

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**[Docket No. PP-89-1]****Notice of Public Hearings for the Proposed Bangor Hydro-Electric Company (BHE) Northeast Reliability Interconnect****AGENCY:** Department of Energy.**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces two public hearings on the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bangor Hydro-Electric Company (BHE) Northeast Reliability Interconnect" (DOE/EIS-0372). The Draft EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations, 40 CFR parts 1500-1508, and the DOE NEPA regulations, 10 CFR part 1021. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) are cooperating agencies in the preparation of this Draft EIS.

The proposed DOE action in the Draft EIS is to amend BHE's existing Presidential permit to allow construction along the Modified Consolidated Corridors Route of a single-circuit, 345,000-volt, electric transmission line that would cross the U.S. international border in the vicinity of Baileyville, Maine. DOE has prepared this Draft EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts in the United States of the proposed action and the range of reasonable alternatives, including the No Action alternative.

DATES: DOE invites interested Members of Congress, state and local governments, other Federal agencies, American Indian tribal governments, organizations, and members of the public to provide comments on the Draft EIS. The public comment period began on August 26, 2005, with the publication of the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency and will continue until October 11, 2005. Written and oral comments will be given equal weight, and DOE will consider all comments received or postmarked by that date in preparing the Final EIS. Comments received or postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Dates for the public hearings are:

1. September 28, 2005, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Baileyville, Maine.
2. September 29, 2005, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Brewer, Maine.

Requests to speak at a specific public hearing should be received by Dr. Jerry

Pell as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section below on or before September 21, 2005. Requests to speak may also be made at the time of registration for the hearing(s). However, persons who have submitted advance requests to speak will be given priority if time should be limited during the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Requests to speak at the public hearings should be addressed to: Dr. Jerry Pell, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585, or transmitted by phone: 202-586-3362, facsimile: 202-318-7761, or electronic mail at Jerry.Pell@hq.doe.gov. Please be aware that anthrax screening delays conventional mail delivery to DOE.

The locations of the public hearings are:

1. Woodland Elementary School, 23 Fourth Avenue, Baileyville, Maine.
2. Jeff's Catering Banquet & Convention Center, East West Industrial Park, 5 Coffin Avenue, Brewer, Maine.

Copies of the Draft EIS are available in paper format, accompanied by a CD-ROM containing the entire Draft EIS, or as a CD-ROM only. Requests for additional copies in either format should be addressed to Dr. Pell at any of the addresses above. Additionally, the Draft EIS is available on the project Internet Web site at <http://web.ead.anl.gov/interconnecteis>, and also on the DOE NEPA Web site at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa/docs/deis/deis.html>.

Written comments on the Draft EIS may be addressed to Dr. Jerry Pell as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice or submitted on the project Web site at <http://web.ead.anl.gov/interconnecteis>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the proposed project or to receive a copy of the Draft EIS, contact Dr. Pell as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

For general information on the DOE NEPA process, contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, Phone: 202-586-4600 or leave a message at 800-472-2756; Facsimile: 202-586-7031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Executive Order (E.O.) 10485, as amended by E.O. 12038, requires that a Presidential permit be issued by DOE before electric transmission facilities may be constructed, maintained, operated, or connected at the U.S. international border. The E.O. provides that a Presidential permit may be issued after

a finding that the proposed project is consistent with the public interest. In determining consistency with the public interest, DOE considers the environmental impacts of the proposed project pursuant to NEPA, the project's impact on electric reliability by ascertaining whether the proposed project would adversely affect the operation of the U.S. electric power supply system under normal and contingency conditions, and any other factors that DOE may also consider relevant to the public interest. The regulations implementing the E.O. have been codified at 10 CFR 205.320-205.329. Issuance of the permit indicates that there is no Federal objection to the project, but does not mandate that the project be completed.

On January 22, 1996, DOE issued Presidential Permit PP-89 which authorized BHE to construct a single-circuit, 345,000-volt (345-kV) alternating current transmission line that would originate at BHE's Orrington Substation, extend eastward approximately 85 miles (137-km), and cross the U.S.-Canada border near Baileyville, Maine. Before granting the Presidential permit, DOE prepared an EIS which analyzed the environmental impacts of various alternative actions and routes. The preferred alternative in the EIS and in the Record of Decision was to grant a Presidential permit for construction of the transmission line along the Stud Mill Road route. However, the project was never constructed and on September 30, 2003, BHE applied to DOE to amend Presidential Permit PP-89 by allowing construction of the proposed transmission line along a route other than the Stud Mill Road route.

Alternatives Considered

The proposed DOE action in the Draft EIS is to amend BHE's existing Presidential permit to allow construction along the Modified Consolidated Corridors Route. DOE has prepared this Draft EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts in the United States of the proposed action and the range of reasonable alternatives, including the No Action alternative. Under the No Action alternative, only the previously permitted route (the Stud Mill Road route) could be utilized by BHE for construction of the transmission line. In addition to the Modified Consolidated Corridors Route and the Previously Permitted Route, two other alternative routes are analyzed in

the Draft EIS: the Consolidated Corridors Route, and the MEPCO South Route. DOE also analyzed a rescission alternative under which the existing permit would be rescinded and no international transmission line could be constructed. As indicated in the Draft EIS, DOE has designated the Modified Consolidated Corridors Route as its preferred alternative.

