

other information, call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov*.

Dated: November 5, 2024.

Carlos D. Clay,

Acting Deputy Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP24-93-000]

Venice Gathering System, LLC; Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Proposed Venice Gathering System Pipeline 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 Venice Gathering System Pipeline Abandonment Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Venice Gathering System, LLC (VGS) in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. 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 authorizing Order. 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 December 5, 2024. 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 12, 2024, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. CP24-93-000 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.

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*.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission's website (*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 located on the Commission's website (*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 (CP24-93-000) on your letter. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, 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.

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Summary of the Proposed Project

VGS proposes to abandon certain onshore and offshore facilities comprising the Venice Gathering System located onshore in the state of Louisiana and offshore in state and federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico. Specifically, VGS proposes to abandon in-place a total of approximately 121.5 miles of 8-inch to 26-inch-diameter pipeline extending south of Venice Energy Services Company LLC's natural gas processing plant in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana to offshore federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico in South Timbalier. Block 151 and West Delta Blocks 41 and 72.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.¹

Land Requirements for Construction

Onshore project activities would be entirely within the existing Targa Terminal where approximately 100 feet of aboveground interconnection pipeline and associated valves would be abandoned by removal. As the pipeline and valves to be removed are aboveground, no ground disturbance would be required.

Approximately 20.4 miles of pipeline to be abandoned is within the coastal zone of Louisiana state waters; however, no ground disturbance in these areas is proposed. Abandonment in-place of the remaining 101.1 miles of pipeline would require a total of approximately 0.1 acre of seafloor disturbance within the existing right-of-way to allow for access to the pipeline via jetting for cutting and plugging at each end.

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, soils, and sediments;
- water resources and wetlands;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- threatened and endangered species;
- cultural resources;
- land use;
- environmental justice;
- 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 eLibrary² and the Commission's natural gas environmental documents web page (<https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environmental-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.³ 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.⁴ 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 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 stating your request. You must include the docket number CP24-93-000 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).

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 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 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,

¹ 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 using the link called "eLibrary". For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice. For assistance, contact FERC at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll free, (886) 208-3676 or TTY (202) 502-8659.

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

³ The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1501.8.

⁴ 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.

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: November 5, 2024.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024-26140 Filed 11-8-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Southwestern Power Administration

Integrated System Power Rates

AGENCY: Southwestern Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rate.

SUMMARY: Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) proposes to revise the existing Integrated System rate schedules to meet the identified average annual revenue need of \$237,821,129, an increase of \$44,230,649 (22.8 percent), effective April 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027. Interested persons may review the proposed rate and supporting studies on Southwestern's website, request to participate in a public forum, and submit comments. Southwestern will evaluate all comments received in this process.

DATES: A consultation and comment period will begin November 12, 2024 and end February 10, 2025. Written comments are due on or before February 10, 2025. If requested, a public information and comment forum (Forum) will be held on December 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. to no later than 12:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST). The Forum will be conducted via Microsoft Teams. Persons desiring to attend the Forum should notify Southwestern by December 11, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. CST, so that a list of Forum participants can be prepared. Requests to attend the Forum should be sent via email to swparates@swpa.gov should include the individual's name, address, phone number, entity (if any) they represent, and email address. Persons desiring to speak at the Forum should specify this in their notification to Southwestern; others may speak if time permits.

If Southwestern does not receive a request for a Forum, the Forum will not be held. If a Forum is requested, the Microsoft Teams meeting information will be posted to Southwestern's website.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Fritha Ohlson, Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Office of Corporate Operations, Southwestern Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, One West Third Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103 or emailed to swparates@swpa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ashley Corker, Director, Division of Resources and Rates, Southwestern Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, One West Third Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103, (918) 595-6682, ashley.corker@swpa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Southwestern markets power from 24 multi-purpose reservoir projects with hydroelectric power facilities constructed and operated by the Corps. These projects are located in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Southwestern's marketing area includes these states plus Kansas and Louisiana. The costs associated with 22 of these 24 hydropower projects are repaid with revenues received under the Integrated System rates. These rates also cover the costs of Southwestern's transmission facilities that consist of 1,381 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, 27 substations, and 46 microwave and VHF radio sites.

On September 30, 2013, the Deputy Secretary of Energy, via Rate Order No. SWPA-66, placed Southwestern's Integrated System rate schedules (P-13, NFTS-13, and EE-13) into effect until September 30, 2017. Subsequently, rate schedule NFTS-13 was renamed to NFTS-13A and rate schedule P-13 was renamed to P-13A and then later to P-13B, in each case with no revenue adjustment.¹ Additionally, all three rate schedules have been extended with no revenue adjustment.² Most recently, the Southwestern Administrator extended rate schedules P-13B, NFTS-13A, and EE-13, via Rate Order No. SWPA-85, through September 30, 2025.

The guidelines for preparation of power repayment studies are included in DOE Order No. RA 6120.2, "Power Marketing Administration Financial Reporting." In simple terms, the rate process works as follows. First, Southwestern conducts a Power Repayment Study to determine whether its current revenues are sufficient for Southwestern to meet its repayment obligations. If a revenue shortfall (or surplus) is indicated, Southwestern conducts a revised Power Repayment

Study to determine the level of revenue needed. If the revenue change needed to meet Southwestern's repayment obligations is within a small margin of Agency discretion, Southwestern will finalize the Power Repayment Studies for that year and Southwestern's rates will not be adjusted. This is what occurred annually for Southwestern's Integrated System Rates from 2013 until 2023.

If, however, Southwestern's annual Power Repayment Studies indicate a revenue shortfall (or surplus) outside of that small margin of Agency discretion, Southwestern must then engage in a Rate Design Study to inform the Administrator as to what the new proposed rates should be in order to generate the needed revenue. This is what occurred in 2023.

Unlike previous years, Southwestern's 2023 Power Repayment Studies indicated the need for a revenue increase that was substantial enough to impact Southwestern's ability to meet its repayment obligations. The 2023 Power Repayment Studies indicated the need for an increase of \$44,230,649 in average annual revenue. Southwestern then engaged in a Rate Design Study to develop rates necessary to generate this additional revenue. The resulting rates are described in the chart.

Part of the total additional revenue identified by the Power Repayment Studies is a need to increase revenues specifically for purchased power and wheeling. The Purchased Power & Wheeling Adder (PPWA) produces revenues which are segregated to cover the cost of power purchased to meet contractual obligations. The PPWA is established to reflect revenues required to meet Southwestern's purchased power and wheeling needs on an average annual basis. The PPWA rate will increase to reflect the increasing average cost of purchasing power over the period as well as the cost of firm transmission to wheel power and energy from two projects, Blakely Mountain and DeGray, from MISO into Southwestern's system. Revenue from the sale of excess energy from Blakely Mountain and DeGray will offset the increase in purchased power and wheeling cost. The Administrator's authority to adjust the PPWA at her or his discretion with the Purchased Power & Wheeling Adder Adjustment (PPWAA) will remain in force.³ The PPWAA is limited to two adjustments per year not to exceed a total of ±8.7 mills per kilowatt-hour per year. The PPWA will increase to \$0.0087 per kilowatt-hour and the PPWAA will

¹ Rate Order Nos. SWPA-71 (January 1, 2017), SWPA-73 (July 15, 2017), SWPA-80 (July 15, 2023)

² Rate Order Nos. SWPA-72 (September 13, 2017), SWPA-74 (September 22, 2019), SWPA-77 (August 30, 2021), SWPA-81 (September 20, 2023).

³ See 138 FERC ¶ 62,199 (2012).