

the filed signature pages do not change the NEPOOL Agreement in any manner, other than to make AGF and KOCH Participants in the Pool. NEPOOL requests an effective date on or before May 28, 1996 for commencement of participation in the Pool by AGF and KOCH.

Comment date: June 6, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

9. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
[Docket No. ER96-1811-000]

Take notice that on May 15, 1996, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (Niagara Mohawk), tendered for filing an agreement between Niagara Mohawk and Federal Energy Sales (FES) dated May 13, 1995, providing for certain transmission services to FES.

Copies of this filing were served upon FES and the New York State Public Service Commission.

Comment date: June 6, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

10. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

[Docket No. ER96-1812-000]

Take notice that on May 15, 1996, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (Niagara Mohawk), tendered for filing an agreement between Niagara Mohawk and PECO Energy Co. (PECO) dated May 13, 1995, providing for certain transmission services to PECO.

Copies of this filing were served upon PECO and the New York State Public Service Commission.

Comment date: June 6, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

11. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

[Docket No. ER96-1813-000]

Take notice that on May 15, 1996, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (Niagara Mohawk), tendered for filing an agreement between Niagara Mohawk and Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI) dated May 13, 1995 providing for certain transmission services to CEI.

Copies of this filing were served upon CEI and the New York State Public Service Commission.

Comment date: June 6, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

12. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

[Docket No. ER96-1814-000]

Take notice that on May 15, 1996, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

(Niagara Mohawk), tendered for filing an agreement between Niagara Mohawk and Noram Energy Service Company (Noram) dated May 13, 1995, providing for certain transmission services to Noram.

Copies of this filing were served upon Noram and the New York State Public Service Commission.

Comment date: June 6, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

13. Old Dominion Electric Cooperative
[Docket No. ES96-28-000]

Take notice that on May 20, 1996, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (Old Dominion) filed an application under § 204 of the Federal Power Act (FPA) seeking (1) authorization to enter into a proposed tax advantaged lease and leaseback of its Clover Power Station unit 2 and certain common facilities (Facility) and (2) an exemption from the Commission's competitive bidding and negotiated placement regulations. The transaction would involve a lease and lease-back of Old Dominion's 50 percent undivided ownership interest in the Facility under which an investor would obtain ownership of the undivided interest for income tax purposes and Old Dominion would obtain the effects of certain tax benefits that it would not otherwise be able to obtain. There would be no transfer of legal title to the Facility.

Old Dominion states that the Commission should assert jurisdiction over the proposed transaction based on the obligations to be assumed by it, citing a number of precedent cases decided by the Commission. Alternatively, Old Dominion consents to the Commission's review of the proposed transaction under section 204 of the FPA.

Comment date: June 11, 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. 96-13549 Filed 5-29-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. CP96-178-000]

Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues and Notice of Public Meetings (NOI)

May 23, 1996.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the 66.0 miles of pipeline facilities and metering proposed in the Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline Project (Maritimes Project).¹ This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether to approve the project.

We are asking a number of Federal agencies to indicate whether they wish to cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS. These agencies are listed in appendix 1 and may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their agencies' responsibilities.²

Summary of the Proposed Project

Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. (M&NP) wants to build a new natural gas transmission system in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and southern Maine to transport 60,000 million cubic feet per day of natural gas for two shippers. The proposed facilities are Phase I of the Maritimes Project, a new high-pressure natural gas pipeline delivery system for the Sable Offshore Energy Project. The Phase I facilities would be the southernmost segment of a pipeline that would eventually extend from Country Harbor, Nova Scotia, Canada, to the Canadian-U.S. border near Calais, Maine, through Maine and

¹ Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.'s application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

² Appendices 2 through 5 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., Room 2A-1, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

New Hampshire and into Massachusetts. M&NP requests Commission authorization, in Docket No. CP96-178-000, to construct and operate the following Phase I facilities:

- 66.0 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline from Dracut, Massachusetts to Wells, Maine in Middlesex and Essex Counties, Massachusetts (14.4 miles), Rockingham County, New Hampshire (34.7 miles), and York County, Maine (16.9 miles);

- two meter stations, one in Dracut, Massachusetts and one in Newington, New Hampshire;

- one meter and regulator station in Wells, Maine; and

- associated pipeline facilities, such as mainline block valves and pig launchers and receivers.

The information in this NOI is based on the route maps which were filed with the Commission on May 16, 1996. The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 2. The general location of other natural gas projects under Commission review occurring in the same region and within the same time frame (Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc. (Granite State LNG Project, Docket No. CP95-52-000) and Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS Project, Docket No. CP96-249-000)) are shown in appendix 3. If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the Maritimes Project, contact the EIS Project Manager identified at the end of this notice.

Land Requirements for Construction

Based on information supplied by M&NP, over about 50 percent of the proposed pipeline would parallel existing road, pipeline, or powerline rights-of-way. Construction of the pipeline would require a 75-foot-wide construction right-of-way and would affect about 600 acres of land. Following construction, 50 feet of the construction right-of-way (about 400 acres) would be retained for operation of the pipeline and 1 acre would be retained for operation of each meter station. Existing land uses on the remainder of the disturbed area, as well as most land uses on the permanent right-of-way, would be allowed to continue following construction.

The EIS 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 EIS 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 EIS. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EIS. 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 EIS will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project. We have already identified a number of issues under each topic that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by the applicant. These issues are listed below. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- *Geology and Soils*

- About 60 miles of near-surface bedrock may require blasting.

