

You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

The Draft EIS 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) 208-1371.

CD-ROM copies of the EIS have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies; public interest groups; individuals and affected landowners who requested a copy of the Draft EIS or provided comments during scoping; libraries and newspapers in the Project area; and parties to this proceeding. Hard copy versions of the Draft EIS were mailed to those specifically requesting them. A limited number of hard copies and CD-ROMs are available from the Public Reference Room identified above.

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1-866-208-FERC (3372) or on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>). Using the "eLibrary link," select "General Search" and enter the project docket number excluding the last three digits (i.e., CP07-398) 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 toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or TTY (202) 502-8659. 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 rule makings.

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 these documents. To learn more about eSubscription and to sign-up for this service please go to <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-22021 Filed 11-8-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP08-2-000]

#### El Paso Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Eunice Replacement Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

November 2, 2007.

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 Eunice Replacement Project (Project) involving the abandonment of existing natural gas compression facilities, and construction and operation of new natural gas compression facilities by El Paso Natural Gas Company (EPNG) in Lea County, New Mexico.<sup>1</sup> The EA will be used by the Commission in its decisionmaking process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" was attached to the project notice EPNG provided to affected landowners. This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is available for viewing on the FERC Internet Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)).

#### Summary of the Proposed Project

EPNG seeks authority to abandon in place:

- Its existing Eunice Mainline Compressor Station consisting of 11 Clark BA-5 and one Clark HBA-5 reciprocating compressor units, rated at approximately 12,100 ISO HP, with appurtenances and related structures; and

- an existing pig launcher.

EPNG also seeks authority to construct on land owned by EPNG:

- A 600 foot segment of 30" pipeline to connect the discharge of the proposed Eunice C Compressor Station to the California Line and serve as a bypass of the abandoned Eunice Mainline Compressor Station;

- Two gas turbine-drive Taurus 60 compressor units on the Eunice C

Compressor Station site, totaling approximately 15,600 ISO HP;

- A compressor unit building to house the compressor units;
- A pig launcher/check meter station within the proposed Eunice C Compressor Station site; and
- A valve station within the proposed Eunice C Compressor Station site.

In addition, EPNG seeks authority to up-rate, on land owned by EPNG, a 1,700 foot segment of pipeline (Line 1135) to a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of 837 psig. EPNG would connect this segment of Line 1135, currently located on the suction side of the existing Eunice Mainline Compressor Station, to the discharge of the proposed Eunice C Compressor Station.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in Appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

#### Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 16.8 acres of land. Following construction, about 3.0 acres would be permanently impacted by the new Eunice C Compressor Station. All project facilities would be maintained within existing EPNG property.

#### 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.

<sup>2</sup> The 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 website 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.

<sup>1</sup> On October 2, 2007, EPNG filed its application with the Commission under section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, 15 United States Code § 717(b)(a), and Parts 157 and 284 of the Commission's regulations. The Commission filed its notice of application on October 11, 2007.

In the EA, we<sup>3</sup> 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
- Water Resources, Fisheries, and Wetlands
- Cultural Resources
- Vegetation and Wildlife
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Air Quality and Noise

We 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.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be 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.

### Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified the following issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by EPNG. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- The net impact on air quality and noise of the general project area may be positively affected by the abandonment of the existing compressor station and operation of the proposed new compressor station.
- No impacts would occur to water resources, fisheries or wetlands. Other than air emissions and noise, all impacts would occur within existing EPNG property.

### Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific

comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commenter, 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 (including alternative locations), 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: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of OEP/DG2E, Gas Branch 3.
- Reference Docket No. CP08-2-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before December 3, 2007.

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 on-line.

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, or "intervenor". 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). Intervenor has the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. Motions to Intervene should be electronically submitted using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons without Internet access should send an original and 14 copies of their motion to the Secretary of the Commission at the address indicated previously. Persons filing Motions to Intervene on or before the comment deadline indicated above must send a copy of the motion to the Applicant. All

filings, including late interventions, submitted after the comment deadline must be served on the Applicant and all other intervenors identified on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. Persons on the service list with e-mail addresses may be served electronically; others must be served a hard copy of the filing.