Availability of the Draft EIS

DOE has distributed copies of the Draft EIS to appropriate members of Congress, state and local government officials in Maine, American Indian tribal governments, and other Federal agencies, groups, and interested parties. Copies of the document may be obtained by contacting DOE as provided in the ADDRESSES section of this notice. Copies of the Draft EIS are also available for inspection at the locations identified below:

1. Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St., Bangor, ME 04401.
2. Brewer Public Library, 24 Union St., Brewer, ME 04412.
3. Calais Free Library, 9 Union St., Calais, ME 04619.
4. Orrington Public Library, 15 School St., Orrington, ME 04474.
5. Princeton Public Library, Main Street, Princeton, ME 04668.
6. Baileyville Public Library, 169 Main Street, Baileyville, ME 04694.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 6, 2005.

Anthony J. Como,

Director, Permitting and Siting, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

[FR Doc. 05-18023 Filed 9-9-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[RP05-544-000, et al.]

CenterPoint Energy—Mississippi River Transmission Corporation et al.; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

September 2, 2005.

In the matter of: RP05-570-000, RP05-570-000, RP05-575-000, RP05-548-000, RP05-576-000, RP05-541-000, RP05-539-000, RP05-540-000, RP05-542-000, RP05-563-000, RP05-400-001, RP05-547-000, RP05-554-000, RP05-568-000, RP05-562-000, RP05-538-000, RP05-577-000, RP05-545-000, RP05-558-000, RP05-569-000, RP05-557-000, RP05-551-000, RP05-555-000, RP05-455-001, RP05-571-000, RP05-592-000, RP05-572-000, RP05-543-000, RP05-556-000, RP05-561-000, RP05-578-000, RP05-579-000: Chandeuleur Pipe Line

Company, Chandeuleur Pipe Line Company, Colorado Interstate Gas Company, Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company, El Paso Natural Gas Company, Enbridge Pipelines (AlaTenn) L.L.C., Enbridge Pipelines (KPC), Enbridge Pipelines (Midla) L.L.C., Garden Banks Gas Pipeline, L.L.C., Guardian Pipeline, L.L.C., Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP, Kern River Gas Transmission Company, Kinder Morgan Interstate Gas Transmission LLC, KO Transmission Company, Midwestern Gas Transmission Company, Mississippi Canyon Gas Pipeline, LLC, Mojave Pipeline Company, Nautilus Pipeline Company, L.L.C., Northeast Pipeline Corporation, Ozark Gas Transmission, L.L.C., Panther Interstate Pipeline Energy, LLC., Questar Pipeline Company, Questar Southern Trails Pipeline Company, Sabine Pipe Line LLC, Sabine Pipe Line LLC, SCG Pipeline, Inc., Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc., Stingray Pipeline Company, L.L.C., TransColorado Gas Transmission Company, Viking Gas Transmission Company, Wyoming Interstate Company, Ltd., Young Gas Storage Company, Ltd.

Take notice that the above-referenced pipelines tendered for filing their tariff sheets respectively, pursuant to Section 154.402 of the Commission's regulations, to reflect the Commission's change in the unit rate for the Annual Charge Adjustment (ACA) surcharge to be applied to rates for recovery of 2005 Annual Charges. The proposed effective date of the tariff sheets is October 1, 2005.

The above-referenced pipelines state that the purpose of their filings is to reflect the revised ACA effective for the twelve-month period beginning October 1, 2005. The pipelines further state that their tariff sheets reflect a decrease of \$0.0001 per Dth in the ACA adjustment surcharge, resulting in a new ACA rate of \$0.0018 Dth as specified by the Commission in its invoice dated June 30, 2005, for the Annual Charge Billing—Fiscal year 2005.

Due to the large number of pipelines that have filed to comply with the Annual Charge Adjustment Billing, the Commission is issuing this single notice of the filings included in the caption.

Any person desiring to become part in any of the listed dockets must file a separate motion to intervene in each docket for which they wish party status.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or

protests must be filed on or before the date as indicated below. Anyone filing an intervention or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant. Anyone filing an intervention or protest on or before the intervention or protest date need not serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 14 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link and is available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an "eSubscription" link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive e-mail notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please e-mail FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Intervention, Protest Date: 5 p.m. eastern time on September 13, 2005.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E5-4956 Filed 9-9-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2602]

Duke Power, a Division of Duke Energy Corporation, Nantahala Area; Notice of Authorization or Continued Project Operation

September 6, 2005.

On July 22, 2003, Duke Power, a division of Duke Energy Corporation, Nantahala Area, licensee for the Dillsboro Project No. 2602, filed an application for subsequent license pursuant to the Federal Power Act (FPA) and the Commission's regulations. The application for subsequent license will be held in abeyance pending Commission processing of a surrender application filed on June 1, 2004. Project No. 2602 is located on the Tuckasee River in Jackson County, North Carolina.