

million British thermal units of gas per day to The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P). CL&P intends to use the gas as an alternate fuel for Unit Nos. 2 and 3 at its electric generating station in Middletown, Middlesex County, Connecticut (Middletown Plant). The Middletown Lateral would extend from Algonquin's existing mainline system in Glastonbury, Hartford County, Connecticut to the Middletown Plant.

Algonquin seeks authority to construct and operate:

- 8.4 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline;
- a meter station; and
- a tap valve site and appurtenant facilities.

CL&P would construct nonjurisdictional facilities consisting of approximately 1,500 feet of piping, a regulator station, and burner conversion equipment. All of CL&P's facilities would be constructed within its plant site.

The general location of the project facilities and specific locations for facilities on new sites are shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

The project would require about 72 acres of land of which 47.9 acres would be new permanent right-of-way (ROW). The proposed pipeline would be built on or adjacent to existing electric transmission line or abandoned railroad ROWs for about 84 percent of its length. The construction ROW would typically be 75 feet wide consisting of a 50-foot-wide permanent ROW and a 25-foot-wide temporary ROW. Following construction, the disturbed area would be restored and the 25 feet of temporary ROW would be allowed to revert to its former land use. The project would require horizontal directional drilling of the Connecticut River for about 2,100 feet.

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
- land use
- cultural resources
- hazardous waste
- endangered and threatened species
- 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 officials 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 Algonquin. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list:

- The Meshomasic State Forest would be crossed.
- Three streams would be crossed that are coldwater fisheries and support trout.
- Twenty-three wetlands would be crossed totalling about 4,495 feet.
- Federally and state-listed threatened or endangered species may be affected.
- The project may impact cultural resources.

The list of issues may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis.

Also, we have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts of the nonjurisdictional facilities. We will briefly describe their location and status in the EA.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by sending a letter with 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 specified 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, 888 First St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96-201-000;
- Send a copy of your letter to: Mr. John Wisniewski, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., PR-11.2, Washington, D.C. 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before April 15, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Wisniewski 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 proceeding 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 their Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 2). You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. John Wisniewski, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-1073.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-6061 Filed 3-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

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, 888 First 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.

[Projects Nos. 2404-017 & 2419-007—
Michigan]

Thunder Bay Power Company; Notice of Intention To Hold a Public Meeting for Discussion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Thunder Bay and Hillman Dam Hydro Projects

March 8, 1996.

On February 7, 1996, the Commission staff mailed the Thunder Bay River Basin Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to the Environmental Protection Agency, resource and land management agencies, and interested organizations and individuals.

The DEIS was noticed in the Federal Register on February 16, 1996 (61 FR 6243), and comments are due April 16, 1996. The DEIS evaluates the environmental consequences of continuing to operate and maintain the existing Thunder Bay River Projects in Michigan. It also evaluates the environmental effects of implementing the applicant's proposals, agency and NGO recommendations, staff's recommendations, dam removal, and the no-action alternative.

A public meeting, which will be recorded by an official stenographer, is scheduled on Wednesday, March 27, 1996, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Alpena Community College, NRC Room 150, 666 Johnson Street, Alpena, MI 49707.

At this meeting, resource agency personnel and other interested persons will have the opportunity to provide oral and written comments and recommendations regarding the DEIS for the Commission's public record.

For further information, please contact Patrick Murphy, FERC, at (202) 219-2659, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Hydropower Licensing, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20426.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-6060 Filed 3-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Project Nos. 2009, et al.]

