

inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Lois D. Cashell,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-5792 Filed 3-11-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. CP96-189-000]

**Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Line VM-108 Replacement Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues**

March 6, 1996.

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 the facilities proposed in the Line VM-108 Replacement Project.<sup>1</sup> This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.

**Summary of the Proposed Project**

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) wants to replace 7.3 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipeline, known as Line VM-108, with 7.3 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline in Prince George and Sussex Counties, Virginia. Columbia determined that 6.3 miles of the existing Line VM-108 have deteriorated and need to be replaced. Columbia also received a request from an existing customer, Virginia Natural Gas Company (VNG), to shift a delivery point. By replacing the 6.3 miles of deteriorated pipeline and extending the replacement an additional mile, Columbia can reassign 28,525 decatherms per day of natural gas from its Newport News No. 1 Gate Station to its Norfolk Gate Station to accommodate VNG's request.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

**Land Requirements for Construction**

Construction of the proposed facilities would affect about 75.4 acres of land,

including 31.0 acres of temporary right-of-way. Following construction, 44.4 acres of land on existing right-of-way would be required for operation of the facilities. No new permanent right-of-way is required for the project.

**The EA 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 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
- Public safety
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Air quality and noise
- Hazardous waste

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 recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

**Currently Identified Environmental Issues.**

We have already identified issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Columbia. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list:

- Five perennial and seven intermittent streams would be crossed.
- Thirteen wetlands totalling about 9.5 acres would be affected.
- Two bird species, two fish species and two plant species that are rare or sensitive in Virginia are in the vicinity of the project area.
- Three residences are within 50 feet, and four domestic water wells are within 150 feet of the construction right-of-way.
- The project would cross or be near cultural resources.

The list of issues may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis.

**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, 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 St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96-189-000;
- Send a copy of your letter to: Mr. Jeff Shenot, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., PR-11.2, Washington, D.C. 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before April 12, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Shenot at the above address.

**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

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

<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.

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).

You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Jeff Shenot, EA Project Manager, at (202) 219-0295.

Lois D. Cashell,

*Secretary.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5440-1]

### Science Advisory Board Emergency Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Emergency notification of this meeting is being made due to late publication of this notice due to Federal Budgetary exigencies. Information concerning this meeting, originally planned for January 9-10, 1996, was previously published in 60 FR 55573, dated November 1, 1995.

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the Drinking Water Committee (DWC) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet Tuesday, March 19, 1996 and Wednesday March 20, 1996 at the One Washington Circle Hotel, One Washington Circle, NW., Washington, DC 20037. Hotel Telephone: (202) 872-1680 or 1-800-424-9671. The meeting will convene at 9:00 am both days and end no later than 3 pm on March 20th. All times noted are Eastern Time. This meeting is open to the public. Due to limited space, seating at the meeting will be on a first-come basis. Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are *not* available from the SAB Office.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the Environmental Protection Agency's Five-Year Research Plan for Disinfection Byproducts. Please see previous FR notice at 60 FR 55573, dated November 1, 1995 for further information. Presentations will be made by representatives from the Agency's Office of Research and Development (ORD). Background documents to be provided for this review are available from the program office and not the

Science Advisory Board. These documents include: (a) Draft Report on EPA's 5 year research plan to support DBP related rules (and its Appendices); and (b) Federal Register Notices of proposed D/DBP rule, Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (ESTWR), and Information Collection Rule (ICR).

The charge to the Drinking Water Committee is as follows: (a) Has EPA identified the correct issues that need to be addressed to support the development of the Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts rule? (b) Do the research topic areas underway or envisioned under the five year research plan appear to adequately address the issues? Should any other research topic area be funded in lieu of that which is ongoing or planned? © Has EPA given appropriate priorities to the order by which research is to be conducted?

Single copies of the U.S. EPA review materials provided to the Committee may be obtained from Ms Gail Robarge, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development (8105), 401 M Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20460; Telephone: (202) 260-9101. Copies of these documents are NOT available from the Science Advisory Board Staff.

Members of the public desiring additional information about the meeting, including an agenda, should contact Mr. A. Robert Flaak, Designated Federal Official, Drinking Water Committee, Science Advisory Board (1400F), US EPA, 401 M Street, SW., Washington DC 20460, by telephone at (202) 260-5133, fax at (202) 260-7118, or via The INTERNET at: FLAAK.ROBERT@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV.

Members of the public wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting should contact Mr. Flaak no later than noon, Tuesday, March 12, 1996. The request should identify the name of the individual who will make the presentation, requirements for audio visual equipment (e.g., overhead projector, 35mm projector, chalk board, etc), and an outline of the issues to be addressed. At least 35 copies of the presentation and 35 copies of the visual aids used at the meeting are to be given to Mr. Flaak no later than the time of the presentation for distribution to the Committee and the interested public. See below for additional information on providing comments to the SAB.

### Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

The Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of

previously submitted oral or written statements. In general, each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of ten minutes. Written comments (at least 35 copies) received in the SAB Staff Office sufficiently prior to a meeting date, may be mailed to the relevant SAB committee or subcommittee prior to its meeting; comments received too close to the meeting date will normally be provided to the committee at its meeting. Written comments may be provided to the relevant committee or subcommittee up until the time of the meeting.

Dated: March 5, 1996.

Donald G. Barnes,

*Staff Director, Science Advisory Board.*

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### Notice of Public Information Collections Being Reviewed by FCC For Extension Under Delegated Authority 5 CFR 1320 Authority, Comments Requested

March 5, 1996.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are requested concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. The FCC is reviewing the following information collection requirements for possible 3-year extension under delegated authority 5 CFR 1320, authority delegated to the Commission by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted on or before May 13, 1996. If you anticipate that