

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

[Docket No. CP22–63–000]

**ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Proposed Winfield Storage Field Abandonment Project**

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental document, that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Winfield Storage Field Abandonment Project involving abandonment of natural gas storage facilities by ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) in Montcalm County, Michigan. The Commission will use this environmental document in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies regarding the project. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, the Commission takes into account concerns the public may have about proposals and the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of an authorization. This gathering of public input is referred to as “scoping.” The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the environmental document on the important environmental issues. Additional information about the Commission’s NEPA process is described below in the *NEPA Process and Environmental Document* section of this notice.

By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of issues to address in the environmental document. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 12, 2022. Comments may be submitted in written form. Further details on how to submit comments are provided in the *Public Participation* section of this notice.

Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to

evaluate in the environmental document. Commission staff will consider all written comments during the preparation of the environmental document.

If you submitted comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on March 2, 2022, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. CP22–63–000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission’s current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this proposed project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable easement agreement. You are not required to enter into an agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, the Natural Gas Act conveys the right of eminent domain to the company. Therefore, if you and the company do not reach an easement agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in court. In such instances, compensation would be determined by a judge in accordance with state law.

ANR provided landowners with a fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled “An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?” which addresses typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission’s proceedings. This fact sheet along with other landowner topics of interest are available for viewing on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the Natural Gas Questions or Landowner Topics link.

**Public Participation**

There are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208–3676 or [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov).

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the *eComment* feature, which is located on the Commission’s website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to FERC Online. Using *eComment* is an easy method for

submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically by using the *eFiling* feature, which is also on the Commission’s website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to FERC Online. With *eFiling*, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New *eFiling* users must first create an account by clicking on “*eRegister*.” You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; a comment on a particular project is considered a “Comment on a Filing”; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the Commission. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP22–63–000) on your letter. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Additionally, the Commission offers a free service called *eSubscription* which makes it easy to stay informed of all issuances and submittals regarding the dockets/projects to which you subscribe. These instant email notifications are the fastest way to receive notification and provide a link to the document files which can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings. Go to <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview> to register for *eSubscription*.

**Summary of the Proposed Project**

ANR requests authority to abandon its operations and facilities at the Winfield Natural Gas Storage Field. ANR states the storage field provides little value due to the non-contributing wells and associated pipelines. Therefore, ANR states the cost of maintaining the Winfield Storage Field exceeds any value it provided. Abandonment of the field would eliminate the expenditures required to maintain the field, and ANR would continue to meet all existing contractual commitments.

Specifically, ANR proposes to:

- Abandon 72 natural gas injection/withdrawal wells by permanently plugging the wells;
- abandon 15 miles of associated storage lines in the field, consisting of two 10-inch-diameter laterals, seven 6-inch-diameter laterals, and eighty-two 4-inch-diameter laterals. Approximately

0.8 mile would be removed and 14.2 miles would be abandoned in place;

- abandon 4.43 miles of a 16-inch-diameter storage lateral (Lateral 249) in its entirety from the Winfield Interconnect at Milepost 0.0 to Milepost 4.41, of which approximately 0.49 mile would be removed, and 3.59 miles would be abandoned in place (0.35 mile of which would also be cut, capped, and grouted);

- abandon by removal the Winfield Compressor Station, including all below- and aboveground structures;
- abandon by removal all aboveground appurtenances, including pipeline markers, cathodic protection test stations, rectifiers, casing vents, and aboveground pipeline blowdown vents; and

- abandon in place remaining below-ground miscellaneous appurtenances.

The general locations of the project facilities and the Winfield Compressor Station are shown in appendix 1.<sup>1</sup>

#### Land Requirements for Construction

The proposed abandonment would disturb about 133 acres of land, including 115.2 acres of existing easement and 17.8 acres of temporary workspace on adjacent lands owned or leased by ANR. Following completion of abandonment activities, ANR would retain rights to the permanent easement.

#### NEPA Process and the Environmental Document

Any environmental document issued by the Commission will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under the relevant general resource areas:

- Geology and soils;
- water resources and wetlands;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- threatened and endangered species;
- cultural resources;
- land use;
- air quality and noise; and
- reliability and safety.

Commission staff will also evaluate reasonable 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. Your comments will help Commission staff identify and focus on the issues that might have an effect on the human environment and potentially eliminate others from further study and discussion in the environmental document.

Following this scoping period, Commission staff will determine whether to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EA or the EIS will present Commission staff's independent analysis of the issues. If Commission staff prepares an EA, a *Notice of Schedule for the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment* will be issued. The EA may be issued for an allotted public comment period. The Commission would consider timely comments on the EA before making its decision regarding the proposed project. If Commission staff prepares an EIS, a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS/ Notice of Schedule* will be issued, which will open up an additional comment period. Staff will then prepare a draft EIS which will be issued for public comment. Commission staff will consider all timely comments received during the comment period on the draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS. Any EA or draft and final EIS will be available in electronic format in the public record through eLibrary<sup>2</sup> and the Commission's natural gas environmental documents web page (<https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environment/environmental-documents>). If eSubscribed, you will receive instant email notification when the environmental document is issued.

