DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11549–001 Wisconsin]

Dunkirk Water Power Company, Inc.; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

June 28, 1999.

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 F.R. 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for exemption from licensing for the Dunkirk Hydroelectric Project, located on the Yahara River in Dane County, Wisconsin, and has prepared a final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the project.

Copies of the FEA are available in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2–A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426 for public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at http://www.ferc.fed./us/online/rims.htm. For further information, contact Ed Lee at (202) 219–2809 or Susan O'Brien at (202) 219–2840.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97–168–003]

Alliance Pipeline L.P.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Albert Lea Compressor Station Relocation Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

June 28, 1999.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts involved with Alliance Pipeline L.P.'s (Alliance) construction and operation of the Albert Lea Compressor Station at its new location in Freeborn Country, Minnesota.[1] This facility would consist of 31,200 horsepower (hp) of compression and other appurtenant facilities.

Summary of the Proposed Project

The Albert Lea Compressor Station was originally proposed by Alliance as part of the 874-mile-long Alliance Pipeline Project extending between Sherwood, North Dakota at the Canadian border, to the Chicago, Illinois area. The staff of the Commission prepared and issued the Alliance Pipeline Project Final Environmental Impact Statement in August 1998. The Commission issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Alliance by an Order issued on September 17, 1999.

Included in the Order was the approval of the construction and operation of the Albert Lea Compressor Station at pipeline milepost 558.6 in Freeborn County, Minnesota. However, Alliance was unable to reach an agreement with the landowner to purchase the property at the compressor station's original location. Therefore, Alliance decided to relocate the station, rather than use the right of eminent domain granted by the Commission's certificate. The currently proposed location is at pipeline milepost 560.0, approximately 1.4 miles southeast of its original location (see appendix 1).[2]

Land Requirements for Construction

Alliance has purchased a 17.2-acre parcel of land for the Construction of the proposed compressor station. Following construction, the fenced compressor station, site landscaping, and access road would occupy 10.8 acres. The remainder of the property would be leased for agricultural use in 2001.

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 the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils.
- Cultural resources.
- Erosion control and revegetation.
- Public safety.
- Air quality and noise.
- Land use and visual impacts.
- Alternative site locations.
- Endangered and threatened species.

We will also make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be presented 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 below.

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 your comments 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., NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental

[1] Alliance's amended application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations. The original application in Docket No. CP97–168–000 was filed by Alliance on December 24, 1996.

[2] The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printing 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.