveries to Montana-Dakota for other than right-of-way grantor use. Williston Basin indicates that the volumes to be delivered are within the contractual entitlements of the customer, and that the proposed volumes will be provided under Williston Basins Rate Schedule FT-1.

It is averred that the proposed service will have no significant effect on Williston Basin's peak day or annual requirements.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to § 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-20529 Filed 8-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP92-236-009]

Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company; Notice of Compliance Filing

July 30, 1997.

Take notice that on July 25, 1997, Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company (Williston Basin), tendered for filing certain revised tariff sheets to First and Second Revised Volume Nos. 1 and Original Volume Nos. 1-A, 1-B and 2 of its FERC Gas Tariff.

Williston Basin states that the revised tariff sheets were filed in compliance with the Commission's "Order on Rehearing" issued July 19, 1996 and the Commission's "Order on Initial Decision on Remanded Issue" issued June 11, 1997 in Docket Nos. RP92-236-000, *et al.*, as more fully described in the filing.

Any person desiring to protest said filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. 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. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-20533 Filed 8-4-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-659-000]

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation; Notice of Application

July 30, 1997.

Take notice that on July 22, 1997, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPSC), 700 North Adams Street, P.O. Box 19001, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54307-9001 filed an application pursuant to Section 7(f) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), requesting a determination of a service area within which WPSC may, without further Commission authorization, enlarge or

expand its facilities, all as more fully described in the application that is on file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) and open to public inspection.

WPSC states that it is a public utility engaged in, among other things, the business of distributing natural gas to customers for residential, commercial, and industrial use. WPSC requests a service area determination consisting of 16 miles of 8-inch diameter pipeline and the associated right of way from the Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership pipeline at the Watersmeet city gate in the town of Watersmeet, Michigan, to a proposed WPSC city gate station in Conover, Wisconsin. WPSC will hold a 21.67 percent interest in both the Watersmeet city gate station and the proposed 8-inch diameter pipeline. Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO) will hold the remaining interest in the facilities.

In addition to the service area determination, WPSC also requests: (a) A finding that WPSC qualifies as a local distribution company (LDC) for purposes of Section 311 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA); (b) a waiver of the Commission's regulatory requirements, including reporting and accounting requirements ordinarily applicable to natural gas companies under the NGA and NGPA; and (c) such further relief as the Commission may deem appropriate.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before August 20, 1997, 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 211 or 214 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 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 a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If motion for leave to intervene is timely filed or if the Commission and 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 WPSC to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-20528 Filed 8-4-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-563-000]

Michigan Gas Storage Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Cranberry Lake Lateral 63 East Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

July 30, 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 proposed in the Cranberry Lake Lateral 63 East 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

Michigan Gas Storage Company (MGSCO) proposes to replace and upgrade 1.3 miles of its Cranberry Lake Lateral 63 East. To accomplish this activity MGSCO proposes to: (1) Remove 0.6 mile of 6-inch-diameter piping and replace it in the same trench with 8-inch-diameter piping; (2) abandon in place 0.1 mile of 4-inch-diameter piping; (3) install a 2-inch-diameter pipe within the abandoned 4-inch-diameter pipe; (4) upgrade the existing 0.6 mile of 8-inch-diameter pipeline to make it piggable by removing stab-in branch connections at well laterals as well as any other obstructions from the pipe

interior; and (5) install a pig launcher and pig receiver at either end of the reconfigured 8-inch-diameter piping segment. The resulting lateral would consist of about 1.2 miles of 8-inch-diameter and 0.1 mile of 2-inch-diameter piping.

All of the facilities are located in Clare County, Michigan. The proposed project would allow for more efficient and safe operation of MGSCO's Cranberry Lake Storage Field.

The proposed facilities would cost about \$257,400.

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

Land Requirements for Construction

Replacement and upgrading of the Cranberry Lake Lateral 63 East, including temporary work spaces, would require about 3.5 acres. Of the 3.5 acres, about 1.7 acres exist as a two-track sand road which has no vegetation. Of the remaining 1.8 acres, about 1.7 acres of land would require tree trimming and vegetation removal and about 0.1 acre of land would require tree removal.

MGSCO would utilize its abandoned Plant 1 Compressor Station for receiving and distributing materials during construction. The total acreage for the lay-down area is about 3 acres. This area has been previously devoted to industrial used and no further disturbance is required.

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, fisheries, and wetlands
- Cultural resources
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Endangered and threatened species
- Public safety

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 make our recommendations to the Commission.

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 MGSCO. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Cranberry Lake Lateral 63 East is located near the Kirkland's Warbler National Wildlife Refuge.
- Cranberry Lake Lateral 63 East is located within the Gladwin Forest Area of the Au Sable State Forest.

Public Participation

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:

¹ Michigan Gas Storage Company'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, 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.