

proposed, and to revise the original cost estimate from \$17,029,000 to an approximate estimate of \$18,567,000. All other segments of the original proposal would not change.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before October 30, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 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 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 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 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 time 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 Northwest to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-807-000]

Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company; Notice of Application

October 9, 1998.

Take notice that on September 29, 1998, Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line

Company (Panhandle), P.O. Box 1642, Houston, Texas 77251-1642, filed in Docket No. CP98-807-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act for permission and approval to abandon its undivided 32.387% interest in certain compressor facilities located in Alfalfa and Major Counties, Oklahoma by assignment to Western Gas Resources (Western), all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Panhandle states that the facilities are currently operated by Western and that the requested abandonment will have no adverse affect on service to its customers.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before October 30, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 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 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 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 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 time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are 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 Panhandle Eastern to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-27763 Filed 10-15-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2233-000]

Portland General Electric Company, Portland, OR; Smurfit Newsprint Corporation, Oregon City, OR; Notice of Portland General Electric Company and Smurfit Newsprint Corporation's Request To Use Alternative Procedures in Filing a License Application

October 9, 1998.

By letter dated September 1, 1998, Portland General Electric Company (PGE) of Portland, Oregon, and Smurfit Newsprint Corporation of Oregon City, Oregon, co-licensee, have asked to use an alternative procedure in filing an application for a new license for their Willamette Falls Project No. 2233.¹ PGE, acting on behalf of itself and Smurfit, 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, and has submitted a communication protocol governing how participants in the proposed process may communicate with each other. PGE has also submitted evidence of support for their proposal, and it appears that a consensus exists that the use of an alternative procedure is appropriate in this case.

The purpose of this notice is to invite any additional comments on PGE's request to use the alternative procedure, as required under the final rule for Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects.² 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 procedure being requested here combines the prefiling

¹ The project consists of an 8-foot-high dam along the crest of Willamette Falls on the Willamette River. PGE operates the 16-megawatt T.W. Sullivan powerhouse, located on the west side of the falls. Co-licensee, Smurfit Newsprint Corporation, operates a 1.5-megawatt powerhouse on the east side of the falls. The project is not located on any Federal land.

² 81 FERC 61,103 (1997).

consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing the applicant to file an Applicant-Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA) 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 procedure is intended to simplify and expedite 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 procedure can be tailored to the particular project under consideration.

APEA Process and the Willamette Falls Project Schedule

PGE has begun working collaboratively with the various interested entities to identify issues that will need to be addressed and studies that will need to be conducted in relicensing the project. An initial information package will be disseminated to all interested parties in December 1998. Site visits of the project will be conducted in March 1999. Identification of issues and issuance of Scoping Document 1 will occur in December 1999. A Public Scoping Meeting will be held January 2000. Notice of the scoping meeting will be published at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Studies will be conducted beginning April 1999, and continue through 2001. Opportunities for requesting additional studies will be noticed at least 30 days prior to any study request deadline. A draft license application with preliminary APEA would be distributed for comment in December 2001. The final license application and APEA must be filed with the Commission on or before December 31, 2002, two years before the expiration date on the existing license. A more detailed schedule and project description was distributed by PGE on September 1, 1998, to all parties expressing interest in the proceeding. Copies of the schedule and project description may be obtained from Portland General Electric, Hydro Licensing and Water Rights Office, 121 S.W. Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97204.

Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the

Commission, any comments on PGE's proposal to use the alternative procedures to file an application for the Willamette Falls Hydroelectric Project.

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 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 (Willamette Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 2233). For further information, please contact John Blair at (202) 219-2845.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-8-000]

Raton Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Application

October 9, 1998.

Take notice that on October 7, 1998, Raton Gas Transmission Company (Raton), 835 Stacy Road, Fairfax, Texas 75069, filed an application pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act for authorization to change the shippers receiving its transportation services and implement modifying the transportation services, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Raton states that currently it provides transportation service under Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act for two shippers, Raton Natural Gas Company (Raton Natural), a local distribution company, and Natural Gas Processing Company (NGP), a successor to Associated Natural Gas, Inc., Pan Energy Field Services and Duke Energy Field Services, which in turn served the municipal systems of City of Las Vegas, New Mexico, Town of Springer, New Mexico and Village of Maxwell, New Mexico. It is indicated that NGP intends to file an application with the New Mexico Public Utility Commission to become an open-access transporter and thereby become a Hinshaw pipeline under Section 1(c) of the Natural Gas Act. Raton indicates that, as a result of this action by NGP, the shippers over

Raton's system may be the LDC's serving Las Vegas, Springer, Maxwell, or NGP, acting on behalf of those LDC's, and Raton Natural Gas Company, or any agent or successor.

Raton indicates that currently it is eligible to receive no-notice service from its upstream supplier, Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG). Raton also states that it requested CIG to offer its no-notice service directly to the four LDC's, but, under CIG's tariff, off-system customers are not eligible to receive no-notice service from CIG. It is stated that only Raton, as a small connected customer, is eligible to contract for CIG no-notice service.

Therefore, Raton states that, to achieve the Commission's policy objective that some form of no-notice service should be made available to all small LDC's, it entered into a package of service agreements with CIG to meet the total needs of the four LDC's: (1) TF-1, a sculptured firm transportation service providing flowing volumes of gas at winter level, shoulder month level, and summer demand level, (2) NNT-1 service which allows the customer to withdraw gas from storage during the winter period at widely varying volumes without incurring penalties, and (3) a supplemental TF-1 service allowing customers to secure volumes of gas during the spring-summer-fall period for transportation to storage in CIG's storage fields at a discounted transportation rate. It is also stated that its service agreements within CIG extend to April 30, 2000, and the volumes required to provide NOT service for the period from October 1, 1998, through April 30, 1999, have already been purchased and placed into storage.

Raton indicates that it considered filing for a Part 284 blanket certificate to implement the required changes in service but, in its view, the administrative burden and expense precluded it from seeking such a blanket certificate.

Raton now proposes to allocate its tariff charges, including a pass-through of the CIG charges to, the four LDC's. It is also indicated that, prior to April 30, 2000, if any or all of the LDC's elect to terminate some or all of the CIG package of no-notice services, they may authorize Raton to release that share of the reserved NNT service. It is also indicated that, by electing to terminate their share of the NNT service, the LDC, or its designated agent, agrees to accept the corresponding share of TF capacity from Raton. Also, it is stated that, for periods after April 30, 2000, the LDC's must notify Raton of the quantities and types of transportation services that they