

Any comments should be filed within 45 days from the issuance date of this notice and should be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1-A, Washington, DC 20426. Please affix "Borel Hydroelectric Project No. 382-026" and/or "Kern Canyon Hydroelectric Project No. 178-017" to all comments. Comments may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "e-filing" link. For further information, contact Emily Carter at (202) 502-6512 or emily.carter@ferc.gov.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E5-1418 Filed 3-30-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP05-88-000]

Northern Border Pipeline Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Chicago III Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

March 24, 2005.

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 Chicago III Expansion Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Northern Border Pipeline Company (NBPL) in Johnson and Scott Counties, Iowa and Bureau County, Illinois.¹ These facilities would consist of a new 16,000-horsepower (hp) electric compressor station, installation of additional gas cooling equipment, and changing internals and wheel of compressors. 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.

Summary of the Proposed Project

NBPL proposes to construct, modify, install and operate the following facilities:

1. Compressor Station No. 16—Install one new 16,000-hp electric driven

compressor unit at the existing launcher-receiver station site located in Section 17, Township 77 North, Range 5 West, Johnson County, Iowa.

2. Compressor Station No. 17—Install additional gas-cooling equipment and replace the compressor wheel and internals on the existing centrifugal compressor unit located in Section 13, Township 79 North, Range 4 East, Scott County, Iowa. The proposed modification would not result in a change in hp rating.

3. Compressor Station No. 18—Replace the compressor wheel and internals on the existing centrifugal compressor unit located in Section 1, Township 17 North, Range 10 East, Bureau County, Illinois. The proposed modification would not result in a change in hp rating.

NBPL indicates that it would also "certain install related 2.55(a) auxiliary facilities."

NBPL indicates that in order to provide the electric power to operate Compressor Station 16, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) would construct about 1.8 miles of a 69-kilovolt transmission line north of its existing transmission line north of Compressor Station 16. NBPL indicates that CIPCO's planned power line would be regulated by the Iowa Utilities Board and CIPCO would need to file for and obtain the necessary permits and environmental clearances for its planned power line facilities.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in Appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would occur on previously disturbed land within each of the three compressor station sites owned by NBPL.

The 16,000-hp electric driven compressor would be installed on a currently designated 10.3-acre Compressor Station 16 site which currently contains an existing NBPL launcher/receiver facility and microwave tower. NBPL would also construct and maintain a new access road to the compressor station.

The proposed modifications for the compressor wheels and internals at Compressor Stations 17 and 18 would occur within the compressor buildings.

²The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies of all appendices, other than Appendix 1 (maps), are available on the Commission's Web site at the "eLibrary" link or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

The proposed gas-cooling equipment at Compressor Station 17 would be installed in a previously disturbed area.

NBPL indicates that CIPCO plans to construct a new 1.8-mile long 69-kilovolt transmission line (to provide electrical power to Compressor Station 16) "within state and county road easements utilizing aboveground and "narrow profile" construction methods to minimize land requirements, potential private landowner concerns, and environmental impacts that may be associated with CIPCO's project. Ground disturbance will generally be limited to the areas immediately surrounding the base of the power line poles."

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. This process is referred to as "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 staff requests public comments on the scope of the issues to 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 of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

In the EA we³ 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,
- Land use,
- Cultural resources,
- Vegetation and wildlife,
- Air quality and noise,
- Endangered and threatened species,
- Hazardous waste,
- Water resources and fisheries.

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

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

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

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.

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, 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: Magalie R. Salas, 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 Branch 2.
- Reference Docket No. CP05-88-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before April 25, 2005.

Please note that we are continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. As a result, we will include all comments that we receive within a reasonable time frame in our environmental analysis of this project. However, the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing of any comments or interventions or protests to this proceeding. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create a free account which can be created online.

We may mail the EA for comment. If you are interested in receiving it, please return the Information Request (Appendix 3). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

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(s) 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 send one electronic copy (using the Commission's eFiling system) or 14 paper 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.

Environmental Mailing List

An effort is being made to send this notice to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. This includes all landowners whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes within distances defined in the Commission's regulations of certain aboveground facilities.

Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1-866-208-FERC or on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits 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 toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the

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

Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to the documents. Go to <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>.

Finally, public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx> along with other related information.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application for Non-Project Use of Project Lands and Waters and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests

March 22, 2005.

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

- a. *Application Type:* Non-Project Use Of Project Lands And Waters.
- b. *Project No.:* 2503-086.
- c. *Date Filed:* March 3, 2005.
- d. *Applicant:* Duke Power, a division of Duke Energy Corporation.
- e. *Name of Project:* Keowee-Toxaway.
- f. *Location:* The project is located on Lake Keowee in Oconee County, South Carolina. The project does not utilize federal or tribal lands.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a), 825(r) and 799 and 801.
- h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Joe Hall, Lake Management Representative, Duke Energy Corporation, P.O. Box 1006, Charlotte, NC 28201-1006, 704-382-8576.
- i. *FERC Contact:* Any questions on this notice should be addressed to Kate DeBragga at (202) 502-8961, or by e-mail: Kate.DeBragga@ferc.gov.
- j. *Deadline for filing comments and or motions:* April 22, 2005.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington DC 20426.