

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission****[Docket No. CP98-761-000]****Viking Gas Transmission Company;
Notice of Application**

September 15, 1998.

Take notice that on September 3, 1998, Viking Gas Transmission Company (Viking) 825 Rice Street, St. Paul Minnesota 55117, filed in Docket No. CP98-761-000 an application, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing it to construct and operate approximately 45 miles of 24-inch diameter looping along with related tie-in piping and metering facilities, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Viking proposes to construct a 1999 Expansion Project to provide additional firm forward haul transportation capacity to serve new loads off Viking and to increase system reliability and flexibility for existing Viking shippers. Viking asserts the project is necessary to enable Viking to meet Project Shipper demands for 28,200 Dekatherms per day (Dthd) of additional winter firm transportation service between Emerson and various delivery points and 22,200 Dthd of additional summer firm transportation service. The proposed project is a response to long-term transportation service requests and subsequent precedent agreements received from shippers following Viking's open season announcement in May 1998.

Viking proposes the following specific facilities:

(1) Five separate segments of 24-inch mainline looping totaling 45 miles as follows:

- 8.2 miles of looping in Kittson and Marshall Counties, commencing 19.6 miles downstream of the discharge side of Viking's Hallock Compressor Station;
- 8.3 miles of looping in Polk County, Minnesota commencing 11.8 miles downstream of Viking's Angus Compressor Station;
- 10.1 miles of looping in Clay County, Minnesota commencing 19.6 miles downstream of Viking's Ada Compressor Station;
- 7.4 miles of looping in Ottertail County, Minnesota commencing on the discharge side of Viking's Frazee Compressor Station; and
- 11.0 miles of looping in Morrison County, Minnesota commencing 9.9

miles downstream of Viking's Staples Compressor Station

(2) Tie-in piping with mainline suction and discharge isolation valves within the boundaries of the Frazee Compressor Station, new crossover assemblies at the ends of 4 of the new loops segments, three mainline isolation valves with crossover assemblies, new taps with valves for emergency tie-over to the existing Hawley, Randall, and Camp Ripley meter station, and two mainline drip assemblies.

(3) A new meter station within the boundaries of Viking's Frazee Compressor Station to provide a new delivery point to serve the City of Perham municipal gas utility, which would include a 2-inch hot tap fitting, piping, valves, measurement, and data acquisition equipment.

Viking proposes to place the project facilities in operation by November 1, 1999, and requests a certificate no later than March 1, 1999.

Viking states that it announced an open season for the proposed capacity in May 1988. As an alternative to constructing new capacity, Viking also canvassed existing shippers to determine whether any shippers would permanently release existing Emerson capacity. No shippers offered to release capacity.

Viking asserts that substantially all of the capacity to be constructed is subscribed under binding precedent agreements which contemplate 15-year contracts for firm capacity. The 28,200 Dthd of firm design winter capacity is fully subscribed and approximately 22,000 Dthd of the 30,000 Dthd of firm summer capacity is subscribed. Viking notes that nearly 89 percent of the total billing determinants are thus subscribed. Viking states it will continue to market the unsubscribed capacity under the Rate Schedule FT-D rate structure. Viking asserts that an "at risk" condition should not be imposed since most of the project capacity is subscribed and since other customers on Viking's system will not have to subsidize the cost of the expansion facilities.

Viking proposes to charge initial demand rates calculated on an incremental basis based on the actual cost of the 1999 Expansion. Viking states that the precedent agreements between Viking and the project shippers contemplate that approximately 30 days prior to the in-service date of the project, Viking will make a limited Section 4 tariff filing to establish rate schedule sheets for the transportation service to be provided through the 1999 Expansion facilities. The precedent agreements also obligate Viking to make