With this notice, the Commission is asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues of this project to formally cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document.<sup>3</sup> Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the *Public Participation* section of this notice.

#### Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Commission is

using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Office(s), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project's potential effects on historic properties.<sup>4</sup> The environmental document for this project will document findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

#### Environmental Mailing List

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the project and includes a mailing address with their comments. Commission staff will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that Commission notices related to this environmental review are sent to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project.

If you need to make changes to your name/address, or if you would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please complete one of the following steps:

(1) Send an email to [GasProjectAddressChange@ferc.gov](mailto:GasProjectAddressChange@ferc.gov) stating your request. You must include the docket number CP22-63-000 in your request. If you are requesting a change to your address, please be sure to include your name and the correct address. If you are requesting to delete your address from the mailing list, please include your name and address as it appeared on this notice. This email address is unable to accept comments.

OR

(2) Return the attached "Mailing List Update Form" (appendix 2).

<sup>1</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the **Federal Register**. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the link called "eLibrary". For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice. At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's Public Reference Room due to the proclamation declaring a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), issued by the President on March 13, 2020. For assistance, contact FERC at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or call toll free, (888) 208-3676 or TTY (202) 502-8659.

<sup>2</sup> For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

<sup>3</sup> The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1501.8.

<sup>4</sup> The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations are at title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Additional Information**

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number in the "Docket Number" field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

Public sessions or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/events> along with other related information.

Dated: April 12, 2022.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2022-08236 Filed 4-15-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

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

[Project No. 2392-041]

**Ampersand Gilman Hydro, LP; Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Soliciting Additional Study Requests and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Relicensing and a Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments**

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

a. *Type of Application:* New Major License.

b. *Project No.:* 2392-041.

c. *Date filed:* March 29, 2022.

d. *Applicant:* Ampersand Gilman Hydro, LP.

e. *Name of Project:* Gilman Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* The project is located on the Connecticut River and straddles the Village of Gilman, within the Town of Lunenburg, Essex County, Vermont, and the Town of Dalton, Coos County, New Hampshire. The project does not occupy any federal or tribal lands.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Sayad Moudachirou, Licensing Manager, 717

Atlantic Avenue, Suite 1A, Boston, MA 02111; phone: (617) 933-7206 or email: [sayad@ampersandenergy.com](mailto:sayad@ampersandenergy.com).

i. *FERC Contact:* Ousmane Sidibe, phone: (202) 502-6245 or email: [ousmane.sidibe@ferc.gov](mailto:ousmane.sidibe@ferc.gov).

j. *Cooperating agencies:* Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues that wish to cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document should follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item l below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document cannot also intervene. *See*, 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).

k. Pursuant to section 4.32(b)(7) of 18 CFR of the Commission's regulations, if any resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person believes that an additional scientific study should be conducted in order to form an adequate factual basis for a complete analysis of the application on its merit, the resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person must file a request for a study with the Commission not later than 60 days from the date of filing of the application, and serve a copy of the request on the applicant.

l. *Deadline for filing additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status:* May 31, 2022.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: Gilman Hydroelectric Project (P-2392-041).

m. The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

n. The Gilman Hydroelectric Project consists of: (1) A 324.5-foot-wide concrete dam with a crest elevation of 826.8 feet spanning the river's width with a 5-foot-high, 108-foot-long rubber

bladder and a 6.5-foot-high, 109-foot-long rubber bladder surmounted on two overflow spillways measuring 112.9 feet and 113 feet in width and an 18-foot-high, 27-foot-wide hydraulically operated crestgate; (2) a downstream fish passage system; (3) a 130-acre impoundment at a normal maximum surface elevation of 833.3 feet (USGS); (4) a steel- and timber-framed powerhouse with an integral water intake draft tube containing four generating turbine units with a total installed capacity of 4.95 megawatts located at the Vermont side of the dam; (5) a 242-foot-long, 23.75-foot-wide trash rack with approximately 2-inch spacing; (6) a 200-foot-long transmission line connecting the 34.5 kilovolt-ampere transformer to National Grid's switchyard; and (7) appurtenant facilities.

Ampersand Gilman Hydro, LP proposes to continue to operate the project in a run-of-river mode with no storage or flood control capacity. In accordance with Condition A of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's water quality certification issued for the project, the project adheres to the following downstream minimum flow release requirements: (1) From June 1 through October 15, when river flows are less than 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), pass a minimum flow of 210 cfs over the crestgate; (2) provide a minimum flow of 757 cfs during operational issues or refilling of the impoundment; and (3) for faster impoundment refill based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies, a minimum flow of no less than 300 cfs to protect the dwarf wedge mussel until normal operations are restored. The project can operate in most of the extreme conditions of the Connecticut River and generate electricity from flows of 130 cfs up to high flood conditions of 35,000 cfs. The estimated average annual generation of the project from 2008 to 2018 is 25,000 megawatt-hours.

o. A copy of the application can be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the docket number field, to access the document (P-2392). For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), or call toll-free, (866) 208-3676 or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

You may also register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.