

to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (19 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before March 15, 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 proceedings. 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. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2017]

Southern California Edison Company; Notice of Authorization for Continued Project Operation

March 5, 1999.

On February 26, 1997, Southern California Edison Company licensee for the Big Creek #4 Project No. 2017, filed an application for a new or subsequent license pursuant to the Federal Power Act (FPA) and the Commission's regulations thereunder. Project No. 2017 is located on the San Joaquin River in Fresno, Madera, and Tulare Counties, California.

The license for Project No. 2017 was issued for a period ending February 28, 1999. Section 15(a)(1) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. 808(a)(1), requires the Commission, at the expiration of a license term, to issue from year to year an annual license to the then licensee under the terms and conditions of the prior license until a new license is issued, or the project is otherwise disposed of as provided in Section 15 or any other applicable section of the FPA. If the project's prior license waived the applicability of Section 15 of the FPA, then, based on Section 9(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 558(c), and as set forth at 18 CFR 16.21(a), if the licensee of such project has filed an application for a subsequent license, the licensee may continue to operate the project in accordance with

the terms and conditions of the license after the minor or minor part license expires, until the Commission acts on its application. If the licensee of such a project has not filed an application for a subsequent license, then it may be required, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.21(b), to continue project operations until the Commission issues someone else a license for the project or otherwise orders disposition of the project.

If the project is subject to Section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that an annual license for Project No. 2017 is issued to Southern California Edison Company for a period effective March 1, 1999, through February 29, 2000, or until the issuance of a new license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first. If issuance of a new license (or other disposition) does not take place on or before, February 29, 2000, notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.18(c), an annual license under Section 15(a)(1) of the FPA is renewed automatically without further order or notice by the Commission, unless the Commission orders otherwise.

If the project is not subject to Section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that Southern California Edison Company is authorized to continue operation of the Big Creek #4 Project No. 2017 until such time as the Commission acts on its application for subsequent license.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-138-000]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Austin Storage Field Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

March 8, 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 ANR Pipeline Company's (ANR) proposed Austin Storage Field Project. The project would involve the injection of approximately 2 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of nitrogen into the existing Austin Storage Field in Mecosta and Newaygo Counties, Michigan, to function as base

gas.¹ The nitrogen injection would allow ANR to recover approximately 2 Bcf of the natural gas currently serving as base gas. ANR would install skid-mounted facilities to generate the nitrogen and then use compressor facilities for storage field injections.

This project would also involve a delineation of the Austin Storage Field boundary (including the fringe area protective acreage) which may have changed over past 57 years of operation. 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. The application and other supplemental filings in this docket are 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.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions.

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

Summary of the Proposed Project

ANR proposes to inject approximately 2 Bcf of nitrogen into its existing Austin Storage Field in Mecosta and Newaygo Counties, Michigan, to function as base gas. This project would entail:

- The placement of a 500 horsepower (hp) natural gas fueled engine/compressor package approximately 750

¹ ANR'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.