

another opportunity to offer comments on the proposed project. Those wanting to speak at the meeting can call the Environmental Assessment (EA) Project Manager to preregister their names on the speaker list. Individuals on the speaker list before the date of the meeting will be allowed to speak first. A second speaker list will be developed at the meeting. Priority will be given to people representing groups. A transcript of each meeting will be made so that your comments will be accurately recorded.

In addition to the public meeting, the environmental staff will inspect the proposed project sites on the afternoon of July 15, 1996. Those planning to attend must provide their own transportation. For further information, call Chris Zerby, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-0111.

Kevin P. Madden,

Director, Office of Pipeline Regulation.

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BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP96-477-000]

K N Interstate Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Pony Express Pipeline Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

July 2, 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 Pony Express Pipeline Project.¹ This EA 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

K N Interstate Gas Transmission Company (KN) proposes to convert an existing crude oil pipeline owned by Amoco Pipeline Company (Amoco) to natural gas service. The oil pipeline crosses portions of five states and extends between Lost Cabin, Wyoming and Freeman, Missouri. Together with several smaller components, the project would have the capacity to transport natural gas with an energy content of up to 255 billion Btus per day from the

Wind River Basin in central Wyoming and major gas producing areas of southwest Wyoming. It will also interconnect with or cross a number of other interstate gas transportation systems, including KN's existing system (8 locations), ANR Pipeline Company, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America, Northern Natural Gas Company, Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company, Trailblazer Pipeline Company, and Williams Natural Gas Company.

The proposed project would include the following components:

- Conversion of the 914-mile-long Amoco oil pipeline to natural gas service (of which an 804-mile-long segment would be acquired by KN);
- Construction of approximately 65 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline between Rockport (Weld County), Colorado and an interconnection with the converted Amoco pipeline near Kimball (Kimball County), Nebraska;
- Construction of approximately 7.6 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipeline to reroute the converted Amoco pipeline around a portion of Casper, Wyoming;
- Construction of approximately 0.3 mile of 24-inch-diameter pipeline to reroute the converted Amoco pipeline around a congested area near Appanoose School (Franklin County), Kansas;
- Construction of approximately 1.6 miles of 20-inch-diameter inlet and 1.6 miles of 20-inch-diameter outlet pipeline between the converted Amoco pipeline and KN's existing Casper Compressor Station (Natrona County), Wyoming;
- Construction/installation of 50,500 horsepower of compression at five compressor stations;
- Upgrade 58 miles of existing 12-inch-diameter pipeline extending from the Huntsman Compressor Station (Cheyenne County), Nebraska to the Weld County, Colorado interconnect;
- Construction of two interconnects in Natrona County, Wyoming consisting of two 2,000-foot-long sections of 12-inch-diameter pipeline; and construction of one interconnect in Madden, Wyoming consisting of 0.1 mile of 10-inch-diameter; and
- Upgrade 0.2 mile of 20-inch-diameter pipeline in Platt County, Wyoming.
- In addition, about 114 miles of 12-inch-diameter oil pipeline would be constructed for Amoco between Amoco's storage facilities in Casper, Wyoming to an interconnect with the existing Amoco pipeline system at Fort Laramie, Wyoming. This oil pipeline would be constructed by KN Energy, KN

Interstate's non-jurisdictional parent company.

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 717 acres of land. Following construction, about 108 acres would be maintained as new aboveground facility sites and new permanent right-of-way. The remaining 609 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

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.

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
- public safety
- land use
- cultural resources
- air quality and noise
- hazardous waste

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.

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.

¹ K N Interstate Gas Transmission Company's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

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 KN. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Nine federally listed endangered and threatened species and two candidate species may be present in the project area.

- Four perennial waterbodies would be crossed by the proposed facilities, including the North Platte River in Wyoming.

- The site of the proposed North Platte River crossing is adjacent to the Brookhurst Superfund site near Casper, Wyoming.

Also, we have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts of the nonjurisdictional KN Energy facilities discussed on page 2. We will briefly describe their location and status in the EA.

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

- Reference Docket No. CP96-477-000;

- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Ms. Elizabeth J. Secrest, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,

888 First St., NE., PR-11.1, Washington, DC 20426; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC, on or before August 1, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Ms. Secrest 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 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 Ms. Elizabeth J. Secrest, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-0918.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-17344 Filed 7-8-96; 8:45 am]

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[Project No. 2482-021]

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

July 2, 1996.

A final environmental assessment (FEA) is available for public review. The FEA was prepared for an application filed by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (licensee) to remove polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from lands within the boundary of the Hudson River Hydroelectric Project. The licensee proposes to remove PCBs at the Queensbury site in accordance with a record of decision issued March 1995 by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. In summary, the licensee proposes to excavate and remove all surface soil (1 foot from surface) on the upland portion

of the site with total PCB concentrations in excess of 1 ppm and subsurface soil with concentrations in excess of 10 ppm. Further, the licensee proposes to excavate and remove to a depth of 2 feet near-shore river sediments. The Queensbury site is located on Corinth Road, Town of Queensbury, Warren County, New York, on the north bank of the Hudson River, about 5 miles west of Glens Falls, New York.

The FEA finds that the licensee's remediation plan is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The FEA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the FEA can be obtained by calling the Commission's Public Reference Room at (202) 208-1371.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-17409 Filed 7-8-96; 8:45 am]

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Hydroelectric Applications [Idaho Power Company, et al.]; Notice of Applications

[Project Nos. 1975-014, et al.]

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

1a. *Type of Application:* Major New License.

b. *Project No.:* 1975-014.

c. *Date filed:* December 20, 1995.

d. *Applicant:* Idaho Power Company.

e. *Name of Project:* Bliss.

f. *Location:* On the Snake River, at river mile 560 from the confluence with the Columbia River in Gooding, Twin Falls, and Elmore Counties, Idaho.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Robert W. Stahman, Idaho Power Company, 1221 West Idaho Street, P.O. Box 70, Boise, ID 83707, (208) 388-2676.

i. *FERC Contact:* Héctor M. Pérez, (202) 219-2843.

j. *Deadline for filing interventions and protests:* August 29, 1996.

k. *Status of Environmental Analysis:*

This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time—see attached paragraph E.

l. *Brief Description of Project:* The project consists of: (1) an 84-foot-high, 364-foot-long concrete dam with a crest elevation of 2,655 feet mean sea level (msl); (2) a 216-foot-long concrete ogee spillway with a crest elevation of 2,624 feet and four bays equipped with 30-foot-high tainter gates; (3) Bliss