

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission**

[Docket No. CP98-686-000]

**Williams Gas Pipeline Central, Inc.;
Notice of Request Under Blanket
Authorization**

July 30, 1998.

Take notice that on July 23, 1998, Williams Gas Pipelines Central, Inc., (Applicant), One Williams Center, P.O. Box 3288, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74101-0330, filed in Docket No. CP98-686-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, and 157.216) for approval to abandon by reclaim facilities installed to receive transportation gas from TEC Pipeline, L.L.C., (TEC) located in Nowata County, under Applicant's blanket certificate issued in Docket Nos. CP82-479-000, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Applicant asserts that the metering facilities for which it now seeks abandonment authorization are owned by TEC and that by letter dated March 19, 1998, TEC has agreed to the proposed abandonment. Applicant states that the estimated cost to abandon these facilities is \$272.

Any person or the Commission's Staff may, within 45 days of the issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214), a motion to intervene and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205), a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activities shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

David P. Boergers,*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-20853 Filed 8-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission**

[Docket No. CP98-637-000]

**Columbia Gas Transmission
Corporation; Notice of Intent To
Prepare an Environmental Assessment
for the Proposed VNG Replacement
Project and Request for Comments on
Environmental Issues**

July 30, 1998.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation's (Columbia) proposal to construct about 6.9 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline to replace an equivalent length of 12-inch-diameter pipeline on its Line VM-108 in Sussex County, Virginia.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

Columbia states that the proposed replacement is primarily due to the age and condition of the old pipeline. Also, the proposed replacement would allow Columbia to transport the additional storage service volume to Virginia Natural Gas, Inc. in Norfolk, Virginia.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The pipeline company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law. A fact sheet addressing a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain, is attached to this notice as appendix 1.²

¹ Columbia Gas 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.

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, 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.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Columbia seeks authorization for the following:

(1) Construct approximately 6.9 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline to replace an equivalent length of 12-inch-diameter pipeline on Line VM-108 in Sussex County, Virginia;

(2) Increase the deliverability of its existing Gladly Storage Field by 14,100 Mcfd in Randolph and Pocohantas Counties, West Virginia by reworking two wells; and

(3) Reacquire from Transco Energy Marketing Company certain pipeline capacity on its Solo Pipeline between Emporia, Virginia and Petersburg, Virginia, and on Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation's pipeline from Boswells Tavern, Virginia, to Emporia, Virginia.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 109 acres of land. Following construction, about 58 acres would be maintained as new permanent right-of-way. The remaining 51 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.