

Burden Hours: 793.

Abstract: The Planning and Evaluation Service is conducting a three-year study to evaluate the Eisenhower Professional Development Program and to report on the progress of the program with respect to a set of Performance Indiviators established by the Department of Education. The evaluation will provide information on the types of professional development activities supported by the program, the effects of the program participation on classroom teaching, and the quality of program planning and coordination. Clearance is sought for the Longitudinal Study of Teacher Changes, to be conducted in the Spring of the 1998–1999 school year. Respondents will be teachers.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP96–248–009 and CP96–249–009]

Portland Natural Gas Transmission System; Notice of Initial FERC Gas Tariff

December 17, 1998.

Take notice that on December 11, 1998, Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS) filed to place into effect its FERC Gas Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, Original Sheet Nos. 1 through 650 (tariff). PNGTS requests that its tariff be made effective on February 11, 1999, which is the expected in-service date for the PNGTS facilities. The tariff will allow PNGTS to provide interstate transportation service in compliance with the Commission orders issued on July 31, 1996, July 31, 1997, September 24, 1997, and April 23, 1998.¹

PNGTS states that complete copies of this filing are being mailed to potential customers and interested state commissions. However, due to the voluminous nature of this filing, copies of the redlined tariff sheets in Appendix B, will not be included in the mailing. PNGTS states that redlined tariff sheets of this filing will be made available upon request, and complete copies of this filing are on file with the Commission.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file with the Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed as provided in 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 proceeding.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–33987 Filed 12–22–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99–75–000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed A-Line Abandonment Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

December 17, 1998.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the abandonment of four segments totaling about 51 miles of the Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) A-Line pipeline in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Texas.¹ The A-Line pipeline was constructed in the 1930's. Because of the age and condition of the pipeline, Northern has been forced to inactivate or reduce the operating pressure of most of the segments proposed for abandonment. The application for this project and other supplemental filings in this docket are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS Menu, and follow the instructions.

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.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of additional temporary easement to complete the pipeline removal. The pipeline company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law.

Because the proposed pipeline removal activities would involve some of the same kinds of potential impacts normally associated with pipeline construction, a fact sheet of questions typically asked about pipeline construction, including the use of eminent domain, is attached to this notice as appendix 1.²

Summary of the Proposed Project

Northern requests authorization to:

(1) Abandon approximately 43.9 miles of 26-inch diameter A-Line pipeline beginning at the Macksville Compressor Station in Pawnee County, Kansas, and ending at the Bushton Compressor Station in Rice County, Kansas;

(2) Use the Bushton and Macksville Compressor Station yards for pipe storage and stockpile areas;

(3) Abandon approximately 5.0 miles of 24-inch-diameter A-Line starting in Cass County, Nebraska and ending in Mills County, Iowa;

(4) Abandon approximately 2.4 miles of 20-inch-diameter A-Line in Hancock County, Iowa; and

(5) Abandon approximately 92 feet of the 24-inch-diameter A-Line under Highway 83 in Ochiltree County, Texas.

The majority of the abandoned pipeline would be removed. Sixty farm taps currently occur along the A-Line. Thirty-five of these farm taps would be abandoned and 25 would be relocated to Northern's parallel B, C, D, or E pipelines. The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 2.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction activities would affect about 728 acres of primarily agricultural land and would use a 133-acre pipe storage and staging area. Following construction, the construction right-of-way would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

² 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, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208–1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

¹ See, 76 FERC ¶ 61,123 (July 31, 1996); 80 FERC 61,134 (July 31, 1997); 80 FERC 61,345 (September 24, 1997), and 83 FERC 61,080 (April 23, 1998).

¹ Northern's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

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 implementing the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils.
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands.
- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Public safety.
- Hazardous waste.

Although practical alternatives to the abandonment are not available to Northern, we will evaluate alternative abandonment methods, such as abandonment in-place or abandonment by removal at selected locations, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resources 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 section 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 abandonment proposal and the environmental information provided by Northern. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Would removal of the aerial crossings over the Arkansas and Missouri Rivers impact wetlands, fish, and wildlife?
- Would pipeline removal activities cause erosion, compaction, and rutting on about 672 acres of agricultural land within the construction right-of-way?

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentor, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal 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. CP99-75-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before January 18, 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.

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) 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 notices, 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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-33988 Filed 12-22-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6205-2]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Modification of Secondary Treatment Requirements for Discharges Into Marine Waters

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Modification of Secondary Treatment Requirements for Discharges into Marine Waters, EPA ICR Number 0138.05, OMB Control Number 2040-0088, expiring March 31, 1999. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: U.S. EPA; Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds; Oceans and Coastal Protection Division (4505F); 401 M Street, SW; Washington, DC 20460. Interested persons may