

prior license until a new license is issued, or the project is otherwise disposed of as provided in Section 15 or any other applicable section of the FPA. If the project's prior license waived the applicability of Section 15 of the FPA, then, based on Section 9(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 558(c), and as set forth at CFR 16.21(a); if the licensee of such project has filed an application of a subsequent license, the licensee may continue to operate the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license after the minor or minor part license expires, until the Commission acts on its application. If the licensee of such a project has not filed an application for a subsequent license, then it may be required, pursuant to the 18 CFR 16.21(b), to continue project operations until the Commission issues someone else a license for the project or otherwise orders disposition of the project.

If the project is subject to Section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that an annual license for Project No. 2777 is issued to Idaho Power Company for a period effective November 1, 1998, through October 31, 1999, or until the issuance of a new license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first. If issuance of a new license (or other disposition) does not take place on or before October 31, 1999, notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.18(c), an annual license under Section 15(a)(1) of the FPA is renewed automatically without further order or notice by the Commission, unless the Commission orders otherwise.

If the project is not subject to Section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that Idaho Power Company is authorized to continue operation of the Upper Salmon Falls Project No. 2777 until such time as the Commission acts on its application for subsequent license.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2169, TN]

#### Tapoco, Inc.; Notice of Tapoco, Inc's Request To Use Alternative Procedures in Preparing a License Application

November 2, 1998.

This notice supersedes the NOTICE OF TAPOCO, INC'S REQUEST TO USE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES IN PREPARING A LICENSE

APPLICATION, dated October 28, 1998.

On October 1, 1998, the existing licensee, Tapoco, Inc. (Tapoco), filed a request to use alternative procedures for submitting an application for new license for the existing Tapoco Project No. 2169.<sup>1</sup> Tapoco has demonstrated that they have made an effort to contact resource agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organization (NGOs), and others affected by their proposal, and that a consensus exists that the use of an alternative procedure is appropriate in this case.

The purpose of this notice is to invite comments on Tapoco request to use the alternative procedure, pursuant to Section 4.34(i) of the Commission's regulations.<sup>2</sup> Additional notices seeking comments on the specific project proposal, interventions and protests, and recommended terms and conditions will be issued at a later date.

The alternative procedures being requested here combine the prefiling consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing the applicant to complete and file an environmental document (NEPA document) in lieu of Exhibit E of the license application. This differs from the traditional process, in which the applicant consults with agencies, Indian tribes, and NGOs during preparation of the application for the license and before filing it, but the Commission staff performs the environmental review after the application is filed. The alternative procedures are intended to simplify and expedite the licensing process by combining the prefiling consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants.

<sup>1</sup> The 326.5-megawatt Tapoco (originally known as the Tallasee project) project is located on the Little Tennessee and its tributary, the Cheoah River, in Blount and Monroe Counties, Tennessee, and Graham and Swain Counties, North Carolina. The project consists of four development; Chilhowee, Cheoah, Santeetlah, and Calderwood.

<sup>2</sup> Order No. 596, Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects, 81 FERC ¶ 61,103 (1997).

## Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on Tapoco's proposal to use the alternative procedures to prepare an application to relicense the Tapoco Project.

## Filing Requirements

The comments must be filed by providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, Dockets—Room 1A, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All comment filings must bear the heading "Comments on the Alternative Procedure," and include the project name and number (Tapoco Project, No. 2169).

For further information, please contact Ronald McKittrick of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at 770-452-2363 ext. 44 or E-mail at [ronald.mckittrick@FERC.Fed.US](mailto:ronald.mckittrick@FERC.Fed.US).

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-28-000]

#### Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company; Notice of Application for Section 3 Authorization and Request for a Presidential Permit

November 2, 1998.

Take notice that on October 20, 1998, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee), P.O. Box 2511, Houston, Texas 77252, filed an application pursuant to Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), and Subpart B of Part 153 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Regulations under the NGA, for an order authorizing the siting, construction, and operation of pipeline facilities and the place of entry and exit for import and export of natural gas at the International Boundary between the United States and Mexico in Hidalgo County, Texas.

