

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2145-000 WS]

**Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County; Notice of Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County's Request To Use Alternative Procedures in Filing a License Application**

August 13, 1999.

On July 16, 1999, the existing licensee, Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (Chelan PUD), filed a request to use the Commission's alternative procedures in submitting an application for a new license for the existing Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project No. 2145. The 1,236.6-megawatt project is located on the Columbia River, about 7 miles upstream from the City of Wenatchee, Washington. Chelan PUD has demonstrated that it has made an effort to contact resource agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and others affected by the proposal, and that a consensus likely exists that the use of the alternative procedures is appropriate in this case. Chelan PUD has also submitted a communications protocol that was developed in consultation with interested entities.

The purpose of this notice is to invite comments on Chelan PUD's request to use the alternative procedures, pursuant to Section 4.34(i) of the Commission's regulations.<sup>1</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 procedure being requested here combines the pre-filing consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing the applicant to complete and file an Environmental Assessment (EA) 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 improve 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.

**Alternative Licensing Process and Rocky Reach Schedule**

Chelan PUD has submitted a proposed schedule for the process that leads to the filing of a new license application by June, 2004. Study plans would be developed this summer through the end of the year for field work that would start in April, 2000. National Environmental Policy Act scoping would be conducted during early to mid 2000. Field-work would be conducted through summer 2002 (if needed), with a draft application and draft APEA to be issued for comment in the spring of 2003.

**Comments**

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on Chelan PUD's proposal to use the alternative procedures to file an application for the Rocky Reach Hydroelectric 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 Procedures," and include the project name and number (Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project No. 2145).

For further information on this process, please contact Vince Yearick of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at 202-219-3073 or E-mail vince.yearick@ferc.fed.us.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,***Acting Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. NJ97-8-005]

**South Carolina Public Service Authority; Notice of Filing**

August 13, 1999.

Take notice that on July 28, 1999, South Carolina Public Service Authority

filed revised standards of conduct in response to the Commission's July 1, 1999 Order on Standards of Conduct. 88 FERC ¶ 61,013 (1999).

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest the filings should file, in each particular proceeding and referencing the appropriate docket number, a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 or 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 or 385.214). All such motions to intervene or protest should be filed on or before August 27, 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 to each proceeding must file a motion to intervene in each proceeding. Copies of these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. These filings may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,***Acting Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2077-016]

**USGen New England, Inc.; Notice Establishing Procedures for Relicensing and a Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments**

August 13, 1999.

The license for the Fifteen Mile Falls Project No. 2077, located on the Connecticut River in Grafton County, New Hampshire, and Caledonia County, Vermont, will expire on July 31, 2001. On July 29, 1999, an application for new license was filed. The following is an approximately schedule and procedures that will be followed in processing the application:

<sup>1</sup> Order No. 596, Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects, 81 FERC ¶ 61,103 (1997).

Date	Action
September 10, 1999 .....	Commission notifies applicant that its application has been accepted and specifies the need for additional information and due date.
September 15, 1999 .....	Commission issues public notice of the accepted application establishing dates for filing motions to intervene and protests.
September 30, 1999 .....	Commission's deadline for applicant for filing a final amendment, if any, to its application.
September 30, 1999 .....	Commission notifies all parties and agencies that the application is ready for environmental analysis.

Upon receipt of any additional information and the information filed in response to the public notice of the acceptance of the application, the Commission will evaluate the application in accordance with applicable statutory requirements and take appropriate action on the application.

Any questions concerning this notice should be directed to William Guey-Lee at (202) 219-2808, or email at william.gueylee@ferc.fed.us.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-191-000]

#### Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Elk River Loop '99 Project

August 13, 1999.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) in the above-referenced docket. It also addresses alternative routes for the proposed pipeline.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The EA concludes there is an environmentally preferable alternative and requests comments about it.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of about 15 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline loop and appurtenances in Anoka and Sherburne Counties, Minnesota.

The purpose of the proposed facilities would be to provide about 23,873

million British thermal units per day of natural gas to meet increased market demand served by Northern's Elk River Branchline. Minnegasco, a Division of NorAm Energy Corporation and Northern States Power Company—Minnesota have contracted with Northern for this incremental service.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, landowners crossed by the proposed route or the alternatives, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send *two* copies of your comments to: 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 Review and Compliance Branch, PR-112;
- Reference Docket No. CP99-191-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before September 13, 1999.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).

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. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC Internet website ([www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us)) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

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. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11574-000; Connecticut]

#### City of Norwich, Department of Public Utilities

#### Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

August 13, 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 an original minor license for the Occum Hydroelectric Project, located on the Shetucket River in New Loudon County, Connecticut, and has