

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket Nos. CP98–150–006, CP98–150–007, CP98–151–003, CP05–19–000, CP06–5–000, CP06–6–000, CP06–7–000, CP06–76–000, and CP02–31–002]

Millennium Pipeline L.L.C., Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation, Empire State Pipeline and Empire Pipeline, Inc., Algonquin Gas Transmission System, Iroquois Gas Transmission System; Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Northeast-07 Project

June 15, 2006.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed for the Northeast (NE)-07 Project in Genesee, Ontario, Yates, Schuyler, Steuben, Chemung, Tioga, Broome, Delaware, Orange, Rockland, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties, New York; Morris County, New Jersey; and Fairfield and New Haven Counties, Connecticut, proposed by Millennium Pipeline L.L.C. (Millennium), Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), Empire State Pipeline and Empire Pipeline, Inc. (collectively referred to as Empire), Algonquin Gas Transmission System (Algonquin), and Iroquois Gas Transmission System (Iroquois) in the above-referenced dockets.

The DSEIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact. The DSEIS also evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system alternatives, alternative sites for compressor stations, and pipeline alternatives.

The DSEIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following natural gas pipeline facilities:

Millennium Pipeline Project—Phase I

- Construction of about 181.7 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline from Corning, New York, to Ramapo, New York, (from milepost [MP] 190.6 to MP 376.6), with four proposed route modifications within this area;
- Acquisition from Columbia and continued use of about 7.1 miles of 24-

inch-diameter Line A–5 pipeline from MP 340.5 to MP 347.7;

- Construction of the new Corning Compressor Station and measuring and regulating (M&R) facilities at MP 190.6;

- Installation of upgrades to the Ramapo M&R station in Ramapo, Rockland County, New York; and

- Construction of the Wagoner M&R station in Deer Park, Orange County, New York, at MP 337.9.

Columbia would abandon certain facilities related to the Millennium Pipeline Project—Phase I. Columbia proposes the following:

- Abandonment in place of about 4.5 miles of 10-inch-, 82.2 miles of 12-inch-, 0.2 mile of 16-inch-, and 2.5 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline in Steuben, Chemung, Tioga, Broome, Orange, and Delaware Counties, New York, designated as Line A–5;

- Abandonment by removal (Millennium would remove Columbia's pipeline when it installs its pipeline via same ditch replacement) of about 55.5 miles of 12-inch-, 16.6 miles of 10-inch-, and 8.8 miles of 8-inch-diameter pipeline in Delaware, Sullivan, Orange, and Rockland Counties, New York, designated as Line A–5, and of the Walton Deposit M&R station at MP 276.1 in Delaware County (Millennium would relocate this facility at the landowner's request and to move it closer to Line A–5);

- Abandonment by conveyance to Millennium of:

- About 3.1 miles of 10- and 12-inch-diameter pipeline in Steuben County, New York, designated as Line 10325;

- About 0.4 mile of 10-inch-diameter pipeline in Broome County, New York, designated as Line 10356;

- About 52.5 miles of 10-, 12-, and 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Steuben, Chemung, Broome, and Orange Counties, New York, designated as Line A–5;

- About 2.6 miles of 6-inch-diameter pipeline in Tioga County, New York, designated as Line AD–31;

- About 0.1 mile of 12-inch-diameter pipeline in Broome County, New York, designated as Line N;

- About 6.7 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Rockland County, New York, designated as Line 10338;

- The following M&R stations in New York:

- Corning Natural Gas, MP 180.4, Steuben County;

- Cooper Planes, MP 182.1, Steuben County;

- M Account, MP 187.5, Steuben County;

- Corning Glass, MP 188.4, Steuben County;

- Spencer, MP 217.3, Tioga County;

- Catatonk, MP 228.2, Tioga County;

- Owego, MP 231.5, Tioga County;

- Union Center, MP 240.2, Broome County;

- Endicott, MP 241.7, Broome County;

- Westover, MP 245.7, Broome County;

