

by the Gas Industry Standards Board (GISB). On January 30, 1997, the Commission issued Order No. 587-B which it adopted some of the EDM standards for conducting business transactions over the Internet using an Internet server model. On March 4, 1997, the Commission issued Order No. 587-C which incorporated by reference 27 GISB business practices that revised and supplemented the standards adopted in Order No. 587 as well as one new communication standard. Nautilus states that the tariff sheets submitted herewith revise its tariff to comply with Order Nos. 587, 587-B and 587-C.

Any person desiring to protest this 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.

**Lois D. Cashell,**  
Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP96-311-000 and CP96-311-001]

#### Williams Natural Gas Company; Notice of Meeting

October 14, 1997.

Take notice that there will be a meeting on October 22, 1997, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 71-56, between representatives of Williams Natural Gas Company (Williams) and the Commission staff. The purpose of the meeting is to review the technical details of Williams' reservoir engineering study and new operational plan for Williams' Elk City Storage Field, both of which Williams must file with the Commission by November 30, 1997.

In order that we may assess whether the seating at the designated location will be adequate, those planning to attend should notify Mr. Marc Poole, at (200) 208-0482, of the number of

representatives that you expect to send to the meeting.

**Lois D. Cashell,**  
Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-724-000]

#### NorAm Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 1998 Line F Replacement Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

October 14, 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 facilities proposed in the 1998 Line F Replacement Project.<sup>1</sup> 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

NorAm Gas Transmission Company (NGT) wants to replace an existing mainline pipeline, abandon gas storage and supply pipelines, and make mainline enhancements to its pipeline system in Louisiana. NGT states that these actions would improve the safety, reliability, and efficiency of its pipeline system. Specifically, NGT seeks authorization for the following activities in Louisiana:

- Abandon about 60 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline on Line F in Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, and Lincoln Parishes and replace it with about 61 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline in ten segments ranging from 200 feet to 32.8 miles in length. Some portions of the pipeline to be abandoned would be removed, other portions would be left in place.
- Abandon in place Line 1-F (0.8 mile of 20-inch-diameter pipeline) and Line FT-5 (0.9 mile of 10-inch-diameter pipeline) located in Lincoln Parish.
- Reclassify about 8.2 miles of Line F as a low pressure gas supply line and operate it as part of Line F-1-F in Caddo Parish.

<sup>1</sup> NorAm Gas Transmission Company's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

- Abandon 63 delivery taps installed on the old Line F to deliver gas to rural customers served by Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company, and relocate 36 other delivery taps to the new Line F.

- Install pipeline maintenance facilities at the Buckley Compressor Station in Caddo Parish, the Red Chute Compressor Station in Bossier Parish, and the Ruston Storage Compressor Station in Lincoln Parish.

NGT proposes to begin construction of its facilities in June 1998. The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup> 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 would require about 855 acres of land. Following construction, about 249 acres would be maintained as new permanent right-of-way. The remaining acreage would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

NGT intends to use a up to a 85-foot-wide construction right-of-way for the installation of the replacement pipeline. Where the replacement pipeline would be parallel to the existing line, 15 to 30 feet of the construction right-of-way would be within NGT's existing right-of-way. Consequently, about 45 feet of new clearing would be required in most areas. All but the easternmost 1.8 miles of the replacement pipeline would be built adjacent to NGT's existing pipeline. In this area, 75 feet of new right-of-way would be cleared for construction.

After the replacement pipeline is in service, NGT would remove the majority of the old pipeline. Abandonment activities would take place entirely within NGT's existing 40-foot-wide right-of-way. Following construction, NGT would maintain a 40-foot-wide permanent right-of-way.

Additional temporary work space would be required adjacent to the planned construction right-of-way at road and stream crossings. These areas would vary in size between 4,000 and 168,000 square feet.

#### The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental

<sup>2</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, 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.

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
- vegetation and wildlife
- endangered and threatened species
- land use
- cultural resources
- air quality and noise
- 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 NGT.

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

- The proposed replacement pipeline would cross 68 waterbodies, 13 of which are greater than 100 feet wide.

- The project would disturb about 17 acres of wetland during construction, including 8 acres of forested wetland.

- Eleven residences would be within 50 feet of the edge of the construction right-of-way.

- The pipeline would cross Bayou Dorcheat, a Louisiana Natural and Scenic Waterway, using a directional drilling technique.

#### 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 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 Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, D.C. 20426;

- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.1;

- Reference Docket No. CP97-724-000; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before November 17, 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 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 scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Intent To File An Application

October 14, 1997.

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

a. *Type of filing:* Notice of Intent to File An Application for a New License.

b. *Project No.:* 309.

c. *Date filed:* October 3, 1997.

d. *Submitted By:* Pennsylvania Electric Company, current licensee.

e. *Name of Project:* Piney Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On the Clarion River, in the Clarion County, Pennsylvania.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Section 15 of the Federal Power Act, 18 CFR 16.6 of the Commission's regulations.

h. *Effective date of current license:* June 1, 1979.

i. *Expiration date of current license:* October 12, 2002.

j. The project consists of: (1) A 125-foot-high, 700-foot-long concrete gravity arch dam; (2) a 653-acre reservoir; (3) a powerhouse containing three generating units with a total installed capacity of 28,800 kW; (4) a 115-kV and 34.5-kV transmission and distribution facility; and (5) appurtenant facilities.

k. Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.7, information on the project is available at: Pennsylvania Electric Company, 1001 Broad Street, Johnstown, PA 15907, (814) 533-8111.

l. *FERC contact:* Tom Dean (202) 219-2778.

m. Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.9 each application for a new license and any competing license applications must be filed with the Commission at least 24 months prior to the expiration of the existing license. All applications for license for this project must be filed by October 12, 2000.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

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