

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP97-755-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed E-Line Stitch Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

December 9, 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 about 25 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline loop and abandonment of eleven 1,600 horsepower (HP) compressor units proposed in the E-Line Stitch 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

Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) proposes to replace the capacity of the 11 compressor units to be abandoned by installing the two segments of loop. There would be no increase in the capacity of Northern's system as a result of this proposal. Northern seeks authority to construct and operate:

- About 11 miles of 36-inch-diameter loop between the Mullinville and Macksville Compressor Stations in Edwards and Pawnee Counties, Kansas;
- About 14 miles of 36-inch-diameter loop between the Macksville and Bushton Compressor Stations in Barton and Rice Counties, Kansas; and
- Abandonment of eleven 1,600 HP compressor units at the Bushton Compressor Station in Rice County, Kansas.

No nonjurisdictional facilities would be constructed as a result of this proposal.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

¹ Northern Natural Gas Company'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, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 347.6 acres of land, including a 100-foot-wide construction right-of-way, additional temporary work spaces, and a staging area. Following construction, only about 1.5 acres would become new permanent right-of-way where the loops deviate from the existing rights-of-way to cross two streams. All of the right-of-way would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

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.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Air quality and noise.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Public safety.
- 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 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 Northern. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Crossing of 5 perennial waterbodies.
- Impact on cultivated croplands.

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:

- Send *two* copies of your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., 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. CP97-755-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before January 8, 1998.

If you are interested in obtaining procedural information please write to the Secretary of the Commission.

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 § 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. 97-32625 Filed 12-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice; Sunshine Act Meeting

December 10, 1997.

The following notice of meeting is published pursuant to Section 3(A) of the government in the Sunshine Act (Pub. L. No. 94-409), 5 U.S.C. 552B: *Agency Holding Meeting:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Date and Time: December 17, 1997, 10 a.m.

Place: Room 2C, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Status: Open.

Matters To Be Considered: Agenda.

*** Note**—Items listed on the agenda may be deleted without further notice.

Contact Person for more information:

Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, Telephone (202) 208-0400. For a recording listing items stricken from or added to the meeting, call (202) 208-1627.

This is a list of matters to be considered by the Commission. It does not include a listing of all papers relevant to the items on the Agenda; however, all public documents may be examined in the Reference and Information Center.

Consent Agenda—Hydro

687th Meeting—December 17, 1997

Regular Meeting: 10 a.m.

CAH-1.

DOCKET# P-11547, 001, SUMMIT HYDROPOWER, INC.

OTHER#S P-11501, 001, PUTNAM HYDROPOWER, INC.

CAH-2.

DOCKET# P-2459, 044, WEST PENN POWER COMPANY

OTHER#S P-2459, 055, WEST PENN POWER COMPANY

CAH-3.

DOCKET# P-2114, 060, PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 2 OF GRANT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

CAH-4.

DOCKET# P-2145, 030, PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF CHELAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

CAH-5.

DOCKET# P-1651, 013, SWIFT CREEK POWER COMPANY, INC.

CAH-6.

DOCKET# P-2494, 002, PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.

Consent Agenda—Electric

CAE-1.

DOCKET# ER-98-380, 000, HORIZON ENERGY COMPANY

CAE-2.

DOCKET# ER-98-486, 000, PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.

CAE-3.

DOCKET# EC96-19, 006, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

OTHER# EC96-19, 008, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

EC96-19, 011, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

ER96-1663, 007, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

ER96-1663, 009, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

ER96-1663, 011, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

ER96-1663, 012, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

CAE-4.

DOCKET# ER98-511, 000, OKLAHOMA GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

CAE-5.

DOCKET# ER98-411, 000, WOLVERINE POWER SUPPLY COOPERATIVE, INC.

OTHER#S ER98-413, 000, WOLVERINE POWER SUPPLY COOPERATIVE, INC.

ER98-493, 000, WOLVERINE POWER SUPPLY COOPERATIVE, INC.

ER98-494, 000, WOLVERINE POWER SUPPLY COOPERATIVE, INC.

ER98-539, 000, WOLVERINE POWER SUPPLY COOPERATIVE, INC.

OA98-4, 000, WOLVERINE POWER SUPPLY COOPERATIVE, INC.

CAE-6.

OMITTED

CAE-7.

DOCKET# ER98-445, 000, NORTHERN/AES ENERGY LLC

CAE-8.

DOCKET# ER98-459, 000, BANGOR ENERGY RESALE, INC.

CAE-9.

DOCKET# ER98-522, 000, BOSTON EDISON COMPANY

CAE-10.

OMITTED

CAE-11.

DOCKET# ER98-449, 000, COM/ENERGY MARKETING, INC.

CAE-12.

DOCKET# ER98-463, 000, BANGOR HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMPANY

CAE-13.

DOCKET# ER98-466, 000, NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANY

CAE-14.

DOCKET# ER98-500, 000, GPU ADVANCED RESOURCES, INC.

CAE-15.

DOCKET# ER98-523, 000, CINERGY SERVICES, INC.

CAE-16.

DOCKET# ER98-211, 000, CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR CORPORATION

OTHER#S ER98-210, 000, CALIFORNIA POWER EXCHANGE CORPORATION

ER98-462, 000, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

ER98-556, 000, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

ER98-557, 000, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

CAE-17.

DOCKET# EC96-19, 007, PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

OTHER# ER96-1663, 008, PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

ER98-441, 000, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

ER98-495, 000, PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

ER98-496, 000, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

CAE-18.

DOCKET# ER98-12, 000, SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY

CAE-19.

DOCKET# ER98-270, 000, CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.

CAE-20.

DOCKET# ER98-393, 000, WASHINGTON WATER POWER COMPANY

CAE-21.

DOCKET# ER97-2800, 000, MONTAUP ELECTRIC COMPANY

OTHER# ER97-2338, 000, MONTAUP ELECTRIC COMPANY

ER97-3127, 000, MONTAUP ELECTRIC COMPANY

CAE-22.

DOCKET# ER97-2358, 000, PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

OTHER# ER97-2355, 000, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

ER97-2364, 000, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

ER97-4235, 000, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

ER98-497, 000, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

CAE-23.