- Willis Road, MP 248.1, Broome County;

- Port Dickinson, MP 250.8, Broome County;

- Kirkwood, MP 253.8, Broome County;

- Hancock, MP 285.6, Delaware County;

- Hartwood Club, MP 332.1, Sullivan County;

- Middletown, MP 347.7, Orange County;

- Huguenot, MP 3440.5, Orange County;

- Warwick, MP 359.3, Orange County;

- Greenwood Lake, MP 364.2, Orange County;

- Central Hudson/Tuxedo, MP367.9, Orange County;

- Sloatsburg, MP 373.3, Rockland County;

- Ramapo, MP 376.4, Rockland County; and

- Buena Vista, MP 383.3, Rockland County.

Millennium would replace the facilities Columbia would abandon in place or by removal with its proposed project facilities, or it would continue to use those it would acquire by conveyance.

Millennium proposes to construct Columbia's Line A–5 Replacement Project as part of the Phase I Project.

Columbia Line A–5 Replacement Project

- Replacement of 8.8 miles of 8- and 16-inch-diameter segments of Columbia's existing Line A–5 pipeline with larger 30-inch-diameter pipeline in Orange and Rockland Counties, New York;

- Modification of three existing M&R stations (the Tuxedo, Sloatsburg, and Ramapo M&R stations) on this segment of Line A–5 to accommodate the larger diameter pipeline; and

- Abandonment in place of about 1.0 mile of the existing Line A–5 pipeline.

Empire Connector Project

- Construction of about 78 miles of new 24-inch-diameter pipeline and associated facilities in Ontario, Yates, Schuyler, Chemung, and Steuben Counties, New York; and

- Construction of a new compressor station in Genesee County, New York.

Algonquin Ramapo Expansion Project

- Replacement about 4.9 miles of existing 26-inch-diameter pipeline with 42-inch-diameter pipeline in Rockland County, New York;

- Construction of miscellaneous pipeline modifications and meter station modifications at several locations in Rockland County, New York, and Fairfield County, Connecticut;

- Modifications to three existing compressor stations in Rockland and Putnam Counties, New York, and Morris County, New Jersey; and
- Construction of one new natural gas compressor station in New Haven County, Connecticut.

Iroquois MarketAccess Project

- Reduction of the proposed size of the compressor to be constructed in the Town of Brookfield, Connecticut, from 10,000 hp to 7,700 hp;
- Installation of natural gas cooling and related facilities at the Brookfield Compressor Station; and
- Installation of gas cooling and related facilities at Iroquois' existing compressor station in Town of Dover, Dutchess County, New York.

FERC Comment Procedures

Any person wishing to comment on the DSEIS may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. 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 comments to:
 - Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
 - Reference.
 - Docket Nos. CP98-150-006 *et al.* and CP98-151-003 *et al.* for the Millennium Pipeline Project—Phase I;
 - Docket No. CP05-19-000 for the Columbia Line A-5 Replacement Project;
 - Docket Nos. CP06-5-000, CP06-6-000, and CP06-7-000 for the Empire Connector Project;
 - Docket No. CP06-76-000 for the Algonquin Ramapo Expansion Project; and
 - Docket No. CP02-31-002 for the Iroquois MarketAccess Project.
 - Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas Branch 2, PJ11.2; and
 - Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before July 31, 2006.

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 the project. However, the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing of any comments or interventions 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.

After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the DSEIS, a final SEIS will be published and distributed by the staff. The final SEIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments received on the DSEIS.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commenter a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).

Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this DSEIS. You must file your request to intervene as specified above.¹ You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Review Comment Procedures

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) will use the notice of availability (NOA) issued by the Commission for the DSEIS as a Public Notice for the COE for the applications for permits under authority of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) for the NE-07 Project. The COE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties, in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity.

If you wish to provide written comments on the proposed activity pertaining to the jurisdiction of the COE, as described in this DSEIS, please provide them to FERC in accordance with its procedures, *as well as to the COE within 30 days* of the date of this notice, to: Margaret Crawford, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Buffalo District, Auburn Field Office, 7413 County House Road, Auburn, New York

13021 (or by e-mail to: Margaret.A.Crawford@usace.army.mil).