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 who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own land within distances defined in the Commission's regulations of certain aboveground facilities. By this notice we are also asking governmental agencies, especially those in Appendix 2, to express their interest in becoming cooperating agencies for the preparation of the EA.

### 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 ([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 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](mailto: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 Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

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

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.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-22022 Filed 11-8-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP08-4-000]

#### **Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.; Notice of Intent To Prepare An Environmental Assessment for the Proposed South Welda Storage Field Expansion Project and Request for Comments On Environmental Issues**

November 2, 2007.

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 proposed South Welda Storage Field Expansion Project involving construction and operation of natural gas facilities by Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. (Southern Star) in Anderson County, Kansas. The EA will be used by the Commission 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 on the project. Your input will help determine which issues need to be evaluated in the EA. Please note that the scoping period will close on December 3, 2007. Details on how to submit comments are provided in the Public Participation section of this notice.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. Southern Star would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, Southern Star could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with Kansas state law.

This notice is being sent to affected landowners; federal, state, and local

government representatives and agencies; elected officials; Native American tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. State and local government representatives are asked to notify their constituents of this proposed project and to encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is available for viewing on the FERC Internet Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)).

#### **Summary of the Proposed Project**

Southern Star proposes to expand the existing certificated boundary and buffer zone of its South Welda Storage Field in Anderson County, Kansas by about 560 acres. Southern Star states that the additional acreage is necessary to protect the field's integrity (based on conclusions that storage gas has moved beyond its existing storage boundary) and to establish a buffer zone to protect the field from future encroachment by third-party exploration or operators. The additional acreage would also prevent possible venting of the storage gas by oil operators. Southern Star has identified 11 wells that it would either connect to the pressure recovery system, convert to pressure observation, or plug. In addition, Southern Star would install an additional natural gas compressor (660 horsepower) at its existing South Welda Booster Station. This would require an expansion of the station of 40 feet by 175 feet.

Southern Star is also requesting authorization to increase the maximum certificated wellhead shut-in pressure from 430 to 433 pounds per square inch gauge. This pressure would align with the same shut-in pressure requested by Southern Star for the North Welda Storage Field in Docket No. CP07-89-000, which is currently under Commission review. Certain other recovery and recycling facilities (e.g., small diameter pipeline lateral segments, oil/gas separators, and collection tanks) will be constructed under Southern Star's existing blanket certificate (Docket No. CP82-479-000).

The certificated South Welda Storage Field currently operates up to a maximum storage capacity of 18.3 billion cubic feet. Southern Star states that the proposed project and blanket certificate work would not change any of the current operational parameters or

capabilities of the South Welda Storage Field.

The general location of the proposed storage field expansion is shown in Appendix 1.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Land Requirements for Construction**

The boundary of the South Welda Storage Field would be expanded by about 560 acres. Construction of the proposed facilities (i.e., well sites, separator sites, the compressor unit, temporary workspace, and use of existing access roads) would require about 21.9 acres of land. Of this acreage, about 20.6 acres would be temporarily impacted and 1.3 acres would be permanently affected.

#### **The EA Process**

We<sup>2</sup> are preparing this EA to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impact that could result if it authorizes Southern Star's proposal. By this notice, we are also asking federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA. Agencies that would like to request cooperating status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided below.

NEPA also requires the FERC 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, we are requesting public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. All comments received will be considered during the preparation of the EA.

The EA 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
- groundwater resources
- land use
- cultural resources

<sup>1</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's Internet website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) at the "eLibrary" link or from the Commission's Public Reference Room at (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the "Additional Information" section at the end of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail. Requests for detailed maps of the well locations and other proposed facilities should be made directly to Southern Star.

<sup>2</sup> "We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the FERC's Office of Energy Projects.