a subsequent limited Section 4 "true-up" filing following a final accounting of the project's costs. The precedent agreements further provide that the trued-up rates will be effective retroactive to the in-service date of the project, and that Viking will refund any differences between the project initial rates and the trued-up rates finally approved by the Commission. It is stated that the trued-up rates will be based on actual billing determinants and actual costs. Viking notes that in no event, will the limited Section 4 "trued-up" demand rates for Zone 1-1 capacity exceed \$10.65 per Dth per month. For Zone 1-2 capacity, Viking proposes a Zone 1-2 demand rate of \$13.69. None of the currently subscribed capacity is Zone 1-2, however, the unsubscribed summer capacity may be sold as Zone 1-2. Viking indicates that the Zone 1-2 rate would be "trued-up" on a pro rata basis with the Zone 1-1 upon determination of actual costs. Thus, Viking requests that the Commission in an effort to induce customer cooperation in minimizing the required facilities, Viking also offered to reduce the expansion rate for customers with existing primary delivery points downstream of Emerson who wished to acquire a primary firm transportation path between their existing primary delivery point and a downstream primary delivery point. Because such customers would require expansion capacity only from their existing primary delivery point to a downstream primary delivery point, and not from Emerson to that downstream point, Viking offered to reduce their expansion rate by an amount equal to one-half the rate for the customer's current firm transportation service from Emerson to the existing primary delivery point. NSP Minnesota was the only customer to accept this offer, by signing up for firm summer capacity from its existing East Grand Forks, Grand Forks, Moorhead, and Fargo primary delivery point to Chicago. Consequently, the rate to be paid by NSP-Minnesota for service between these existing primary delivery points and Chicago will be reduced by one-half the amount of NSP-Minnesota's effective rate for firm transportation from Emerson to the existing primary delivery points. In summary, Viking requests the Commission to establish initial demand rates of \$10.65 Dth per month for Zone 1-1 and \$13.69 Dth per month for Zone 1-2, subject to true-up in a later Section 4 filing.

Viking proposes to set the initial commodity and fuel rates for the Project shippers equal to Viking's existing commodity and fuel rates for firm

shippers under Rate Schedule FT-A, FT-B, and FT-C. Viking does not expect the 1999 Expansion Project to materially affect Viking's variable costs or fuel requirements.

Viking does not seek as part of the subject filing an initial determination allowing roll-in of the 1999 Expansion Project costs at the time of its next general rate case. However, Viking explicitly reserves the right to seek such a roll-in at the time of the next Viking Section 4 rate case.

Viking asserts that it currently has not unsubscribed forward haul capacity from Emerson to Chicago. Viking anticipates that the proposed facilities will benefit existing and project shippers in that the project will be used to serve the new firm forward haul requirements of the Project Shippers and to provide greater reliability and additional operating flexibility.

The Project Shippers and their requested service levels are as follows:

Shipper	(Dth/d) Requested service level
(1) Cardinal FG	3,700
(2) City of Perham	1,500
(3) NSP—Minnesota	10,000 (Nov–Mar)
	15,000 (Apr–Oct)
(4) NSP—Wisconsin	11,000 (Oct–Apr)
(5) UtiliCorp United ...	2,000
Unsubscribed	8,000 (May–Sept)
Capacity (subscribed and unsubscribed).	28,200 (Winter)
	33,200 (Apr & Oct)
	30,200 (Summer)

Any person desiring to participate in the hearing process or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before October 6, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and

by every one of the intervenors. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order.

However, an intervenor must submit copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a federal court.

The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenter or those requesting intervenor status.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Section 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the item required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Viking to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-25135 Filed 9-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 1991-009; Idaho]

City of Bonners Ferry; Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

September 15, 1998.

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 a new license for the existing Moyie River Hydroelectric Project and has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the project. The project is located near Moyie Springs, in Boundary County, Idaho. The Commission staff has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) on the project. The DEA contains the staff's analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the project and has concluded that licensing the project, with appropriate environmental protective measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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

Any comments should be filed within 30 days from the date of this notice and should be addressed to David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. For further information, contact Tim Looney, Environmental Coordinator, at (202) 219-2852.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-25137 Filed 9-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6163-7]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Verification of Test Parameters and Parts Lists for Light-Duty Vehicles and Light-Duty Trucks

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).