

19. UtiliCorp United, Inc.

[Docket No. ES99-29-000]

Take notice that on February 11, 1999, UtiliCorp United, Inc. (Applicant), tendered for filing an application seeking an order under Section 204 of the Federal Power Act authorizing the Applicant to issue corporate guarantees in support of Debt Securities in an amount up to and including \$100,000,000 (CDN), approximately \$67.1 million U.S. based on exchange rates quoted in the Wall Street Journal on February 8, 1999, and any associated currency and interest rate hedges) to be issued by a UtiliCorp Subsidiary at some time(s) over the next two years, and for exemption from competitive bidding and negotiated placement requirements.

Comment date: March 15, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraphs

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such 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 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 these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-222 for assistance).

David P. Boergers,*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-5048 Filed 3-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 11574-000 Connecticut]

City of Norwich, Department of Public Utilities; Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

February 24, 1999.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 F.R. 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for original license for the Occum Hydroelectric Project, located on the Shetucket River in New London County, Connecticut, and has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the project.

Copies of the DEA are available in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2-A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Any comments should be filed within 45 days from the date of this notice and should be addressed to David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. For further information, contact Ed Lee at (202) 219-2809 or by E-mail at Ed.Lee@FERC.fed.us. The EA may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm>.

Please call (202) 208-222 for assistance.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-5055 Filed 3-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP99-94-000]

Florida Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed FGT Phase IV Expansion Project, Request For Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting and Site Visit

February 24, 1999.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the FGT Phase IV Expansion Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Florida Gas Transmission Company (FGT) in Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama.¹ These facilities would consist of about 205 miles of various diameter pipeline, 48,570 horsepower (hp) of compression, four new delivery points including three meter stations and a tap, and various other miscellaneous facilities. This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine

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

whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity. The application and other supplemental filings in this docket are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The pipeline company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law. A fact sheet addressing a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain, is attached to this notice as appendix 1.²

Additionally, with this notice we are asking a number of Federal and state agencies (see appendix 2) with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS. These agencies may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their agencies' responsibilities.

Summary of the Proposed Project

FGT wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama to transport an additional 272,000 million British thermal units per day of natural gas to two private power companies, two municipal utilities, two industrial customers, two natural gas marketers and one local distribution company. See tables 1 and 2 for a listing of project facilities. The FGT Phase IV Expansion Project would also include block valves and blowdown valves. The locations of these facilities have not yet been determined.

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

Several nonjurisdictional facilities would be constructed in Florida as a result of the FGT Phase IV Expansion Project. These nonjurisdictional facilities include expansion of equipment and technology resulting from fuel conversion of oil to natural gas at Florida Power and Light Company's

Ft. Myers plant in Lee County, construction of the Duke Energy—New Smyrna Beach Power Project in Volusia County, and a meter station to be constructed by Peoples Gas System in Lee County. We have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts of the nonjurisdictional

facilities. We will describe their location and status in the Draft EIS.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 3. If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the project, write to the Office of External Affairs and include the form in appendix 5.

TABLE 1.—PROPOSED PIPELINES FOR THE FGT PHASE IV EXPANSION PROJECT

Segment name	Pipeline diameter (inches)	County, State	Mileposts		Segment length (miles)
			Begin	End	
Mainline:					
Mainline Loop Extension	36	George, MS	152.7	156.6	9.3
		Greene, MS	156.6	162.0	
Mainline Loop Downstream of the West Leg.	30	Suwannee, FL	515.3	518.9	5.5
		Columbia, FL	518.9	520.8	
Mainline Loop Downstream of Compressor Station 16.	30	Bradford, FL	548.1	562.1	14.0
Mainline Loop Downstream of Compressor Station 17.	30	Marion, FL	607.9	613.9	
New Lateral					
New Smyrna Beach—Duke Energy lateral.	16	Lake, FL	0.0	8.2	45.82
		Seminole, FL	8.2	15.5	
		Volusia, FL	15.5	45.82	
Lateral Loops and Extension:					
Sarasota Lateral Loop	12	Manatee, FL	69.53	73.62	4.09
Lake Wales Lateral Loop Extension ..	6	Polk, FL	2.5	3.4	0.9
Tampa South Lateral Extension	4	Hillsborough, FL	16.53	22.15	5.62
Mainline:					
West Leg Extension	30	Hillsborough, FL	0.0	22.0	75.6
		Polk, FL	22.0	36.0	
		Hardee, FL		36.0	
		DeSoto, FL		61.3	
				61.3	
	26	De Soto, FL	75.6	88.4	38.0
		Charlotte, FL	88.4	107.0	
		Lee, FL	107.0	113.6	
Total					204.83

