

tariff as required by the Commission in its Order On Compliance Tariff Rates and Generic Clarification of Implementation Procedures, 80 FERC ¶ 61,143 (1997).

Comment date: September 19, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

45. New Century Services, Inc.

[Docket No. OA97-691-001]

Take notice that on August 15, 1997, New Century Services, Inc., on behalf of Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company, Public Service Company of Colorado, and Southwestern Public Service Company, filed a compliance open access transmission tariff in accordance with the Order on Compliance Tariff Rates and Generic Clarification of Implementation Procedures (Order) issued in Docket Nos. OA96-18-000, et al., issued on July 31, 1997.

Comment date: September 19, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

46. Mid-Georgia Cogen L.P.

[Docket No. QF96-26-001]

On August 19, 1997, Mid-Georgia Cogen L.P. (Applicant), c/o GPU International, Inc., One Upper Pond Road, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054, submitted for filing an application for recertification of a facility as a qualifying cogeneration facility pursuant to Section 292.207(b) of the Commission's Regulations. No determination has been made that the submittal constitutes a complete filing.

According to the Applicant, the 323 MW natural gas-fired, topping-cycle cogeneration facility is located near Cathleen, Houston, Georgia. The Commission previously certified the facility as a qualifying cogeneration facility in Mid-Georgia Cogen, L.P., 74 FERC ¶ 62,162 (1996). According to the application, the instant recertification is requested to assure that the facility will remain a qualifying facility following a change in the ownership of Mid-Georgia Cogen L.P.

Comment date: September 29, 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. 97-24215 Filed 9-11-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2584-003 New York]

Rochester Gas & Electric Corp.; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

September 8, 1997.

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 FR 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for new license for the Station 26 Hydroelectric Project, located on the Genesee River, in City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York, and has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the project.

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

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-24184 Filed 9-11-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-656-000]

Texas Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed North Louisiana Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

September 8, 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 an additional 4,600 horsepower (hp) of compression at the existing Houghton Compression Station, proposed in the North Louisiana Expansion Project.¹ 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

Texas Gas Transmission Corporation (Texas Gas) proposes to expand the capacity of its facilities in Louisiana to transport an additional 105,000 million British thermal units per day of firm natural gas service to a new customer. Texas Gas seeks authority to construct and operate a 4,600 hp Dresser-Rand reciprocating compressor unit and associated equipment at its existing Houghton Compressor Station in Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.² If you are interested in obtaining procedural information, please write to the Secretary of the Commission.

Land Requirements for Construction

Texas Gas owns the 28.54 acre Houghton Compressor Station site. Construction and operation of the proposed project would require a total of 10.5 acres, all of which would be within the existing site.

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

¹ Texas 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.

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

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 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 one issue that we think deserves attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Texas Gas. Additional issues may be included based on your comments and our analysis.

- Noise levels at the nearest noise-sensitive areas would exceed a day-night sound level of 55 dBA (decibels of the A-weighted scale) with the construction of the additional compressor unit.

Also, we have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts of the nonjurisdictional facilities. We will briefly describe their location and status in the EA.

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 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 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. CP97-656-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before October 6, 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 filing 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 comments considered.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-24181 Filed 9-11-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Notice of Issuance of Decisions and Orders; Week of July 28 Through August 1, 1997

During the week of July 28 through August 1, 1997, the decisions and orders summarized below were issued with respect to appeals, applications, petitions, or other requests filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals of the Department of Energy. The

following summary also contains a list of submissions that were dismissed by the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

Copies of the full text of these decisions and orders are available in the Public Reference Room of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Room 1E-234, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585-0107, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., except federal holidays. They are also available in *Energy Management: Federal Energy Guidelines*, a commercially published loose leaf reporter system. Some decisions and orders are available on the Office of Hearings and Appeals World Wide Web site at <http://www.oha.doe.gov>.

Dated: September 3, 1997.

George B. Breznay,

Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals.

Decision List No. 44—Week of July 28 Through August 1, 1997

Appeals

The Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/29/97, VFA-0307

The Cincinnati Enquirer (Appellant) filed an Appeal concerning its request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Appellant had requested documentation for all sole-source contracts at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP). The DOE's Ohio Field Office (DOE/OFO) released some documents but found that other documents were owned by FEMP's management and operating contractor, Fluor Daniel Fernald (FDF). On appeal, the Appellant argued that FDF is an agency and that the withheld documents are agency records. The DOE rejected both of these arguments and found that the documents were not subject to release under DOE regulations. Accordingly, the Appeal was denied.

Personnel Security Hearings

Personnel Security Hearing, 7/31/97 VSO-0146

An Office of Hearings and Appeals Hearing Officer issued an opinion regarding the eligibility of an individual employed by a contractor at a DOE facility to maintain an access authorization under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 710. The individual's access authorization had been suspended because the individual had consumed alcohol habitually to excess in the past. The Hearing Officer found that the individual had mitigated the concerns raised by the DOE with respect to his alcohol use by presenting documentary and testimonial evidence indicating that