Additionally, Tennessee requests, pursuant to Subpart C of Part 153 of the Commission's Regulations under the NGA and in compliance with Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, issuance of a Presidential Permit for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of

pipeline facilities for the import and export of natural gas at the International Boundary between the United States and Mexico in Hidalgo County, Texas, all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Pemex Gas y Petroquímica Básica (PGPB) has requested that Tennessee provide transportation service for PGPB to an interconnect with PGPB's existing meter station in Reynosa, Mexico.<sup>1</sup> In order for Tennessee to provide the requested transportation service for PGPB, Tennessee will construct new facilities consisting of (1) approximately 9.3 miles of 24-inch diameter lateral pipeline commencing from Side Valve No. 409A-401 of Tennessee's existing Donna Lateral line 409A-100 located at Mile Post 9.02 located in Hidalgo County, Texas, (2) a meter station, and (3) approximately 1,500 feet of 24-inch diameter pipe (Border Crossing Facilities) ending at an interconnect with an existing PGPB meter station located in Reynosa, Mexico. These facilities are the subject of a prior notice filing in Docket No. CP99-29-000.

In order to provide for the importation and exportation of natural gas at the International Boundary between the United States and Mexico in Reynosa, Mexico, Tennessee proposes to construct the Border Crossing Facilities. Of this approximately 1,500 foot pipeline segment, Tennessee will construct approximately 486 feet of 24-inch diameter pipe from the terminus of the 9.3 mile lateral to a point which represents the midpoint of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo River at the International Boundary. From the Mexican side of the midpoint of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo River, Tennessee will cause the construction on PGPB's behalf of approximately 951 feet of 24-inch diameter pipeline, with appurtenances, which shall extend to PGPB's meter station. Tennessee will own, operate and maintain the Border Crossing Facilities on the U.S. side of the International Boundary. PGPB will own, operate and maintain the facilities extending from the Mexican side of the International Boundary to its meter station.

Tennessee and PGPB have entered into a Transportation Service Agreement (TSA) dated September 30, 1998, which provides for the firm transportation of up to 185,000 dekatherms per day of natural gas by Tennessee for PGPB

between specified points of interconnection on Tennessee's mainline facilities and the proposed interconnection point.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said document should, on or before, November 23, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426 a protest or motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 or 385.214) 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 be 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.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Commission by Section 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 document if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the motion 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 Tennessee to appear or be represented at the hearing.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-29-000]

#### Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

November 2, 1998.

Take notice that on October 20, 1998, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee), a Delaware Corporation,

P.O. Box 2511, Houston, Texas 77252, tendered filing a request in Docket No. CP99-29-000, pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.208 and 157.212 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 18 CFR 157.208, and 18 CFR 157.212), for authorization to construct and operate a meter, a lateral and a bi-directional point to provide transportation service to Pemex Gas y Petroquímica Básica (PGPB), under Tennessee's blanket certificate authority granted September 1, 1982, in Docket No. CP82-413-000, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), all as more fully set forth in the request on file with the Commission and open for public inspection.

Tennessee proposes to construct and operate an approximately 9.3 mile 24-inch outside diameter lateral with a proposed MAOP of 1000 psi extending from Side Valve No. 409A-401 of Tennessee's Donna Lateral Line at Mile Post 9.02 in Hidalgo County, Texas, to the proposed Border Crossing Facilities that are the subject of a Section 3 and Presidential Permit application that Tennessee filed contemporaneously in Docket No. CP99-28-000. In addition, Tennessee will install a bi-directional 12-inch ultrasonic meter at the Donna Lateral take-off (the intersection of the Donna Lateral and the 9.3-mile lateral). Further, Tennessee proposes to construct approximately 1500 feet of 24-inch pipe which constitutes the aforementioned Border Crossing Facilities. Of the total amount of the Border Crossing Facilities, 486 feet will be on the U.S. side of the International Boundary. The remaining amount, approximately 951 feet will be constructed from the International Boundary to a PGPB meter station in Reynosa, Mexico. PGPB will own, operate, and maintain the Border Crossing Facilities in Mexico. The total estimated cost of Tennessee's facilities, including the 486 feet of Border Crossing Facilities in the U.S., is \$9.35 million.

Tennessee will use the meter as the back-up for custody transfer measurements at PGPB's meter station in Reynosa, Mexico. The proposed bi-directional point will be designated as the midpoint of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo River at the International Boundary. Tennessee proposes to operate this point as a delivery point on its system and make it available for use by its customers on a firm and interruptible basis. In addition, Tennessee proposes to operate this point as a receipt point pursuant to the automatic authorization provisions of 18 CFR 157.208.

<sup>1</sup> PGPB is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Petroleos Mexicanos, the Mexican national oil company. PGPB operates Mexico's interstate natural gas pipeline network and is responsible for Mexican and international natural gas, LNG and crude oil marketing.