

Livermore would increase from 7.8 MW to 12.26 MW.

The Otis Project consists of one development. The existing facilities at the Otis Project include: (1) A 577 foot-long concrete gravity dam in two sections, one with 2 foot-high flash boards, and the second with 2.21 foot-high flashboards; (2) an 80-foot-long forebay intake structures with 2 headgates; (3) a 2.5 mile-long impoundment with 115 acres surface area; (4) a powerhouse containing two identical 5,175 kW generating units with a total hydraulic capacities of 6,000 cfs; and (5) a substation connected to a 3.0 mile-long 13.8 kV transmission line.

Purpose of Notice

The purpose of this notice is to: (1) Inform all interested parties that an APEA and final license applications for the Riley-Jay-Livermore Project and Otis Project have been filed with the Commission on September 25, 1997, and are available for the public inspection; (2) inform all parties that the applications and APEA are hereby accepted; (3) invite interventions and protests; (4) solicit comments, final recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions on the final license applications and APEA; and (5) identify an approximate schedule and procedures that will be followed in processing the applications and APEA.

International Paper Company and Otis Hydroelectric Company have used a Collaborative Team approach to prepare the APEA for the Riley-Jay Livermore and Otis Hydroelectric Projects. The Collaborative Team consists of federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the public. The Collaborative Team has been meeting since September 1994 to guide the study process and prepare the APEA. The Collaborative Team has reached agreement as to the preferred alternative for relicensing these projects. This agreement is reflected in the APEA as the preferred alternative.

Applicant Prepared EA Process and Processing Schedule

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EP Act) gives the Commission the authority to allow the filing of an APEA with a license application. The EP Act also directs the Commission to institute procedures, including pre-application consultations, to advise applicants of studies or other information foreseeable required by the Commission.

On April 27, 1995, the Director, Office of Hydropower Licensing, waived or amended certain of the Commission's regulations to allow for coordinated

processing of the license applications and the APEA. Since then, the Commission has been working cooperatively in advising the Collaborative Team of studies or other information foreseeable required by the Commission.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping was conducted on the projects through scoping documents issued December 8, 1994, and May 12, 1995, and in public scoping meetings on January 10, 1995. Draft license applications and preliminary DEA (PDEA) were issued by the Collaborative Team for comment on March 28, 1997. The final license applications and APEA were filed with the Commission on October 25, 1997. The APEA includes responses to all comments received on the PDEA.

Commission staff have reviewed the APEA and license applications and have determined that the applications are acceptable and no additional information or studies are needed to prepare the Commission's draft EA. The deadline for applicants filing any final amendments to the application is 45 days from the date of this notice. Comments, as indicated below, are now being requested from interested parties. Any comments received will be addressed in the draft EA issued by Commission by late December 1997, or early 1998. There will be a 30-day comment period on the draft EA. A final EA is scheduled for March 30, 1998, or earlier.

Interventions and Protests

All such filings must: (1) Bear in all capital letters the title "MOTION TO INTERVENE", (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person protecting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All motions to intervene must be received 60 days from the date of this notice. A copy of any motion to intervene or protest must be served on each applicant.

Comments, Final Terms and Conditions, Recommendations and Prescriptions

Interested parties have 60 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any final comments, final recommendations, terms and conditions and prescriptions for the Riley-Jay-Livermore and Otis Hydroelectric Projects. The applicants will have 45 days to respond. In view of the high level of early involvement of the

Collaborative Team, we expect the majority of comments to reflect the agreement and preferred alternative in the DEA.

Copies of the Applications and APEA

A copy of the DEA and final license applications are available for review by contacting Steve W. Groves, International Paper Company, Androscoggin Mill, Riley Road, Jay, Maine 04239, or phone 207-897-1389. Copies of these documents are also available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room.

Filing Requirements

The above documents *must* be filed by providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.

In addition to the above copies, comments or interventions may also be submitted on a 3½-inch diskette formatted for MS-DOS based computers to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE, Washington, DC 20426. For Macintosh users, it would be helpful to save the documents in Macintosh word processor format and then write them to files on a diskette formatted for MS-DOS machines.