A lack of response will be interpreted by the COE as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project. Any comments received by the COE will be considered by it to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit under its Section 10 and Section 404 authority for this proposal. To make this decision, comments will be used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors. Comments also will be used in the preparation of the final SEIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The COE will use comments filed with it to determine the need for the COE to hold a public hearing, and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Please note that questions pertaining to the work within the jurisdiction of the COE as described in the DSEIS may be directed to one of the following respective points of contact:

- For the Empire Connector Project (DA Proc. No. LRB-2005-00146) and Millennium Pipeline Project—Phase 1 (DA Proc. No. LRB-2005-02043): Margaret Crawford, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Buffalo District, Auburn Field Office, 7413 County House Road, Auburn, New York 13021, (315) 255-8090.
- For the Millennium Pipeline Project—Phase 1 (DA Proc. No. NAN-2005-00138); Columbia Line A-5 Replacement Project, Algonquin Ramapo Expansion Project (DA Proc. No. NAN-2006-00056); or Iroquois Market Access Project, Dover Compressor Station (DA Proc. No. NAN-2006-00232): Heidi Firstencel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—New York District, Albany Field Office, 1 Bond Street, Troy, New York 12180, (518) 273-8593.
- For the Algonquin Ramapo Expansion Project, Oxford Compressor Station and Brookfield, Connecticut facilities (DA Proc. No. NAE-2006-1516) and Iroquois Market Access, Brookfield Compressor Station (DA Proc. No. NAE-2006-850): Cori Rose, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—New England District, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts 017420-2751, (978) 318-8306.

Any person may request, in writing, within the 30-day comment period, that the COE hold a public hearing to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The COE's decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation

¹ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Additional Information

The DSEIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference Room, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502-8371.

A limited number of copies are available from the Public Reference Room identified above. In addition, copies of the DSEIS have been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies; public interest groups; individuals and affected landowners who requested a copy of the DSEIS; libraries; newspapers; and parties to this proceeding.

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 with eLibrary, the eLibrary helpline can be reached toll free at 1-866-208-3676, for TTY at (202) 502-8659, or at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. The eLibrary link on the FERC Internet Web site also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the 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 the eSubscription link on the FERC Internet Web site.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-9804 Filed 6-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2195-011]

Clackamas River Hydroelectric Project; Portland General Electric Company, Clackamas County, OR; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Clackamas River Hydroelectric Project and Intention To Hold a Public Meeting

June 16, 2006.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (18 CFR part 380 [FERC Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897]) the Office of Energy Projects staff (staff) reviewed the application for a New Major License for the Clackamas River Hydroelectric Project. Staff prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the project which is located on the Clackamas River, Clackamas County, Oregon.

The DEIS contains staff's analysis of the potential environmental effects of the project and concludes that licensing the project, with staff's recommended measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Copies of the DEIS have been sent to Federal, state, and local agencies; public interest groups; and individuals on the Commission's mailing list.

A copy of the DEIS is available for review at the Commission's Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "e-Library" link. Enter the docket number (P-2195), to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-2376, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

Comments should be filed with Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

All comments must be filed by August 7, 2006, and should reference Project No. 2195-011. 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 instructions on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the eLibrary link.

In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments, you are invited to attend a public meeting that will be held to receive comments on the draft EIS. The time and location of the meeting is as follows:

Date: July 28, 2006.

Time: 9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Place: 2-World Trade Center—Plaza Room-Ground Floor.

Address: 121 S.W. Salmon Street, Portland, Oregon.

At this meeting, resource agency personnel and other interested persons will have the opportunity to provide oral and written comments and recommendations regarding the draft EIS. The meeting will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (verbal and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the project.

For further information, please contact: John Blair at (202) 502-6092 or at john.blair@ferc.gov.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-9806 Filed 6-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

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