

FERC, (202) 219-2794, or Linda Oxendine, TVA, (423) 632-3440.

Lois D. Cashell,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-4247 Filed 2-20-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. CP97-193-000]

**Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corp.;  
Notice of Intent To Prepare an  
Environmental Assessment for the  
Proposed Maiden Lateral Looping  
Project and Request for Comments on  
Environmental Issues**

February 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 about 17.77 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline loop and upgrades to an existing meter station, proposed in the Maiden Lateral Looping 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**

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in North Carolina to transport an additional 38,000 dekatherms of natural gas per day to Piedmont Natural Gas Company (Piedmont). Transco seeks authority to construct and operate:

- About 17.77 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline loop on Transco's existing 10-inch-diameter Maiden Lateral in Lincoln and Catawba Counties, North Carolina; and
- The expansion of Transco's existing Lowesville Meter Station, which is located at the interconnection of Transco's mainline and the Maiden Lateral.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup> If you are interested in obtaining procedural information, please write to the Secretary of the Commission.

<sup>1</sup> Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line 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, DC 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, including the meter station modification, would require about 152.2 acres of land. Transco proposes to use a construction right-of-way width of about 65 feet (5 feet southerly and 60 feet northerly of its existing 10-inch-diameter Maiden Lateral). This 20-foot offset would allow Transco to construct the majority of its new pipeline loop within its existing 50-foot-wide right-of-way. Since Transco would use its existing right-of-way during construction activities, only 1.19 acres of new permanent right-of-way would be required. Temporary work areas would be restored and allowed to revert to their 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.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Public safety.
- 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 two issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Transco. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- About 48 private water supply wells and springs are within 150 feet of the construction right-of-way; and
- About 28 residences are within 50 feet of the edge of the proposed construction right-of-way; 17 of which would be within or at 25 feet of the construction right-of-way.

**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., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP97-193-000;
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before March 10, 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 filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide copies of

its filings to all other parties. If you want to become 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.

Lois D. Cashell,  
*Secretary.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5691-5]

### Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Notice of Revocation of a Technician Certification Program

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of revocation.

**SUMMARY:** Through this action EPA is announcing the revocation of Refrigerant Certification Services (RCS) of Houston, Texas, previously approved to provide the technician certification exam in accordance with the regulations promulgated at 40 CFR part 82 subpart F. RCS was issued a letter of revocation on February 13, 1997, that included an explanation of the basis for EPA's decision.

This program has not complied with the requirements established for technician certification programs pursuant to section 608 of the Clean Air Act Amendments (the Act). In accordance with those requirements, all approved technician certification programs must provide the certification test and issue credentials consistent with the applicable requirements. Failure to comply with any of the requirements may result in revocation. RCS has been indicted for criminal actions directly related to the administration of the section 608 Technician Certification Program.

In accordance with 40 CFR 82.161(e), EPA revoked approval of RCS to offer the section 608 Technician Certification Program on February 13, 1997. RCS is no longer authorized to certify technicians or issue valid certification credentials.

The criminal indictment against RCS and the three related indictments against RCS representatives are based on information regarding administration of certification test and inappropriate issuance of credentials. Therefore, most

technicians certified by RCS during the period that the program operated an EPA-approved program will remain certified in accordance with 40 CFR section 82.161(a). Technicians that were not properly certified by RCS and/or were issued credentials indicating that such certification did occur properly will be contacted by EPA. Technicians that comprise this subset either participated in testing events proctored by Herman E Brodzinski or were in contact with Mr. Brodzinski regarding the issuance of certification credentials. EPA would like to clarify that not every technician that participated in testing events administered by Mr. Brodzinski may be contacted by EPA. However, a group of approximately 100 technicians that either participated in a testing event or requested the issuance of certification credentials from Mr. Brodzinski will be contacted regarding whether or not these individuals are properly certified.

**DATE:** Refrigerant Certification Services had their approval to offer a technician certification program revoked, effective February 13, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sue Stendebach, Program Implementation Branch, Stratospheric Protection Division, Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Air and Radiation (6205-J), 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460, 202/233-9117. The Stratospheric Ozone Information Hotline at 1-800-296-1996 can also be contacted for further information.

Dated: February 13, 1997.

Paul M. Stolpman,

*Director, Office Of Atmospheric Programs.*

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[FRL-5692-5]

### Proposed Settlement Agreement, Clean Air Act Suit

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed settlement; request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 113(g) of the Clean Air Act, as amended ("CAA"), notice is hereby given of a proposed settlement agreement, which was lodged with the United States District Court for the District of Columbia by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") on January 31, 1997, in a lawsuit filed by the Washington Legal Foundation. A number of United States Senators and Representatives are co-

plaintiffs. This lawsuit concerns, among other things, EPA's alleged failure to meet mandatory deadlines under section 312 of the CAA to provide to Congress (1) a Cost/Benefit Report regarding the costs and benefits of past compliance with certain CAA standards ("Retrospective Report") and (2) the first Cost/Benefit Report making projections into the future regarding expected costs, benefits and other effects of compliance with CAA standards ("Prospective Report"). The proposed settlement agreement provides that EPA shall promulgate the Retrospective Report to Congress no later than October 15, 1997 and the first Prospective Report no later than August 30, 1999.

For a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will accept written comments relating to the proposed settlement agreement from persons who were not named as parties to the litigation in question. In accordance with section 113(g) of the CAA, EPA or the Department of Justice may withhold or withdraw consent to the proposed settlement agreement if the comments disclose facts or circumstances that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Act. Unless EPA or the Department of Justice determines, following the comment period, that consent is inappropriate, the parties intend that the CAA provisions of the final settlement agreement, including the deadlines for the promulgation of the reports provided for in § 312, will be incorporated into an appropriate order of the court.

A copy of the proposed settlement agreement was lodged with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on January 31, 1997. Copies are also available from Samantha Hooks (2344), Air and Radiation Division, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, (202) 260-7620. Written comments should be sent to Hale Hawbecker at the above address and must be submitted on or before March 24, 1997.

Dated: February 10, 1997.

Scott C. Fulton,

*Acting General Counsel.*

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