

*Comment date:* September 3, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

### 18. The Detroit Edison Company

[Docket No. ER97-3987-000]

Take notice that on July 30, 1997, The Detroit Edison Company (Detroit Edison), tendered for filing a Service Agreement for wholesale power sales transactions (the Service Agreement) under Detroit Edison's Wholesale Power Sales Tariff (WPS-2), FERC Electric Tariff No. 3 (the WPS-2 Tariff), between Detroit Edison and Pennsylvania Power & Light Company, dated as of July 10, 1997. Detroit Edison requests that the Service Agreement be made effective as of July 10, 1997.

*Comment date:* September 3, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

### 19. The Detroit Edison Company

[Docket No. ER97-3988-000]

Take notice that on July 30, 1997, The Detroit Edison Company (Detroit Edison), tendered for filing a Service Agreement for wholesale power sales transactions (the Service Agreement) under Detroit Edison's Wholesale Power Sales Tariff (WPS-1), FERC Electric Tariff No. 4 (the WPS-1 Tariff), between Detroit Edison and Duke/Louis Dreyfus L.L.C., dated as of July 16, 1997. Detroit Edison requests that the Service Agreement be made effective as of July 16, 1997.

*Comment date:* September 3, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

### 20. The Detroit Edison Company

[Docket No. ER97-3989-000]

Take notice that on July 30, 1997, The Detroit Edison Company (Detroit Edison) tendered for filing a Service Agreement for wholesale power sales transactions (the Service Agreement) under Detroit Edison's Wholesale Power Sales Tariff (WPS-1), FERC Electric Tariff No. 4 (the WPS-1 Tariff), between Detroit Edison and AIG Trading Corporation, dated as of July 9, 1997. Detroit Edison requests that the Service Agreement be made effective as of July 9, 1997.

*Comment date:* September 3, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

### 21. Cinergy Services, Inc.

[Docket No. ER97-3990-000]

Take notice that on July 30, 1997, Cinergy Services, Inc. (Cinergy), tendered for filing a service agreement under Cinergy's Open Access Transmission Service Tariff (the Tariff)

entered into between Cinergy and Virginia Electric & Power Company (Virginia Power).

Cinergy and Virginia Power are requesting an effective date of August 1, 1997.

*Comment date:* September 3, 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. 97-22926 Filed 8-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP96-809-000, et al. and CP96-810-000]

### Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.; Notice of Amended Route by Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. to be Included in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Maritimes Phase II Project and Second Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

August 22, 1997.

The purpose of this second notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to inform the public of amended pipeline routes that will be analyzed in the EIS and to request comments on the current route. We are issuing this NOI to avoid any confusion over the currently proposed route of the Maritimes Phase II Project.

On July 11, 1997, Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. (Maritimes) amended its application to reflect reroutes along 104 miles of its proposed mainline and 40 miles of its lateral

facilities and the relocation of one of the compressor stations. Maritimes states that these reroutes were identified as a result of efforts to address and resolve concerns and comments from landowners and others. Appendix 1 lists the proposed facilities by county; appendix 2 includes a general location map and detailed maps showing the location of the original route and the currently proposed route (labeled as the "PRIMARY ROUTE") and alternate routes.<sup>1</sup>

### Background

On May 16, 1997, we issued our first NOI stating that the staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Maritimes Phase II Project. The project now involves construction and operation, in Maine, of about 346.1 miles of natural gas pipeline and compression.<sup>2</sup> The facilities consist of 198.7 miles of 24- and 30-inch-diameter mainline between Westbrook and the Canadian border near Woodland (Baileysville), Maine; 147.4 miles of 4- to 16-inch-diameter laterals, 31,160 horsepower (hp) of compression at two new compressor stations, 12 new meter stations, and 35 block valves. This EIS 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 Proposed Route Changes

Maritimes identified reroutes along about 53 percent of the mainline and 27 percent of the laterals. The most significant changes include those at:

- Mainline mileposts (MP) 138.0 to 151.0 in the towns of Bowdoinham, Richmond, and Pittston in Sagadahoc and Kennebec Counties, including the relocation of the Richmond Compressor Station from Beedle to Pitts Road (Mainline MP 143.0R);
- Mainline MPs 217.3 to 236.5 in the towns of Bucksport, Holden, Clifton, and Mariaville in Hancock and Penobscot Counties;
- Mainline MPs 247.7 to 290.7 in unnamed townships in Hancock and Washington Counties;

