

concerns. All interested individuals, organizations, agencies, and Indian Tribes are invited to attend either or both meetings in order to assist staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

To help focus discussions, an EA scoping document will be distributed by mail to all persons and entities on the FERC mailing list for the Rock Creek—Cresta Project. Copies of the scoping document also will be made available at the scoping meetings.

The evening meeting for the general public will be held from 7:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 14, 1995, in the conference room at the Oroville Public Library, located at 1820 Mitchell Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966. (From Highway 70 take Oroville Dam Boulevard east to Lincoln Avenue; then, north (left) onto Lincoln. The library is situated at the corner of Lincoln and Mitchell Avenues.)

The agency meeting will be held from 9:30 A.M. until 12:00 Noon on Thursday, June 15, 1995, in the conference room at the Oroville-La Porte Forest Service Ranger Station, located at 875 Mitchell Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965. (From Highway 70 take Oroville Dam Boulevard east; north (left) onto Fifth Avenue; then, east (right) on Mitchell Avenue.)

Scoping Meeting Procedures

Both meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and will become part of the formal record of the Commission's proceeding on the Rock Creek—Cresta Project. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to sign in before the meetings start and identify themselves for the record.

Concerned parties are encouraged to offer us verbal guidance during the public meetings. Speaking time allowed for individuals at the evening public meeting will be determined before that meeting, based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the approximate amount of time available for the session, but all speakers will be provided at least five minutes to present their views.

Scoping Meeting Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will:

- Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA;

- Identify resource issues that are of lesser importance and, therefore, do not require detailed analysis;

- Solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, concerning significant local resources; and

- Encourage statement from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

Information Requested

Federal and state resources agencies, local government officials, interested groups, area residents, and concerned individuals are requested to provide any information they believe will assist the Commission staff to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with relicensing the project. The types of information sought included the following:

- Data, reports, and resource plans that characterize the physical, biological or social environments in the vicinity of the projects; and

- Information and data that help staff identify or evaluate significant environmental issues.

Scoping information and associated comments should be submitted to the Commission no later than July 16, 1995. Written comments should be provided at the scoping meeting or mailed to the Commission, as follows: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Energy Federal Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

All filings sent to the Secretary of the Commission should contain an original and 8 copies. Failure to file an original and 8 copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner. See 18 CFR 4.34(h).

All correspondence should show the following caption on the first page: FERC No. 1962-000—CA; Rock Creek—Cresta Project.

Intervenors and interceders (as defined in 18 CFR 385.2010) who file documents with the Commission are reminded of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure requiring them to serve a copy of all documents filed with the Commission on each person whose name is listed on the official service list for this proceeding.

For further information, please contact Jim Haimes in Washington, D.C. at (202) 219-2780.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP95-143-000]

Southern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for Southern Natural Gas Company's Proposed Graniteville Line Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

May 5, 1995.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the Graniteville Line Project. This EA will be used by the Commission in its decisionmaking process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.¹

Summary of the Proposed Projects

Southern Natural Gas Company (Southern) proposes to:

- Construct approximately 3.5 miles of 8-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline in Aiken County, South Carolina, which would replace approximately 3.5 miles of 4-inch-diameter pipeline. This proposed pipeline, referred to as the "Graniteville Line", would commence at a tie-in at milepost (MP) 501.0 on Southern's existing South Main Line and proceed in a northwesterly direction to a proposed interconnection with Southern's new Graniteville Mills Meter Station;

- Construct a new meter station at the Graniteville Mills interconnect to replace the existing Graniteville Mills meter station in Aiken County, South Carolina. The proposed meter station would consist of two 4-inch-diameter meter runs, a pressure regulator, and approximately 125 feet of miscellaneous buried piping. This facility would require a site approximately 150 feet by 150 feet for construction and operation. This construction would occur on the Graniteville Company's plant site in Graniteville, South Carolina;

- Construct a regulator station near MP 2.6 approximately 100 feet by 100 feet and an odorization facility at the take-off point on an approximate area of 50 feet by 50 feet; and

- Abandon in place the existing 4-inch-diameter Graniteville Line, except for approximately 0.5 mile of pipeline between MP 2.810 and MP 2.317, which

¹ Southern Natural Gas Company's application was filed with the Commission pursuant to section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

would remain in service to serve existing customers.

Southern indicates that the proposed pipeline facilities would deliver an additional total firm transportation service of 3,625 thousand cubic feet (Mcf) of natural gas per day to Graniteville Company.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Southern proposes to use a 70-foot-wide construction right-of-way in nonagricultural areas and a 90-foot-wide construction right-of-way in agricultural areas. Following construction, a 50-foot-wide easement would be permanently maintained; the remaining 20 feet in nonagricultural areas and 40 feet in agricultural areas would be restored and revert back to prior use. About 30 acres would be affected by construction.

Additional working space would be required adjacent to the planned construction right-of-way at areas of steep side slopes, road, railroad, waterbody crossings, and wetlands. No new access roads would be required.

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 taken into account 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
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands

- Vegetation and wildlife
- Endangered and threatened species
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Public safety

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource 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 recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Southern. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list. The list of issues may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis. Issues are:

- The proposed project would cross five waterbodies, four of which are perennial. The perennial waterbodies are Horse Creek (crossed twice), an unnamed tributary to Horse Creek, and the Sand River. These waterbodies support valuable riparian vegetation, which helps stabilize soil to prevent erosion and provides habitat for wildlife. These waterbodies may also support fishery resources.
 - The pipeline would cross 0.35 mile of wetlands. These wetlands are classified as palustrine forested.
 - The federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker may exist within the immediate vicinity of the proposed pipeline right-of-way.
 - About 17 acres of upland forest would be disturbed.
 - Residences may be located within 50 feet of the edge of the proposed construction right-of-way.
 - Right-of-way widths.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential

environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP95-143-000;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. David Gallo, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol St., NE., Room 7312, Washington, DC 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 12, 1995.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Gallo at the above address.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceedings or become an "intervenor". 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 copies of its filings to all other parties. 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 2).

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 scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. David Gallo, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-2066.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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²The 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, Room 3104, 941 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.