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to Commission staff Monte J. TerHaar at 202-219-2768.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-446-001]

Nautilus Pipeline Company, LLC; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

October 14, 1997.

Take notice that on October 9, 1997, Nautilus Pipeline Company, LLC (Nautilus) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, the Tariff sheets set forth on Appendix B to the filing in compliance with the Commission's Order Nos. 587, 587-B and 587-C to become effective November 1, 1997.

On July 17, 1996, the Commission issued order No. 587 which revised the Commission's regulations governing interstate natural gas pipelines to follow standardized business practices issued

by the Gas Industry Standards Board (GISB). On January 30, 1997, the Commission issued Order No. 587-B which it adopted some of the EDM standards for conducting business transactions over the Internet using an Internet server model. On March 4, 1997, the Commission issued Order No. 587-C which incorporated by reference 27 GISB business practices that revised and supplemented the standards adopted in Order No. 587 as well as one new communication standard. Nautilus states that the tariff sheets submitted herewith revise its tariff to comply with Order Nos. 587, 587-B and 587-C.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. 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. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-27666 Filed 10-17-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP96-311-000 and CP96-311-001]

Williams Natural Gas Company; Notice of Meeting

October 14, 1997.

Take notice that there will be a meeting on October 22, 1997, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 71-56, between representatives of Williams Natural Gas Company (Williams) and the Commission staff. The purpose of the meeting is to review the technical details of Williams' reservoir engineering study and new operational plan for Williams' Elk City Storage Field, both of which Williams must file with the Commission by November 30, 1997.

In order that we may assess whether the seating at the designated location will be adequate, those planning to attend should notify Mr. Marc Poole, at (200) 208-0482, of the number of

representatives that you expect to send to the meeting.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-27660 Filed 10-12-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-724-000]

NorAm Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 1998 Line F Replacement Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

October 14, 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 facilities proposed in the 1998 Line F Replacement 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

NorAm Gas Transmission Company (NGT) wants to replace an existing mainline pipeline, abandon gas storage and supply pipelines, and make mainline enhancements to its pipeline system in Louisiana. NGT states that these actions would improve the safety, reliability, and efficiency of its pipeline system. Specifically, NGT seeks authorization for the following activities in Louisiana:

- Abandon about 60 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline on Line F in Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, and Lincoln Parishes and replace it with about 61 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline in ten segments ranging from 200 feet to 32.8 miles in length. Some portions of the pipeline to be abandoned would be removed, other portions would be left in place.
- Abandon in place Line 1-F (0.8 mile of 20-inch-diameter pipeline) and Line FT-5 (0.9 mile of 10-inch-diameter pipeline) located in Lincoln Parish.
- Reclassify about 8.2 miles of Line F as a low pressure gas supply line and operate it as part of Line F-1-F in Caddo Parish.

¹ NorAm Gas Transmission Company's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

- Abandon 63 delivery taps installed on the old Line F to deliver gas to rural customers served by Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company, and relocate 36 other delivery taps to the new Line F.

- Install pipeline maintenance facilities at the Buckley Compressor Station in Caddo Parish, the Red Chute Compressor Station in Bossier Parish, and the Ruston Storage Compressor Station in Lincoln Parish.

NGT proposes to begin construction of its facilities in June 1998. The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.² 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 would require about 855 acres of land. Following construction, about 249 acres would be maintained as new permanent right-of-way. The remaining acreage would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

NGT intends to use a up to a 85-foot-wide construction right-of-way for the installation of the replacement pipeline. Where the replacement pipeline would be parallel to the existing line, 15 to 30 feet of the construction right-of-way would be within NGT's existing right-of-way. Consequently, about 45 feet of new clearing would be required in most areas. All but the easternmost 1.8 miles of the replacement pipeline would be built adjacent to NGT's existing pipeline. In this area, 75 feet of new right-of-way would be cleared for construction.

After the replacement pipeline is in service, NGT would remove the majority of the old pipeline. Abandonment activities would take place entirely within NGT's existing 40-foot-wide right-of-way. Following construction, NGT would maintain a 40-foot-wide permanent right-of-way.

Additional temporary work space would be required adjacent to the planned construction right-of-way at road and stream crossings. These areas would vary in size between 4,000 and 168,000 square feet.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental

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