<sup>1</sup> 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., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

<sup>2</sup> Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.'s application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

- Cousins Island Lateral MPs 8.5 to 10.3 in the town of Yarmouth, Cumberland County;
- Skowhegan Lateral MPs 13.3 to 16.6 in the towns of China and Albion, Kennebec County;
- Skowhegan Lateral MPs 34.4 to 35.7R in the town of Skowhegan, Somerset County;
- Brewer (Eastern Fine) Spur MPs 0.0 to 2.1R in the town of Brewer, Penobscot County; and
- Lincoln (Eastern Fine) Spur MPs 0.0 to 2.7R in the town of Lincoln, Penobscot County.

The remaining reroutes are less than 2 miles in length and less than 1,000 feet from the originally proposed route. We have not listed them above, but they are all shown in Appendix 2. On the maps the currently proposed route is the "PRIMARY ROUTE".

### Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed mainline and Cousins Island Laterals (75-foot-wide nominal construction right-of-way) and the other laterals (65-foot-wide nominal construction right-of-way) would affect about 2,980 acres of land. About 71 percent of the mainline and 86 percent of the laterals would be adjacent to or within existing powerline or road rights-of-way. Appendix 3 identifies by milepost those locations where all of the construction right-of-way would be within existing rights-of-way. Additional land disturbance would be needed for extra work spaces at road, railroad and certain waterbody and wetland crossings, as well as for pipeyards and contractors yards, and temporary topsoil storage.

Following construction, about 1,931 acres of the land affected by the project would be retained for operation of the pipeline. A permanent 50 foot-wide right-of-way would be maintained for the mainline and Cousins Island Lateral; a permanent 40-foot-wide right-of-way would be maintained for the remaining laterals. In addition, about 60 acres of land would be fenced for the Richmond and Baileyville Compressor Stations and about 2.4 acres would be required for the meter stations (0.2 acre for each meter station). Block valves would be within the permanent right-of-way. Existing land uses on the remainder of the disturbed area would continue following construction.

### 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 that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities, comments received, and the environmental information provided by Maritimes. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Effects on watersheds, including Floods Pond (Bangor Water District), Hatcase Pond (Brewer Water District), Sheepscot River, and China Lake;
- Effects of proposed open trench crossings on waterbody over 100 feet wide including the Androscoggin River, Kennebec River, Penobscot River, West Branch Union River, Jordan Brook, and St. Croix River on the mainline; and Casco Bay, Sebasticook River, Kennebec River (2 crossings), Otter Stream (2 crossings), Passadumkeag River, Penobscot River (3 crossings), West Branch Penobscot River (2 crossings) and Millinocket Stream on the laterals;
- Effects on river segments listed on either national or state inventories of sensitive waterbodies, or both (Abagadasset, Kennebec, West Branch Sheepscot, Sheepscot, St. George, West Branch Union, Middle Branch Union, Narragausgus, Machias, West Branch Machias, West Branch Penobscot, and St. Croix Rivers and Marsh Stream);
- Crossing of 240 perennial waterbodies, including 33 waterbodies considered important for their commercial or recreational fisheries, or protected species habitat;
- Effect on anadromous fisheries (including Atlantic salmon), deer wintering areas, waterfowl and wildlife habitat (including a proposed crossing of Sunkhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge);
- Effects on 2 federally listed species (bald eagle, shortnose sturgeon);
- Effects of crossing 4 active gravel pits;

- Clearing of about 2,061 acres of forest;
- Crossing of about 26.5 miles of wetlands;
- Effects of 62 residences within 100 feet of the pipeline centerline;
- Crossings of tribal land (Penobscot Indian Nation) and impact on fishing rights (Passamaquoddy Natural Resource Committee);
- Alternatives including the Northern Alternate near Richmond and Gardiner, Maine, minor route changes for site-specific concerns, and compressor station site alternatives.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in a Draft EIS which will be mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, newspapers, libraries, the Commission's official service list for these proceedings, and individuals and public interest groups who requested to remain on our mailing list. A 45-day comment period will be allotted for review of the Draft EIS. We will consider all comments on the Draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a Final EIS. The Final EIS will include our response to each comment received.

