

7:15 p.m. Board Business
9:00 p.m. Adjourn

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. The public may file written statements with the Committee, either before or after the meeting. A sign-up sheet will also be available at the door of the meeting room to indicate a request to address the Board. Individuals who wish to make oral presentations, other than during the public comment period, should contact Ms. Ann DuBois at (505) 665-5048 five (5) business days prior to the meeting to request that the Board consider the item for inclusion at this or a future meeting. The Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 between 9:00 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Ms. M.J. Byrne, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Department of Energy, Los Alamos Area Office, 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87185-5400.

Issued at Washington, DC on January 6, 1999.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-550 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-113-000]

Algonquin LNG, Inc., Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed ALNG Plant Modifications Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

January 5, 1999.

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 ALNG Plant Modifications Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) is necessary and whether to approve the project. The application and other supplemental filings in this docket are

¹ Algonquin LNG, Inc.'s application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Parts 157 and 284 of the Commission's regulations.

available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions.

Summary of the Proposed Project

In a previous application filed on May 13, 1996, in Docket No. CP96-517-000, Algonquin LNG, Inc. (ALNG) requested authorization to modify its Providence, Rhode Island liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility, to add pipeline facilities to connect the ALNG Plant directly to Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (AGT), and to add liquefaction facilities at the ALNG Plant. Specifically, ALNG proposed the construction of a liquefaction facility, LNG pumps and vaporizers, boil-off gas compressors, 1.05 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline, 0.25 mile of 10.75-inch-diameter pipeline, metering facilities, and miscellaneous facilities including a water/glycol system, feed gas compressors, odorant injection, control systems, and fire protection system additions. ALNG also proposed to inspect the existing 600,000-barrel LNG storage tank and to install new instrumentation; to acquire two existing 0.45-mile-long, 10.75-inch-diameter pipeline crossings of the Providence River; and to abandon three existing vaporizers and related facilities.

The Commission issued an Order Authorizing Certificates on May 6, 1997, and on May 5, 1998, issued an Order on Rehearing. During the processing of Docket No. CP96-517, market conditions changed so significantly that ALNG was unable to accept the authorization.

ALNG now proposes a scaled-back, lower-cost version of that project. The facility changes proposed herein would occur completely within the existing ALNG Plant site and would require no offsite construction as in the previously proposed project.

ALNG seeks Commission authorization to modernize its existing LNG facility in Providence, Rhode Island. The proposed modifications would include:

- Abandoning the three existing direct-fired LNG vaporizers, and installing three new horizontal indirect-fired 150 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscfd) LNG vaporizers;
- Increasing the capacity of the existing LNG pumps from 100 MMscfd to 150 MMscfd;
- Installing two new 600 horsepower boiloff gas compressors consisting of flooded screw type compressors driven by fixed speed electric motors;

- Installing additional emergency power generation equipment, control systems, and safety systems; and
- Modifying metering facilities for the delivery of vaporized LNG and boiloff gas.

The proposed facilities would allow ALNG to continue to provide LNG storage, LNG truck loading and unloading, and LNG vaporization services on a firm and interruptible non-discriminatory open access basis.

A location map of the proposed ALNG Plant Modifications Project is shown in appendix 1.²

Existing Facilities

ALNG owns and operates a 600,000-barrel LNG storage facility on the west side of the Providence River. The facility has been in operation for over 20 years, and is exclusively supplied with LNG delivered by truck. Upon demand, LNG is either redelivered in liquid form into trucks supplied by its customers, or vaporized into Providence Gas Company's (PGC) distribution system.

Land Requirements for Construction

The proposed ALNG Plant Modifications Project would be contained within the existing 16.5-acre ALNG site. No facilities would be constructed along the waterfront or within 400 feet of the Providence River. The majority of the ground disturbance would be related to foundation construction for the proposed facilities.

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 and whether an EIS is necessary. 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.

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.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Air quality and noise.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Public safety.
- 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 recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section on page 5 of this notice.

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

- Air quality may be affected by the replacement of the vaporizers and the addition of a second emergency generator.
- Noise quality may be affected by the replacement of the vaporizers and addition of the new emergency generator and boiloff compressors.
- Soils (possibly contaminated) may be affected by minor ground disturbance from foundation construction. The site owner, PGC, is currently conducting soil remediation on this site.
- In order to address public safety, proposed facility modifications will be

analyzed to ensure compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities: Federal Safety Standards" (40 CFR 193).

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentor, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.1.
- Reference Docket No. CP99-113-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before February 4, 1999.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor". Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. 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 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. 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). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered. Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the

"RIMS" link to information in this docket number. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222. Access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission with regard to this docket, such as orders and notices, is also available on the FERC website using the "CIPS" link. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-463 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. NJ97-3-005]

Bonneville Power Administration; Notice of Filing

January 5, 1999.

Take notice that on December 18, 1998, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), tendered for filing its Open Access Transmission Tariff. BPA has also filed a Point-to-Point Transmission Rate Schedule and a Reserved Non-firm Transmission Rate Scheduled, with revisions to Section J of such schedules to conform to the Commission's July 21, 1998, order. Further BPA has submitted minor edits to its service agreements.

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 January 14, 1999. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine 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 these filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-512 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

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