

parties or interceders (as defined in 18 CFR 385.2010) to file documents on each person whose name is on the official service list for this proceeding. See CFR 4.34(b).

The Commission staff will consider all written comments and may issue a Scoping Document II (SDII). SDII will include a revised list of issues, based on the scoping process.

For further information regarding the scoping process, please contact Ms. Julie Bernt, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Hydropower Licensing, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426 at (202) 219-2814.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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[Docket Nos. CP95-194-001, and CP96-027-000 and CP96-027-001, Respectively]

Northern Border Pipeline Company and Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Additional Facilities by Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America To Be Included in The Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Northern Border Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

June 28, 1996.

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 construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the Northern Border Project.¹ The original notice was issued February 16, 1996. The purpose of this supplemental notice is to inform the public of additional facilities which will be included in the EIS.

On June 18, 1996, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural) amended its application to add 9.6 miles of loop in Louisa and Muscatine Counties, Iowa and to increase the amount of new compression at Compressor Station 110 in Henry County, Illinois from 7,250 horsepower (hp) to 9,000 hp. This addition is because Natural no longer proposes to add compression at Compressor Station 199 in Muscatine County, Iowa. Maps showing the location of the newly proposed loop are in appendix 1.

¹ Northern Border Pipeline Company's and Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America's applications were filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decisionmaking process to determine whether to approve the project.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Pipeline

The additional 9.6-mile-long loop would be built adjacent to Natural's existing pipeline, using as much of the existing right-of-way as possible. Natural would use a right-of-way ranging in width from 75 to 100 feet. Additional temporary work space would generally be used where the pipeline crosses roads, streams, and rivers. An estimated 87.3 acres would be disturbed during construction. After construction, the disturbed area would be restored, and a 25-foot-wide permanent right-of-way in addition to the existing right-of-way would be maintained. Existing land uses on the remainder of the disturbed area, as well as most land uses on the permanent right-of-way, such as agriculture and open areas, would be allowed to continue following construction.

Aboveground Facilities

All construction at Compressor Station 110 would take place within the existing fenced station yard.

The EIS Process/Environmental Issues

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. The EIS we are preparing will give the Commission the information to do that. 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. We encourage state and local government representatives 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 under each topic that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by the applicants. These issues are listed below. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list. The list of issues may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Geology and Soils
 - Prime and farmland soils.
 - Erosion control.
 - Topsoil/subsoil mixing.
 - Soil compaction.
 - Drain tiles and ditches.
 - Revegetation of non-agricultural areas.
- Water Resources
 - 7 crossings of waterbodies, including the Ceder River.
 - Effect on groundwater and surface water supplies.
- Biological Resources
 - Effect on wildlife and fisheries habitat.
 - Effect on federally listed endangered and threatened species.
 - Effect on wetland habitat.
- Cultural Resources
 - Effect on historic and prehistoric sites.
 - Native American and tribal concerns.
- Land Use
 - Effect on farming.
 - Effect on residences and recreation areas.
 - Effect on public lands
- Air Quality and Noise
 - Effect on local and regional air quality and local noise environment as a result of operation of additional compression.

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 presented in a Draft EIS which will be mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for these proceedings. 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

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, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426 or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

issuing a Final EIS. The Final EIS will include our response to each comment received.

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 and 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:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP95-194-001;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Ms. Laura Turner, EIS Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Room 7M-02, Washington, DC 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before July 29, 1996.

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 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 expires on June 28, 1996. After that date parties seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why the time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late interventions. You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping 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. It is also being sent to all potential right-of-way grantors to solicit

focused comments regarding environmental considerations related to the proposed project. As details of the project become established, representatives of Northern Border and Natural will directly contact landowners, communities, and public agencies concerning any other matters, including acquisition of permits and rights-of-way.

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, please return the Information Request (appendix 3). **PLEASE NOTE: IF WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU, EITHER BY COMMENT LETTER, RESPONSE TO ONE OF THE TWO NOI's, 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 need not send in this information request.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Ms. Laura Turner, EIS Project Manager, at (202) 208-0916.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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Notice of Proposed Power Rate—Robert D. Willis

AGENCY: Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern), DOE.

ACTION: Notice for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: The Administrator, Southwestern, has prepared Current and Revised 1996 Power Repayment Studies for the Robert D. Willis (Willis) project which show the need for a decrease in annual revenues required to meet cost recovery criteria. The decrease in the revenues required will result from a change in the allocation of costs due to the remote operation of the Whitney Project from the Sam Rayburn (Rayburn) Project beginning in FY 1997. The existing power plant operators' costs will be allocated among three projects rather than just Willis and Rayburn. The Administrator has also developed a proposed rate schedule for the isolated Willis project to recover the required revenues. The proposed rate for the Willis project would decrease annual revenues approximately 9.3 percent from \$294,312 to \$266,928 beginning October 1, 1996.

DATES: A Public Information Forum has been scheduled for July 16, 1996, in Tulsa Oklahoma. A Public Comment

Forum will be held July 30, 1996, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Written comments are due on or before (insert 30 days from the date of Federal Register publication). Southwestern is conducting a 30 day public notice and comment period (10 CFR 903.14(d)). This public participation period is for a minor rate adjustment which does not require any comment period to exceed 30 days. In addition, this project has a single hydroelectric power customer and that customer directly impacted has been informed of the proposed rate decrease. It is anticipated that any comments from the customer will be developed well within the 30 day period.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to the Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 1619, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. George C. Grisaffe, Assistant Administrator, Office of Administration and Rates, Southwestern Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 1619, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101, (918) 595-6628.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Department of Energy was created by an Act of the U.S. Congress, Department of Energy Organization Act, P. L. 95-91, dated August 4, 1977, and Southwestern's power marketing activities were transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Energy, effective October 1, 1977.

Southwestern markets power from 24 multiple-purpose reservoir projects with power facilities constructed and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These projects are located in the States of Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Southwestern's marketing area includes these states plus Kansas and Louisiana. Of the total, 22 projects comprise an Integrated System and are interconnected through Southwestern's transmission system and exchange agreements with other utilities. The Sam Rayburn Dam project, located in eastern Texas, is not interconnected with Southwestern's Integrated System hydraulically, electrically, or financially. Instead, the power produced by the Sam Rayburn Dam project is marketed by Southwestern as an isolated project under a contract through which the customer purchases the entire power output of the project at the dam. The Willis project, located on the Neches River downstream from the Sam Rayburn Dam, consists of two 4,000 kilowatt hydroelectric generating units. It, like the Sam Rayburn Dam project, is