### Public Participation and Scoping Meetings

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 or compressor station sites), 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:

- Send *two* copies of your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch II, PR 11.2;
- Reference Docket No. CP96-809-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before September 26, 1997.

In addition to sending written comments, you may attend a public scoping meeting that we will conduct in Gardiner, Maine at the following time and location:

*Date:* Tuesday, Sept. 16, 1997.

*Time:* 7:00 p.m.

*Location:* Middle School Gymnasium, State Route 126 (near Water Street), Gardiner, Maine, (207) 582-1326.

The purpose of the scoping meeting is to obtain additional input from state and local governments and from the public, especially about the Northern Alternative. See the map in Appendix 2. Federal agencies have formal channels for input into the Federal process (including separate meetings where appropriate) on an interagency basis. Federal agencies are expected to transmit their comments directly to the FERC and not use the scoping meetings for this purpose. Local agencies are requested to provide information on other plans and projects which might conflict with, or have cumulative effects, when considered in combination with the Maritimes Phase II Project.

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and present oral comments on the environmental issues which they believe should be addressed in the Draft EIS. A list will be available at the public meetings to allow speakers to sign up. Priority will be given to those persons representing groups. A transcript will be made on the meetings and comments will be used to help determine the scope of the Draft EIS.

#### **Becoming an Intervenor**

In addition to involvement in the EIS 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 such as data requests and filings by other intervenors. We will provide our EIS to anyone who follows the instructions which appear later in this NOI. 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 3). If you already intervened in this proceeding you do not need to do so again because of the amended routes.

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.

#### **Environmental Mailing List**

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. To solicit focused comments regarding environmental considerations related to the proposed project and alternatives, it is also being sent to all potential right-of-way grantors (i.e., landowners whose property would be crossed), landowners along the alternative routes, landowners and abutters at the aboveground facility sites, and abutters along powerline rights-of-way that would be used for installation of the pipeline.

If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to remain on our mailing list and receive a copy of our Draft and Final EISs, please return the form in appendix 4. PLEASE NOTE: IF WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU, EITHER BY COMMENT LETTER, RESPONSE TO ONE OF THE TWO NOIs, OR REGISTERING AT THE SCOPING MEETINGS, YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE MAILING LIST. If you have previously provided us with your name and address, you do not need to send in the form in appendix 4.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-22913 Filed 8-27-97; 8:45 am]

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#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-5884-5]

##### **Availability of Guidance for Utilization of Small, Minority and Women's Business Enterprises in Procurement Under Assistance Agreements**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of guidance document.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is announcing the availability of its "Guidance for Utilization of Small, Minority and Women's Business Enterprises in Procurement Under Assistance Agreements—6010 1997 Edition." This document, issued on July 22, 1997, revises previous Agency guidance dated May 1996. EPA prepared the Guidance for use by Agency personnel, State, Tribal and local government officials, and business persons interested in participating in EPA financial assistance programs. The Guidance provides information on the use of Small, Minority and Women's Business Enterprises in procurement under EPA

grants and cooperative agreements. It will assist individuals in their efforts to understand and implement EPA policies codified at 40 CFR part 30.31 and 35 and ensure consistency with the Supreme Court's decision in *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, 115 S. Ct. 2097 (1995).

**ADDRESSES:** An electronic version of the Guidance is accessible on EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization home page on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/osdbu/pubs.htm>. A limited number of paper copies are also available. Requests for a paper copy should be addressed to the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (1230C), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall 2, Room 1110, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway., Arlington, VA 22202.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rebecca D. Neer, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (1230C), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall 2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, Telephone (703) 305-5030.

Dated: August 22, 1997.

**Peter D. Robertson,**

*Chief of Staff, Office of The Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 97-22946 Filed 8-27-97; 8:45 am]

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#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-5884-3]

##### **Variance and Exemption Regulation Stakeholder Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting of interested stakeholders will be held concerning the variance and exemption provisions of the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This meeting will be held on September 16, 1997 from 8:30 am to 5:15 pm, at the Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, Washington, DC 20024.

The purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss the variance and exemption provisions of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments (sections 1415-16) and the requirements for rulemaking to implement these provisions. EPA is soliciting input as to what these regulations should consider and contain. The 1996 SDWA requires that EPA promulgate regulations specifying:

- Procedures to be used by the Administrator or a State to grant or deny variances, including requirements relating to public notification and hearings prior to issuance of a variance;