

(MEPCO), tendered for filing a service agreement for Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission service with The Power Company of America, L.P. Service will be provided pursuant to CMP's Open Access Transmission Tariff, designated rate schedule MEPCO—FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, as supplemented.

*Comment date:* April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

## 12. Maine Electric Power Company

[Docket No. ER97-2042-000]

Take notice that on March 6, 1997, Maine Electric Power Company (MEPCO), tendered for filing a service agreement for Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service with Green Mountain Power Corporation. Service will be provided pursuant to CMP's Open Access Transmission Tariff, designated rate schedule CMP—FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, as supplemented.

*Comment date:* April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

## 13. Northeast Utilities Service Company

[Docket No. ER97-2044-000]

Take notice that on January 14, 1997, Northeast Utilities Service Company (NUSCO), tendered for filing a Service Agreement with New England Power Company (NEP) under the NU System Companies' System Power Sales/Exchange Tariff No. 6.

NUSCO states that a copy of this filing has been mailed to NEP.

NUSCO requests that the Service Agreement become effective February 1, 1997.

*Comment date:* April 7, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

## 14. AMVEST Power, Inc.

[Docket No. ER97-2045-000]

Take notice that on February 26, 1997, AMVEST Power, Inc., tendered for filing, pursuant to Rule 207 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.207, an application for waivers and blanket approvals under various Regulations of the Commission, and an order accepting its Rate Schedule No. 1, to be effective April 28, 1997, or the date that the Commission issues an order in this proceeding, whichever is earlier. AMVEST Power, Inc., intends to engage in electric energy and capacity transactions as a marketer.

*Comment date:* April 7, 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. 97-8069 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. CP97-202-000]

## USG Pipeline Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed USG Pipeline Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

March 25, 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 the facilities, about 14.5 miles of 10-inch-diameter pipeline and appurtenances, proposed in the USG pipeline 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

USG Pipeline Company (USGPC) wants to construct facilities in order to transport up to 7,000 Dekatherms per day to United States Gypsum Company (USGC) near Bridgeport, Alabama, where USGC is planning to construct a nonjurisdictional wallboard manufacturing plant. USGPC's facilities would be constructed in Tennessee and Alabama and would consist of:

- About 14.5 miles of 10-inch-diameter pipeline commencing at interconnecting facilities with East

Tennessee Natural Gas Company in Marion County, Tennessee, and ending in Jackson County, Alabama;

- A block valve assembly in Marion County, Tennessee, near milepost (MP) 6.85; and
- Launching and receiving facilities in Marion County, Tennessee, at MP 0.0, and Jackson County, Alabama, at MP 14.5, respectively;

USGPC has also identified a alternative pipeline route.

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 for the preferred route would require about 148.0 acres of mostly agricultural land. Following construction, about 87.9 acres of existing right-of-way (ROW) would continue to be maintained as permanent ROW. If the alternative pipeline route is chosen, construction activities would take place almost entirely on existing railroad ROW.

## 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.

<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.

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

- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Air quality and noise.
- Hazardous waste.
- 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 USGPC. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Six federally listed endangered or threatened species may occur in the proposed project area.
- Eight wetlands and seven perennial streams would be affected.
- There are 75 residences located within 50 feet of the construction ROW of the alternative route.

#### 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 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., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP97-202-000; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before April 24, 1997.

If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to remain on our mailing list, please return the Information Request (appendix 3). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

#### 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 later intervention.

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

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-8007 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

#### Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission

March 25, 1997.

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

- Type of Application:* Original Minor License.
- Project No.:* 1986-005.
- Date filed:* February 28, 1997.
- Applicant:* Douglas W. Pagar.
- Name of Project:* Rock Creek Historic Hydro-electric Power Plant.
- Location:* On Rock Creek, a tributary of the Powder River, near Haines in Baker County, Oregon; on lands within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.
- Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act 16 USC §§ 791(a)-825(r).
- Applicant Contact:* Douglas W. Pagar, 540 E. 1st Street, Gladstone, OR 97027, (503) 657-1076.

*i. FERC Contact:* Gordon Warren at (202) 219-2836.

*j. Comment Date:* 60 days from the filing date in paragraph c.

*k. Brief Description of Project:* The existing project consists of: (1) a concrete diversion structure on Rock Creek; (2) a 8,500 foot-long wooden timber flume; (3) a forebay pond; (4) a 2,700 foot-long steel penstock; (5) a wooden powerhouse; (6) two turbine generator units, each with a capacity of 400 KW; and (7) other appurtenances.

l. With this notice, we are initiating consultation with the OREGON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER (SHPO), as required by § 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR, at 800.4.

m. Under Section 4.32(b)(7) of the Commission's regulations (18 CFR), if any resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person believes that the applicant should conduct an additional scientific study to form an adequate factual basis for a complete analysis of the application on its merits, they must file a request for the study with the Commission, not later than 60 days after the application is filed, and must serve a copy of the request on the applicant.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-8009 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

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#### Office of Hearings and Appeals

##### Notice of Cases Filed; Week of February 24 Through February 28, 1997

During the Week of February 24 through February 28, 1997, the appeals, applications, petitions or other requests listed in this Notice were filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals of the Department of Energy.

Any person who will be aggrieved by the DOE action sought in any of these cases may file written comments on the application within ten days of publication of this Notice or the date of receipt of actual notice, whichever occurs first. All such comments shall be filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585-0107.

Dated: March 21, 1997.

**George B. Breznay,**

*Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals.*