

filed its Rate Schedule, providing for wholesale sales of power and energy by NESI to eligible purchasers at agreed-upon rates.

Copies of this filing have been sent to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and the Indiana Office of Utility Consumers Counselor.

Comment date: April 22, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

14. Eastex Power Marketing, Inc.

[Docket No. ER96-1432-000]

Take notice that on March 28, 1996, Eastex Power Marketing, Inc. (EPMI), tendered for filing a letter from the Executive Committee of the Western Systems Power Pool (WSPP) indicating that EPMI has satisfied the requirements for WSPP membership. Accordingly, EPMI requests that the Commission permit its participation in the WSPP.

EPMI requests waiver of the 60-day prior notice requirement to permit its membership in the WSPP to become effective as of March 29, 1996, the day after the filing.

Comment date: April 22, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

15. Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection (PJM) Agreement

[Docket No. ER96-1433-000]

Take notice that on March 27, 1996, the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland (PJM) Interconnection Association filed on behalf of the Parties to the PJM Agreement, Revision No. 15 to Schedule 4.01 of that Agreement.

The purpose of this filing is to decrease the rate applicable to capacity deficiency transactions determined in accordance with the PJM Agreement. The new rate is to become effective with the beginning of the next 12-month Planning Period on June 1, 1996. No changes in facilities are proposed in this filing.

Comment date: April 22, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

16. New England Power Company

[Docket No. ER96-1436-000]

Take notice that on March 29, 1996, New England Power Company (NEP) submitted for filing three documents relating to its sale and transmission of electricity to the Massachusetts Government Land Bank (Land Bank) at Fort Devens, Massachusetts: (1) a Short-Term All Requirements Bulk Power Supply Contract between NEP and the Land Bank; (2) a FERC Tariff No. 8, Firm Transmission Umbrella Short-Term Service Agreement between NEP and

the Land Bank; and (3) an Amendment to the January 2, 1974, FERC Tariff No. 1 Service Agreement between NEP and the Department of the Army for the supply of the latter's power supply requirements at Fort Devens.

Under the first two agreements, NEP will sell and transmit power to meet the Land Bank's requirements on a short-term basis, pending the Land Bank's selection of a long-term supplier, or until October 31, 1996. The third agreement modifies the metering provisions in the existing Service Agreement for all-requirements service between NEP and the Army.

Comment date: April 22, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

17. The Montana Power Company

[Docket No. ER96-1437-000]

Take notice that on March 29, 1996, The Montana Power Company (Montana), tendered for filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pursuant to 18 CFR 35.12, as an initial rate schedule, a Firm Energy Sale Agreement between Montana and Energy Services, Inc. (ESI).

A copy of the filing was served upon ESI.

Comment date: April 22, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

18. Kansas City Power & Light Company

[Docket No. ER96-1438-000]

Take notice that on March 29, 1996, Kansas City Power & Light Company (KCPL), tendered for filing a Service Agreement dated March 21, 1996, between KCPL and the City of Independence Power & Light Department (Independence). KCPL proposes an effective date of June 1, 1996, and requests a waiver of the Commission's notice requirement, if needed, to allow the requested effective date. This Agreement provides for the rates and charges for Firm Transmission Service between KCPL and Independence.

In its filing, KCPL states that the rates included in the above-mentioned Service Agreement are KCPL's rates and charges which were conditionally accepted for filing by the Commission in Docket No. ER94-1045-000.

Comment date: April 22, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

19. Ohio Edison Company Pennsylvania Power Company

[Docket No. ER96-1439-000]

Take notice that on March 29, 1996, Ohio Edison Company, tendered for

filing on behalf of itself and Pennsylvania Power Company, an Agreement for Power Transactions with Federal Energy Sales, Inc. This initial rate schedule will enable the parties to purchase and sell capacity and energy in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

Comment date: April 22, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

20. Indiana Michigan Power Company

[Docket No. ER96-1440-000]

Take notice that on March 29, 1996, Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M), tendered for filing with the Commission a Facilities and Operation Agreement between I&M and the City of South Haven, Michigan (South Haven), regarding a new 69 kV delivery point. South Haven currently receives service under I&M FERC Electric Tariff MRS, Original Volume No. 4.

I&M proposes an effective date of June 1, 1996, for the Facilities and Operation Agreement. A copy of this filing was served upon South Haven, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, and the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Comment date: April 22, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. 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 proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-9211 Filed 4-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

[Project No. 10854-002; Michigan]

**Upper Peninsula Power Company;
Notice of Availability of Draft
Environmental Assessment**

April 9, 1996.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) Regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for an original license for the Cataract Hydroelectric Project, located on the Middle Branch Escanaba River, near the City of Gwinn, Marquette County, Michigan; and has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the project. In the DEA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the existing project and has concluded that approval of the project, with appropriate environmental protection measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the DEA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2-A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Any comments should be filed within 45 days from the date of this notice and should be addressed to Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Room 1-A, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Please affix "Cataract Hydroelectric Project No. 10854" to all comments. For further information, please contact James Hunter at (202) 219-2839.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-9190 Filed 4-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**Michigan Gas Storage Company;
Notice of Intent to Prepare an
Environmental Assessment for the
Proposed Cranberry Lake Header
Replacement Project and Request for
Comments on Environmental Issues**

[Docket No. CP96-263-000]

April 9, 1996.

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 construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the Cranberry

Lake Header Replacement Project.¹ This EPA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Michigan Gas Storage Company (MGSCo) requests authorization to construct and operate 5.2 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline to replace 1.3 miles of 10-inch-diameter pipeline and 3.9 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline, and to abandon by removal 5.2 miles of 8-inch-diameter loop. All facilities are in Clare County, Michigan. The proposed project would allow for more efficient and safe operation of MGSCo's Cranberry Lake Storage Field.

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

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 42 acres of land. About 36 of the 42 acres is existing pipeline right-of-way. The 6 acres of construction right-of-way would be allowed to revert to its prior use after construction.

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.

¹ Michigan Gas Storage Company's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

² The 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, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

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
- air quality and noise
- 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. Docket No. CP96-263-000

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 MGSCo. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list:

- One mile of the proposed project crosses the Seney National Wildlife Refuge.
- About 1.5 acres of woody wetland vegetation would be temporarily cleared for construction.
- The Clam River, a State of Michigan designated trout stream, would be crossed by directional drilling.
- Three residences are within 50 feet of the construction right-of-way.

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

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