

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

- Two federally listed endangered or threatened species may occur in the onshore portions of the proposed project area.
- A total of 16.3 acres of agricultural land would be affected.
- There is the potential for noise impact due to the new compression at the new and existing stations.
- A nonjurisdictional processing plant will be constructed in conjunction with the interstate pipeline facilities.

We expect to adopt the environmental reviews done by the COE and the MMS covering wetland and offshore issues. The COE will also be addressing the crossing of Dauphin Island by directional drilling.

Nonjurisdictional Facilities

Williams Field Services Company (WFS) will construct and operate a 600 MMcfd nonjurisdictional processing plant (including a 350 MMcfd separation facility) immediately upstream of Compressor Station 82. The plant will be designed to remove liquids and liquefiables from the offshore pipeline and deliver interstate pipeline quality natural gas to the suction side of Transco's Compressor Station 82.

SOCO will construct a new production/gathering platform in Main Pass Viosca Knoll Block 261. We will not be addressing this facility in our EA because we will adopt the analysis done by the MMS.

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 locations or routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.2;
- Reference Docket No. CP97-92-001; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before August 29, 1997.

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 timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by § 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.

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BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application Filed With the Commission

July 30, 1997.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- a. *Type of Application:* Settlement Agreement.
- b. *Project No:* 2916-004.
- c. *Date Filed:* June 26, 1997.
- d. *Applicant:* East Bay Municipal Utility District.
- e. *Name of Project:* Lower Mokelumne River.

f. *Location:* Mokelumne River, Amador, Calaveras, and San Joaquin Counties, California.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Jon A. Myers, Manager, Water Resources Planning, East Bay Municipal Utility District, 375 Eleventh Street, Oakland, CA 94607-4240, (510) 278-1121.

i. *FERC Contact:* John Schnagl, (202) 219-2661.

j. *Comment Date:* September 10, 1997.

k. *Description of Application:* On March 10, 1981, the Commission issued a license for the Lower Mokelumne River Project to the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). On July 1, 1991, pursuant to reserved authority in the license, Commission staff initiated a license reopener proceeding to determine if modifications to project facilities or operations were necessary for the conservation and development of fish and wildlife resources in the Mokelumne River. In November 1993, the Commission released a final environmental impact statement (FEIS), recommending modifications to the license. Recommended modifications included among other items, new minimum flow and minimum pool elevation requirements, ramping rates, studies on pulse flows, instream habitat enhancements, and further studies and monitoring to define mitigation needs for salmon and trout in the lower river.

In 1994, EBMUD participated in settlement discussions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and other parties to resolve issues of dispute in the proceeding. In 1995, 1996, and 1997 EBMUD, the FWS, and the CDFG continued negotiations. These parties have filed a Settlement Agreement (SA) with the Commission. The SA is under consideration in the proceeding before the Commission as an alternative to the actions recommended in the FEIS issued in 1993.

The SA includes changes in instream flows, development of a Lower Mokelumne River Partnership to develop and implement measures to protect and enhance anadromous fish, development of a Lower Mokelumne River Stakeholders Group to recommend ecosystem protection and improvement, EBMUD establishing a \$2 million Partnership Fund, EBMUD providing \$12.5 million to expand and upgrade the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery, coordination by the parties of fishery and habitat studies and monitoring programs, and development of a process to measure the success of flow requirements, non-flow measures and other actions contained in the SA.

The SA would be in effect for the duration of the current license term.

Copies of the SA may be obtained from EDMUD or from the Commission's public file in this proceeding.

1. This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs: B, C1, and D2.

B. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene—Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedures, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comments date for the particular application.

C1. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS", "PROTEST", OR "MOTION TO INTERVENE", as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Application specified in the particular application.

D2. Agency Comments—Federal, state, and local agencies, are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-20532 Filed 8-4-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5869-2]

Announcement of Stakeholders Meeting on Arsenic in Drinking Water

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of stakeholders meeting.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be holding a one and a half day public meeting on September 11 and 12, 1997. The purpose of this meeting is to present information on EPA's plans for activities to develop a proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for arsenic under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) as amended, and solicit public input on major technical and implementation issues, and on preferred approaches for continued public involvement. This meeting is a continuation of stakeholder meetings that started in 1995 to obtain input on the Agency's Drinking Water Program. These meetings were initiated as part of the Drinking Water Program Redirection efforts to help refocus EPA's drinking water priorities and to support strong, flexible partnerships among EPA, States, Tribes, local governments, and the public. At the upcoming meeting, EPA is seeking input from state and Tribal drinking water programs, the regulated community (public water systems), public health organizations, academia, environmental and public interest groups, engineering firms, and other stakeholders on a number of issues related to developing the NPDWR for arsenic. EPA encourages the full participation of stakeholders throughout this process.

DATES: The stakeholder meeting on arsenic in drinking water will be held on Thursday, September 11, 1997 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT and Friday, September 12, 1997 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES: To register for the meeting, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. EDT. Those registered for the meeting by Tuesday, September 2, 1997 will receive an agenda, logistics sheet, and background materials prior to the meeting. Members of the public who cannot attend the meeting in person may participate via conference call and should register with the Safe Drinking Water Hotline. Conference lines will be allocated on the basis of first-reserved, first served. Members of the public who cannot participate via conference call or in

person may submit comments in writing by October 10, 1997, in order for comments to be included in the meeting summary, to Irene Dooley, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St, SW (4607), Washington, DC 20460 or dooley.irene@epamail.epa.gov. The meeting will be held in Room 6226 at the Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20044.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on meeting logistics, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. For information on the activities related to developing the NPDWR for arsenic and other EPA activities under the Safe Drinking Water Act, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. A block of rooms is being held at the Holiday Inn National Airport (703-416-1600) for September 10th and 11th at the government rate of \$124 per night. Registrants must make their own reservations by August 13, 1997 and mention "EPA Arsenic Meeting" to guarantee the room rate.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

Arsenic (As) is a naturally occurring element found in the human body and is present in food, water, and air. Arsenic in drinking water occurs in ground water and surface water and is associated with certain natural geologic conditions, as well as with contamination from human activities. Arsenic ingestion is linked to skin cancer and arsenic inhalation to lung cancer. In addition, arsenic ingestion seems to be associated with cancers of the kidney, bladder, liver, lung, and other organs. Water primarily contains inorganic arsenic species (As^{v+} and Asⁱⁱⁱ⁺), which tend to be more toxic than organic forms.

In 1976 EPA issued a National Interim Primary Drinking Water Regulation for arsenic at 50 parts per billion (ppb; ug/L). Under the 1986 amendments to SDWA, Congress directed EPA to publish Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) and promulgate National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) for 83 contaminants, including arsenic. When EPA failed to meet the statutory deadline for promulgating an arsenic regulation, a citizens' group filed suit to compel EPA to do so. EPA entered into a consent decree to issue the regulation. EPA held internal workgroup meetings throughout 1994, addressing risk assessment, treatment, analytical methods, arsenic occurrence, exposure, costs, implementation issues, and regulatory