TABLE 2.—ABOVEGROUND FACILITIES FOR THE FGT PHASE IV EXPANSION PROJECT

Facility	New horsepower	Horsepower addition	Milepost	County, State	Comments
Compressor Stations:					
11A	N/A	N/A	190.8	Mobile, AL	Restage two compressor units and add a gas scrubber and gas cooler at existing compressor station.
12A		10,350	260.2	Santa Rosa, FL ...	Existing compressor station.
13A		10,350	324.0	Washington, FL ...	Existing compressor station.
14A		10,350	394.7	Gadsden, FL	Existing compressor station.
15A	N/A	N/A	468.7	Taylor, FL	Restage one compressor unit at existing compressor station.
24	10,350		25.3	Gilchrist, FL	New compressor station.
26		7,170	89.8	Citrus, FL	Existing compressor station.
Meter Stations:					
Duke Energy	N/A	N/A	45.82	Volusia, FL	Located at end of the New Smyrna Beach—Duke Energy Lateral.
National Gypsum	N/A	N/A	22.15	Hillsborough, FL ..	Located at the end of the Tampa South Lateral Extension.
FPL Ft. Myers	N/A	N/A	113.6	Lee, FL	Located at the end of the West Leg Extension.
Associated Pipeline Facilities:					
Crossover	N/A	N/A	28.3	Polk, FL	Crossover from the proposed West Leg Extension to the existing Agricola Lateral.
Agricola Lateral Interconnect	N/A	N/A	28.3	Polk, FL	Located at the intersection of the proposed West Leg Extension and the existing Agricola Lateral.

TABLE 2.—ABOVEGROUND FACILITIES FOR THE FGT PHASE IV EXPANSION PROJECT—Continued

Facility	New horse-power	Horsepower addition	Milepost	County, State	Comments
Sarasota Lateral Regulator Station/Interconnect.	N/A	N/A	28.3	Polk, FL	Located at the intersection of the proposed West Leg Extension and the existing Sarasota Lateral.
Tap Valve and Tie-in pipeline	N/A	N/A	111.39	Lee, FL	Located near the end of the proposed West Leg Extension to deliver gas to the TECO-PGS Ft. Myers Meter Station.

N/A=not applicable

Land Requirements for Construction

The pipeline route is adjacent to existing rights-of-way for approximately 92 percent of its length. Where possible, FGT's right-of-way would overlap its existing rights-of-way as much as 75 feet during construction to minimize impacts. Table 3 lists the construction and permanent right-of-way widths for each pipeline segment.

Construction of the FGT Phase IV Expansion Project would affect a total of about 2,499 acres of land including 2,475 acres required for pipeline construction and extra workspace and 24 acres for construction of the aboveground facilities. Locations of contractor yards, pipe storage yards, and access roads have not been determined. All these acreage figures are subject to change. Total land requirements for the permanent right-of-way would be about

1,275 acres. An additional 24 acres for the operation of the new aboveground facilities would be required. The remaining 1,200 acres of land affected by construction would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

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 under these general headings:

- Geology and soils.
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands.
- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Air quality and noise.

TABLE 3.—RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) WIDTHS FOR THE FGT PHASE IV EXPANSION PROJECT

Facility	Construction row (feet)	Permanent row (feet)	New permanent row (feet)	Construction row overlap with existing FGT row (feet)
Mainline:				
Mainline Loop Extension	110	40	15	75
Mainline Loop Downstream of the West Leg	110	40	15	75
Mainline Loop Downstream of Compressor Station 16.	110	40	15	75
Mainline Loop Downstream of Compressor Station 17.	110	40	15	75
New Lateral:				
New Smyrna Beach—Duke Energy Lateral	75	30	0 to 30 ^a	30 ^b
Lateral Loop and Extension				
Sarasota Lateral Loop	75	30	0	30
Lake Wales Lateral Loop Extension	60	40	0	Varies.
Tampa South Lateral Extension	45 to 50	30	30	Not applicable.
Mainline:				
West Leg Extension	100 ^b	50	50	Not applicable.

^aFGT would require no new permanent right-of-way when paralleling the Sanford Lateral and 30 feet of new permanent right-of-way when not paralleling the Sanford Lateral.

^bFGT would use a 75-foot wide construction right-of-way in wetlands.

- Endangered and threatened species.
- Public safety.
- Hazardous waste.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

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 and the environmental information provided by FGT. These issues are listed below. This is a preliminary list of issues and may be changed based on your comments and

our analysis. Currently identified environmental issues for the FGT Phase IV Expansion Project include:

- Potential for sinkhole formation and flooding;
- Construction through or along the edge of active or inactive surface mines;
- Effect of construction on 85 perennial waterbody crossings, including 19 waterbodies 100 feet wide or greater;
- Erosion control and potential for sediment transport to waterbodies and wetlands;
- Effect of construction on groundwater and surface water supplies;
- Effect of construction on 208 wetland crossings, including about 70 acres of permanent alteration of wetlands;
- Clearing of about 718 acres of forest;
- Effect on wildlife, fisheries and rare plant habitats;
- Impacts on 11 federally endangered and threatened species including the bald eagle, Britton's beargrass, eastern indigo snake, Florida bonamia, Florida scrub jay, gopher tortoise, pigeon-wing, red-cockaded woodpecker, sand skink, West Indian manatee, and wood stork;
- Effect on historic and prehistoric archaeological sites and historic structures;
- Impact on about 175 residences potentially within 50 feet of the construction right-of-way;
- Potentially contaminated sites may be crossed by the pipeline;
- Effect on public lands and special use areas including the Ocala National Forest, the Seminole State Forest, the Hell Ranch, Lake Manatee State Recreation Area, Wekiva Aquatic Preserve, Medard Park and Bicentennial Conservation Park;

