

### 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 the proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of activities associated with the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and Soils.
- Water Resources, Fisheries, and Wetlands.
- Vegetation and Wildlife.
- Endangered and Threatened Species.
- Public Safety.
- Land Use.
- Cultural Resources.
- Air Quality and Noise.

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.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation sections beginning on page 4 of this notice.

### 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 ANR. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Air and noise impacts associated with the temporary use of air and gas compressors.
- Delineation of the storage field's existing boundary dimensions.

### Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, 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. CP99-138-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before April 7, 1999.

### Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor". Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. 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 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. 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 3). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

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 section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website ([www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us)) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222. Access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission with regard to this docket, such as orders and notice, is also available on the FERC website using the "CIPS" link. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

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### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-261-000]

#### East Tennessee Natural Gas Company; Notice of Cashout Report

March 8, 1999.

Take notice that on March 3, 1999, East Tennessee Natural Gas Company (East Tennessee), tendered for filing its fourth annual cashout report for the November 1996 through October 1997 period.

East Tennessee states that the cashout report reflects a net cashout loss during this period of \$182,691. East Tennessee's cumulative losses from its cashout mechanism total \$549,527. East Tennessee states that it will roll forward these losses into its next annual cashout report.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed on or before March 15, 1999. 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 proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies

of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**David P. Boergers,**  
Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-260-000]

#### East Tennessee Natural Gas Company; Notice of Cashout Report

March 8, 1999.

Take notice that on March 3, 1999, East Tennessee Natural Gas Company (East Tennessee), tendered for filing its third annual cashout report for the November 1995 through October 1996 period.

East Tennessee states that the cashout report reflects a net cashout loss during this period of \$366,462. East Tennessee states that it will roll forward this loss into its next annual cashout report.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or 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 proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**David P. Boergers,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-6091 Filed 3-11-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11659]

#### Gustavus Electric Company; Notice of Request to Use Alternative Procedures in Filing a License Application

March 9, 1999.

By letter dated February 8, 1999, Gustavus Electric Company (GEC) requested to use an alternative procedure in filing an application for an original license for the Kahtaheena River (Falls Creek) Project No. 11659.<sup>1</sup> No preliminary permit has been issued for this project. Federal legislation signed by President Clinton on October 30, 1998, authorized the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) to process an application for a hydropower license from GEC.<sup>2</sup>

GEC has demonstrated that they have made a reasonable effort to contact the resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and others who may be affected by their proposal. GEC has submitted several letters of support for their proposal, and it appears that the use of alternative procedures in filing the license application may be appropriate in this case. GEC has also submitted a communication protocol that is supported by most interested entities.

The purpose of this notice is to invite comments on GEC's request to use alternative filing procedures, as required under the final rule for Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects.<sup>3</sup> Additional notices seeking comments on specific project proposals, interventions and protests, and recommended terms and conditions will be issued at a later date.

The alternative procedures being requested here would combine the pre-filing consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing GEC to file an applicant-prepared Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA) in lieu of Exhibit E of the traditional license application. This alternative filing procedure differs from the traditional application process. Pursuant to the traditional filing process, 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 reduce redundancies in the licensing process by combining the pre-filing consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants. The alternative procedures can be tailored to the particular project under consideration.

#### Alternative Procedures and the Kahtaheena River (Falls Creek) Project Schedule

On December 7, 1998, GEC distributed an Initial Stage Consultation Document for the proposed project to state and federal resource agencies, Indian tribes, and NGOs. GEC conducted an initial consultation meeting and site visit for all interested parties on January 19, and 20, 1999. Notices announcing the meeting and site visit were published locally, as required by Commission regulations. Public scoping meetings are planned for April 1999. Notice of the scoping meetings will be published at least 15 days prior to the meetings.

Any studies agreed upon by GEC and the collaborative group would be conducted during 1999 and 2000, if necessary. Opportunities for requesting additional studies will be noticed at least 30 days prior to any study request deadline. GEC has tentatively proposed to distribute a draft license application and PDEA for comment in August 2000; however, the need for and timing of any additional studies may affect the timing of this distribution. The final license application and PDEA must be filed with the Commission no later than October 30, 2001.<sup>4</sup>

#### Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on GEC's proposal to use the alternative procedures in filing a license application for the Kahtaheena River (Falls Creek) Project. GEC's request to use alternative procedures may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

#### Filing Requirements

Any 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

<sup>1</sup> The proposed project would be located near Gustavus, Alaska, partially within the boundaries of Glacier Bay National Park.

<sup>2</sup> Glacier Bay National Park Boundary Act of 1998, 105 Pub. L. 317; 112 Stat. 3002 (1998).

<sup>3</sup> 81 FERC 61,103 (1997).

<sup>4</sup> As established in Glacier Bay National Park Boundary Act of 1998.