

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 11286 South Carolina]

**City of Abbeville; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment**

October 28, 1997.

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 F.R. 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for major license for the proposed Abbeville Project located on the Rocky River in Abbeville and Anderson counties, near Abbeville, South Carolina, and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In the EA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and has concluded that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigative measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

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

**Lois D. Cashell,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-28976 Filed 10-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP97-626-000]

**Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation, Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 1998 Lebanon Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues**

October 28, 1997.

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 an additional 17,070 horsepower (hp) of compression, proposed in the 1998 Lebanon Expansion Project.<sup>1</sup> This EA

<sup>1</sup> Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

**Summary of the Proposed Project**

Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (Texas Eastern) proposed to expand the capacity of its facilities in Indiana and Ohio to transport an additional 302,290 dekatherms per day of natural gas for Spectrum Interstate Pipeline Corporation. Texas Eastern seeks authority to construct and operate:

- One reciprocating gas engine rated at 3,400 hp and one reciprocating gas engine rated at 5,500 hp at the existing Gas City Compressor Station in Grant County, Indiana;
- An expansion to the compressor building and associated ancillary facilities and piping at the existing Gas City Compressor Station;
- One 8,170 hp gas turbine-driven centrifugal compressor at its existing Glen Karn meter station site in Darke County, Ohio;
- Compressor station buildings and associated ancillary facilities and piping at the existing Glen Karn meter station site;
- A modification at the existing Lebanon Meter Station by adding two 12-inch orifice meters and the associated instrumentation in Warren County, Ohio; and
- A modification at the existing Glen Karn Meter Station by adding one additional 12-inch turbine meter and the associated instrumentation.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup> If you are interested in obtaining procedural information, please write to the Secretary of the Commission.

**Land Requirements for Construction**

Construction of the proposed facilities would be within the boundaries of existing station properties.

**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

<sup>2</sup>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, 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.

scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the 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.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Public safety.
- 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.

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 make our recommendations to the Commission.

**Currently Identified Environmental Issues**

We have already identified one issue that we think deserves attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Texas Eastern. Additional issues may be included based on your comments and our analysis.

- Potential impacts to noise-sensitive areas that are near the Gas City Compressor Station and Glen Karn Meter Station.

**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, and