

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP01-115-000]

Transwestern Pipeline Company; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Red Rock Mainline Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environment Issues

April 11, 2001.

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 Red Rock Mainline Expansion Project involving abandonment, construction and operation of facilities by Transwestern Pipeline Company (Transwestern) in Mohave, Coconino, and Apache Counties, Arizona.¹ Transwestern proposes to install one new 41,500 horsepower (hp) compressor unit at each of four existing compressor stations. These units would replace the existing three compressor units, ranging from 4,000 to 4,500 hp each, of the four compressor stations. To facilitate the transition, Transwestern has also requested authorization to continue operating the existing units at the compressor stations for up to six months after installing the new units. After the transition period, Transwestern proposes to abandon the old compressor units in place. 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.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" was attached to the project notice Transwestern provided to landowners. This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Transwestern wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Arizona to transport an additional 1,240,000 million cubic feet per day of natural gas to the California border. Transwestern seeks authority to:

Abandon in Place

- Three 4,000 hp compressor units and associated facilities at Station 1 in Mohave County, Arizona;
- Three 4,000 hp compressor units and associated facilities at Station 2 in Coconino County, Arizona;
- Three 4,500 hp compressor units and associated facilities at Station 3 in Coconino County, Arizona; and
- Three 4,000 hp compressor units and associated facilities at Station 4 in Apache County, Arizona.

Install

- One 41,500 hp compressor unit and associated facilities at Station 1 in Mohave County, Arizona.
- One 41,500 hp compressor unit and associated facilities at Station 2 in Coconino County, Arizona;
- One 41,500 hp compressor unit and associated facilities at Station 3 in Coconino County, Arizona; and
- One 41,500 hp compressor unit and associated facilities at Station 4 in Apache County, Arizona.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction at each of the compressor stations would be limited to about 5 acres within the fence line of the existing compressor station.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impact that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us³ 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

²The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's website at the "RIMS" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. For instructions on connecting to RIMS refer to page 5 of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

³"We", "us", and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP).

¹Transwestern's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

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.

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.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section below.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified two issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Transwestern. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis. The two issues are:

- Effects of the increased compression on noise and air quality.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations), 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 an original and two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas 2.
- Reference Docket No. CP01-115-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before May 10, 2001.

Comments may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm> under the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create an account which can be created by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."

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).⁴ Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from 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. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

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. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-9418 Filed 4-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Request for Amendment of Recreation Plan and Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Protests

April 11, 2001.

Take notice that the following application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

a. *Application Type*: Request for amendment of the project's approved recreation plan.

b. *Project No.* 2506-070.

c. *Date Filed*: January 25, 2001.

d. *Licensee*: Upper Peninsula Power Company.

e. *Name of Project*: Escanaba Project.

f. *Location*: On the Escanaba River, near the township of Escanaba in Delta and Marquette Counties, Michigan. The project site does not involve federal or tribal lands.

g. *Filed Pursuant to*: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Licensee Contact*: Mr. Shawn Puzen, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, 700 Adams Street, P.O. Box 19002, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54307-9002. (920) 433-1094.

i. *FERC Contact*: Any questions on this notice should be addressed to Jean Potvin, jean.potvin@ferc.fed.us, or (202) 219-0022.

j. *Deadline for filing comments and or motions*: May 18, 2001.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with Mr. David

P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426. Comments, protests and interventions may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/rfi/doorbell.htm>. Please reference the following number, P-2506-070, on any comments or motions filed.

k. *Description of Proposal*: The licensee proposes to amend the approved recreation plan of the project license by constructing a carry-in boat access on the south shore of the impoundment, west of the powerhouse of Dam #1 rather than off U.S. Highway 2 on the southeast shore of the impoundment. The facility will include a parking lot suitable for 5 vehicles, proper signage to inform the public that the area is open for public use, a picnic table, stairs to the river, a canoe slide, and a modified skid pier. This amendment was filed following to a public notice issued on December 20, 2000 soliciting comments, motions to intervene, and protests concerning the licensee's request to delete the requirement for a carry-in boat access from the approved recreation plan.

l. *Locations of the Application*: A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, D.C. 20426, or by calling 202-208-1371. The application may be viewed on-line at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

n. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene—Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

o. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—Any filings must bear in

⁴ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.