Hydroelectric Applications [Virginia Electric and Power Company, et al.]; Notice of Applications

Take notice that the following hydroelectric applications have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection:

1 a. *Type of filing:* Notice of Intent to File Application for New License.

b. *Project No.:* 2009.

c. *Date filed:* August 16, 1995.

d. *Submitted By:* Virginia Electric and Power Company, current licensee.

e. *Name of Project:* Roanoke Rapids and Gaston.

f. *Location:* On the Roanoke River, in the City of Roanoke Rapids, Halifax, Northampton, and Warren Counties, North Carolina, Brunswick and Mecklenburg Counties, Virginia.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Section 15 of the Federal Power Act, 18 CFR 16.6 of the Commission's regulations.

h. *Effective date of original license:* January 1, 1951.

i. *Expiration date of original license:* December 31, 2000.

j. *The project consists of two developments:*

(1) the Roanoke Rapids Development comprising: (a) a concrete gravity-type dam with a powerhouse intake section, a gated spillway section, an overflow spillway section, two non-overflow sections, and a 24-inch-diameter water supply outlet pipe; (b) a submerged weir; (c) a reservoir having a 4,600 acre surface area at normal pool elevation 132.0 feet m.s.l.; (d) an integral powerhouse containing four 25,000-kW generating units; (e) an excavated tailrace; (f) step-up transformers; (g) two 1.6-mile-long, 110-kV transmission lines; and (h) appurtenant facilities;

(2) the Gaston Development comprising: (a) a concrete gravity-type dam with a powerhouse intake section, a gated spillway section, and a non-overflow section flanked by compacted earth-fill sections; (b) a submerged weir; (c) a 34.0-mile-long reservoir having a 20,300 acre surface area at normal pool elevation 200.0 feet m.s.l.; (d) an integral powerhouse containing four 44,500-kW generating units; (e) step-up transformers; (f) the 230-kV Thelma substation; and (g) appurtenant facilities.

The project has a total installed capacity of 278,000-kW.

k. Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.7, information on the project is available at: Roanoke Rapids Power Station, North End of Oakwood Ave., Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina 27870, (919) 535-6172.

l. *FERC contact:* Charles T. Raabe (202) 219-2811.

m. Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.9(b)(1) each application for a new license and any competing license applications must be filed with the Commission at least 24 months prior to the expiration of the existing license. All applications for license for this project must be filed by December 31, 1998.

2 a. *Type of filing:* Notice of Intent to File An Application for a New License.

b. *Project No.:* 2651.

c. *Date filed:* May 23, 1995.

d. *Submitted by:* Indiana Michigan Power Company, current licensee.

e. *Name of Project:* Elkhart.

f. *Location:* On the Saint Joseph River, in the City of Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* 18 CFR 16.6 of the Commission's Regulations.

h. *Effective date of original license:* April 1, 1962.

i. *Expiration date of original license:* May 31, 2000.

j. *The project consists of:* (1) an 18-foot-high, 309-foot-long reinforced-concrete gravity-type dam having a spillway section with eleven 25-foot-wide by 10.5-foot-high tainter gates; (2) a 7.5-mile-long reservoir having a 661 acre surface area at normal pool elevation 742.2 feet NGVD; (3) an intake structure; (4) a powerhouse containing three generating units with a total installed capacity of 3,440-kw; (5) a tailrace; (6) a fish ladder; (7) generator leads and bus to a transformer yard and transmission line; and (8) appurtenant facilities.

k. Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.7, information on the project is available at: Indiana Michigan Power Company, 13840 East Jefferson Road, Mishawaka, Indiana 46545, (219) 255-8946.

l. *FERC Contact:* Charles T. Raabe (202) 219-2811.

m. Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.8, 16.9, and 16.10, each application for a new license and any competing license applications must be filed with the Commission at least 24 months prior to the expiration of the existing license. All applications for license for this project must be filed by May 31, 1998.

3 a. *Type of Application:* Surrender of Exemption.

b. *Project No.:* 8734-001.

c. *Date Filed:* February 2, 1996.

d. *Applicant:* Palmdale Water District.

e. *Name of Project:* Palmdale Energy Recovery Facility.

f. *Location:* California Aqueduct, LA County.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 USC Section 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Hal Fones, Palmdale Water District, 2005 E Avenue, Q, Palmdale, CA 93550, (213) 947-4111.

i. *FERC Contact:* Hillary Berlin, (202) 219-0038.

j. *Comment Date:* April 15, 1996.

k. *Description of Application:* Palmdale Water District is requesting to surrender its exemption due to economic reasons.

l. Notice consists of paragraphs B, C1, and D2.

4 a. *Type of Application:* Preliminary Permit.