- Effect on exploitable mineral resources.

- Effect on prime farmland soils.

- Erosion control and right-of-way revegetation procedures.

- *Water Resources*

- Effect on groundwater and surface water supplies.

- About 80 crossings of waterbodies, including 2 crossings of waterbodies over 100 feet (Squamscott and Piscataqua Rivers), and crossings of the Spickett, Little, Exeter, and Great Works Rivers.

- Consistency with state Coastal Zone Management Programs.

- *Biological Resources*

- Clearing of upland forest and the permanent conversion of forest to open land.

- Effect on wetland habitat, including tidal salt marshes along the Squamscott and Piscataqua Rivers.

- Effect on warmwater, coldwater, anadromous, and estuarine fisheries habitat.

- Effect on wildlife habitat.

- Effect on Federal threatened and endangered and state special concern species.

- *Cultural Resources*

- Effect on historic and prehistoric sites.

- Native American and tribal concerns.

- Effect on land sacred to the Bahá'í Faith in the vicinity of MP 50.1.

- *Land Use*

- Effect on 107 residences within 100 feet of the proposed pipeline.

- Effect on planned or proposed residential developments.

- Effect on public and recreation land, including conservation land at the Exeter River, the Henderson-Swasey Town Forest, the Newington Town Forest, and the Peace Development Authority property.

- *Socioeconomics*

- Effect on construction workforce on surrounding areas.

- *Air Quality and Noise*

- Effect on local air quality and noise environment as a result of construction.

- *Reliability and Safety*

- Assessment of hazards associated with natural gas pipelines.

- *Cumulative Impact*

- Assessment of the combined effect of the proposed project with other natural gas projects, such as the PNGTS and Granite State Projects, occurring in the same region and within the same time frame.

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 Draft EIS which will be 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 45-day comment period will be allotted for review of the Draft EIS. We will consider all comments on the Draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a Final EIS. The Final EIS will include our response to each comment received and will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether to approve the project.

Public Participation and Scoping Meetings

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, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426;

- Reference Docket No. CP96-178-000;

- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. Jeff Gerber, EIS Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 71-40, Washington, DC 20426; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 28, 1996.

In addition to sending written comments, you may attend public scoping meetings. We will conduct three public scoping meetings at the following times and locations:

Date	Time	Location
June 18, 1996.	7:00 p.m.	Methuen, Massachusetts.
June 19, 1996.	4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Wells, Maine.
June 20, 1996.	4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Newton, New Hampshire.

The meetings in Newton and Wells will also cover the proposed PNGTS Project in New Hampshire and Maine. We will send a separate NOI for the PNGTS Project to landowners affected by that project. M&NP and/or PNGTS will be invited to present a description of their proposals at the appropriate meetings. The Newton and Wells meetings will have two sessions in order to provide sufficient time to discuss both projects. While all are invited to attend either session, we are requesting that state and local governments plan on attending a 4:00 p.m. session.

The meeting in Methuen, Massachusetts will be held at the Great Hall, 41 Pleasant Street. The meeting in Newton, New Hampshire will be held at the Memorial Grammar School Gymnasium, 31 West Main Street. The meeting in Wells, Maine will be held at the Wells High School Gymnasium, Sanford Road.

The purpose of the scoping meetings is to obtain input from state and local governments and from the public. Federal agencies have formal channels for input into the Federal process (including separate meetings which we have arranged) on an interagency basis. Federal agencies are expected to transmit their comments directly to the FERC at separate meetings or in writing,

and not use the scoping meetings for this purpose.

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and present oral comments on the environmental issues which they believe should be addressed in the Draft EIS. Anyone who would like to make an oral presentation at the meeting should contact the EIS Project Manager identified at the end of this notice to have his or her name placed on the list of speakers. Priority will be given to those persons representing groups. A list will be available at the public meetings to allow for non-preregistered speakers to sign up. A transcript will be made of the meetings and comments will be used to help determine the scope of the Draft EIS.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EIS 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 4).

The date for filing of 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.

Environmental Mailing List

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. It is also being sent to all potential rights-of-way grantors. As details of the project become established, representatives of M&NP may also separately contact landowners, communities, and public agencies concerning project matters, including acquisition of permits and rights-of-way.

All commenters will be retained on our mailing list. If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to keep informed and receive copies of the Draft and Final EISs, please return the Information Request (appendix 5). If you do not send

comments or return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Jeff Gerber, EIS Project Manager, at (202) 208-1121.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

Appendix 1—Cooperating Agencies

The following Federal and state agencies are asked to indicate whether they want to be cooperating agencies for purposes of producing an EIS:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of the Air Force
Department of the Army
Army Corps of Engineers
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Department of Energy
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Mines
Fish and Wildlife Service
Geological Survey
Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Environmental Protection Agency
Massachusetts Energy Facility Siting Board
Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

These, or any other Federal, state, or local agencies wanting to participate as a cooperating agency should send a letter describing the extent to which they want to be involved. Follow the instructions below if your agency wishes to participate in the EIS process or comment on the project:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96-178-000;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. Jeff Gerber, EIS Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 71-40, Washington, DC 20426; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 28, 1996.

Cooperating agencies are encouraged to participate in the scoping process and provide us written comments. Agencies are also welcome to suggest format and content changes that will make it easier for them to adopt the EIS. However, we will decide what modifications will be adopted in light of our production constraints.

[FR Doc. 96-13485 Filed 5-29-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M