- Crossing the Wekiva River, a designated Wild and Scenic River, and an Outstanding Florida Water;
- Consistency with local land use plans and zoning;
- Visual effect of aboveground facilities on surrounding areas;
- Effect on local air quality and noise environment as a result of compressor station operations; and
- Assessment of the combined effect of the proposed project with other projects, including other natural gas pipelines, which have been or may be proposed in the same region and similar time frames.

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 Draft EIS which will be mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, affected landowners and other interested individuals, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. 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 and will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether to approve the project.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section below.

Public Participation and Scoping Meetings

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EIS and considered by the Commission. 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: David P. Boergers, 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. CP99-94-000;
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before March 26, 1999.

In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments, we invite you to attend the public scoping meetings the FERC will conduct in the project area. The locations and times for these meetings are listed below.

Schedule of Public Scoping Meetings for the FGT Phase IV Expansion Project Environmental Impact Statement

Date	Time	Location
March 15, 1999	7:00 pm	Sheraton Hotel, 2900 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, Florida, (352) 377-4000.
March 16, 1999	7:00 pm	Holiday Inn, 350 E. International Speedway Blvd. De Land, Florida, (904) 738-5200.
March 17, 1999	7:00 pm	Holiday Inn Select, 13051 Bell Tower Drive, Fort Myers, Florida, (941) 482-2900.
March 18, 1999	7:00 pm	Carver Recreation Center, 520 South Idlewood Avenue, Bartow, Florida, (941) 534-0161.

The public meetings are designed to provide you with more detailed information and another opportunity to offer your comments on the proposed project. FGT representatives will be present at the scoping meetings to describe their proposal. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and to present comments on the environmental issues they believe should be addressed in the Draft EIS. A transcript of each meeting

will be made so that your comments will be accurately recorded.

On the dates of the meetings, the staff will also be visiting some project areas. Anyone interested in participating in a site visit may contact the Commission's Office of External Affairs identified at the end of this notice for more details and must provide their own transportation.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EIS scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor". Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. 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 14 copies of its filing to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. 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 4). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file later 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 environmental comments considered.

Environmental Mailing List

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. It is also being sent to all identified potential right-of-way grantors. As details of the project become established, representatives of FGT may also separately contact landowners, communities, and public agencies concerning project matters, including acquisition of permits and rights-of-way.

All commentors will be retained on our mailing list. If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to keep informed and receive copies of the Draft and Final EISs, you must return the Information Request (appendix 5). If you do not send comments or return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222. Access to the tests of formal documents issued by the Commission with regard to this docket, such as orders and notices, is also available on the FERC website using the "CIPS" link. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-5050 Filed 3-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Action Acquiring Lands to Satisfy License Conditions, Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Protests

February 24, 1999.

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

a. *Application Type:* Notice of Action Acquiring Lands to Satisfy Articles 417 and 418.

b. *Project No.:* 1417-056 and -057.

c. *Date Filed:* February 5, 1999.

d. *Applicant:* Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District.

e. *Name of Project:* Kingsley Dam Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* The hydroelectric project is on the North Platte and Platte Rivers in Garden, Keith, Lincoln, Dawson, and Gosper counties in south-central Nebraska. The project does not use federal or tribal lands.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Articles 417 and 418.

h. *Applicant Contact:* Jay Maher, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, 415 Lincoln Street, Holdrege, NE 68949.

i. *FERC Contact:* For more information on this notice, please contact Steve Hocking, e-mail address: Steve.Hocking@ferc.fed.us, or telephone 202-219-2656.

j. *Deadline for filing comments and or motions:* March 26, 1999. Please include the project number (1417-056 and -057) on any comments or motions filed.

k. *Description of Application:* Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (licensee) filed notice of its action acquiring about 4,037 acres of land on the Platte River known as Jeffrey Island between Lexington and Kearney, Nebraska. The licensee has entered into a lease/purchase agreement to acquire the lands and satisfy the requirements of articles 417 and 418 of its license for the Kingsley Dam Hydroelectric Project. These lands will be managed under a land management plan (to be developed later) to improve habitat for whooping cranes, piping plovers, least terns, sandhill cranes and other wildlife.

1. *Locations of the application:* A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The application may be

viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call (202) 208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

m. *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 Procedure, 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 comment 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, NE., Washington, DC 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant 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. 99-5051 Filed 3-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M