

taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date, and, to the extent applicable, must be served on the applicant and on any other person designated on the official service list. This filing is available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. Protests and interventions may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper; see 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "e-Filing" link. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Orion Power New York GP II, Inc., Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

May 27, 2003.

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 FR 47,897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for license for the Newton Falls Hydroelectric Project, located on Oswegatchie River in St. Lawrence County, New York, and prepared an environmental assessment (EA). The EA contains staff's analysis of the environmental effects of the proposal and concludes that approval, with additional staff-recommended measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the human environment.

A copy of the EA is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room, or it may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number, excluding the

last three digits in the docket number field, to access the document. Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

Please file any comments (an original and 8 copies) within 45 days from the date of this letter. The comments should be addressed to Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Please affix the Project No. 7000-015 to all comments. Comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper (see 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii)) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-filing" link. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Please contact Janet Hutzel at (202) 502-8675, or by e-mail at janet.hutzel@ferc.gov if you have any questions or if you require further information.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP03-80-000]

Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 2003-2005 System Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

May 27, 2003.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the 2003-2005 System Expansion Project involving construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities by Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (Eastern Shore) in Chester County, Pennsylvania and New Castle County, Delaware.¹ These facilities consist of about 5.7 miles of 16-inch-

¹ Eastern Shore's application was filed with the Commission on April 1, 2003, under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

diameter loop,² modification to an existing meter station, and construction of a new pressure regulator. Construction would be done in three phases from the fall of 2003 through 2005. The 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 an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. 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. A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" was attached to the project notice Eastern Shore provided to landowners. This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is available for viewing on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Eastern Shore proposes to increase the capacity of its facilities in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware to supply increased quantities of natural gas to existing local distribution customers. This project would allow Eastern Shore to deliver an additional 15,100 Dekatherms per day (Dt/d) of gas to these customers.

Eastern Shore proposes to construct the project in three phases. Phase I would upgrade the Parkesburg Meter Station and increase capacity 3,800 Dt/d. Phase II, constructed in 2004, would consist of 2.7 miles of 16-inch-diameter loop in Chester County, Pennsylvania and would supply an additional 4,700 Dt/d. Phase III, constructed in 2005, would consist of 3.0 miles of 16-inch-diameter loop and a pressure regulator supplying an additional 6,600 Dt/d.

² A loop is a segment of pipeline that is installed adjacent to an existing pipeline and connected to it on both ends. The loop allows more gas to be moved through the pipeline system.