

project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPO as the project develops. On natural gas facility projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, compressor stations, and access roads). Our EA for this project will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

Environmental Mailing List

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If we publish and distribute the EA, copies will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the document instead of the CD version or would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Information Request (appendix 2).

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an "intervenor" which is an official party to the Commission's proceeding. Intervenor play a more formal role in the process and are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission's final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are in the User's Guide under the "e-filing" link on the Commission's Web site.

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 Web site at 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 (*i.e.*, CP15-105). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (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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Finally, public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx along with other related information.

Dated: May 5, 2015.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-11415 Filed 5-11-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP15-118-000]

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Virginia Southside Expansion Project II and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

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 Virginia Southside Expansion Project II involving construction and operation of facilities by Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco) in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Commission will use this EA 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. You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. 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 EA. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before June 5, 2015.

If you sent comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on March 23, 2015, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. CP15-118-000 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.

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

Transco provided landowners with a fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility on My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" 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 also available for viewing on the FERC Web site (www.ferc.gov).

Public Participation

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or efiling@ferc.gov. Please carefully

follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the *eComment* feature on the Commission's Web site (www.ferc.gov) under the link to *Documents and Filings*. This 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 on the Commission's Web site (www.ferc.gov) under the link to *Documents and Filings*. 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." If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select "Comment on a Filing" as the filing type; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP15-118-000) with your submission: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Transco proposes to construct and operate 4.3 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline, gas compression facilities, and associated aboveground and underground facilities to provide about 250,000 dekatherms per day of incremental firm transportation service to Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO). The proposed pipeline would connect Transco's approved Brunswick Lateral in Brunswick County, Virginia (to be constructed in 2015) to a proposed VEPCO power station in Greensville County, Virginia ("Greenville County Power Station"). According to Transco, its project would provide 100 percent of the natural gas required by the proposed VEPCO combined-cycle gas-fired power station. The Greenville County Power Station is subject to regulatory approval by the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

The Virginia Southside Expansion Project II would include the following facilities:

- 4.3 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Brunswick and Greensville Counties, Virginia;
- two 10,915-horsepower (hp) gas turbine compressor units at Transco's approved Compressor Station 166 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia (anticipated construction start date October 2015);
- one 25,000-hp electric-driven compressor unit at the existing

Compressor Station 185 in Prince William County, Virginia;

- a new meter and regulator station and pig receiver facility in Greensville County, Virginia;¹
- a new pig launcher facility in Brunswick County, Virginia; and
- modifications at 19 existing facilities in Cherokee and Spartanburg Counties, South Carolina and Polk County, North Carolina, including odorization/deodorization facility modifications, valves, and valve operators.

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

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would disturb about 180.4 acres of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline. Following construction, Transco would maintain about 30.2 acres for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses. About 84 percent of the proposed pipeline route parallels existing pipeline, utility, or road rights-of-way.

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 us³ 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, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

In the EA we will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

¹ A "pig" is a tool that the pipeline company inserts into and pushes through the pipeline for cleaning the pipeline, conducting internal inspections, or other purposes.

² The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the *Federal Register*. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at www.ferc.gov using the link called "eLibrary" 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.

³ "We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

- geology and soils;
- land use;
- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- cultural resources;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- air quality and noise;
- endangered and threatened species;
- public safety; and
- cumulative impacts

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.

The EA will present our independent analysis of the issues. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section, beginning on page 2.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues of this project to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA.⁴ 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.

Consultations 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, we are using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), 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.⁵ We will define the project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPOs as the project develops. On natural gas facility projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, compressor stations, and access roads). Our EA for this project will document

⁴ The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.6.

⁵ 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.

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Dated: May 6, 2015.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-11404 Filed 5-11-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 5-098]

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Energy Keepers, Incorporated; Notice of Application for Partial Transfer of License and Co-Licensee Status and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests

On April 14, 2015, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (transferor or co-licensee or CSKT) and Energy Keepers, Incorporated (transferee or EKI) filed an application for a partial transfer of license and co-licensee status of the Kerr Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 5, located on the Flathead River and Flathead Creek in Flathead Lake County, Montana.

The transferor and transferee seek Commission approval to partially transfer the license for the Kerr Hydroelectric Project from NorthWestern Corporation and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes as co-licensees to Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and Northwestern and add the transferee as a co-licensee. The transfer application was filed by CSKT and EKI. Northwestern specially joined the application and does not dispute the representations made by CSKT and/or EKI, concerning: (1) The legal or financial status of either CSKT or EKI;

or (2) the organizational structure, staffing or proposed operations by either CSKT or EKI.

Applicant Contacts: For Transferors: Rhonda Swaney, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, P.O. Box 278, Pablo, MT 59855, Phone: 406-675-2700, Email: rhondas@cskt.org; John K. Tabaracci, Corporate Counsel, NorthWestern Corporation, 208 North Montana Avenue, Suite, 205, Helena, MT 59601, Phone: 406-443-8983, Email: john.tabaracci@northwestern.com; Matthew A. Love, Van Ness Feldman, LLP, 719 Second Avenue, Suite 1150, Seattle, WA 98104, Phone: 206-623-9372, Email: mal@vnf.com. For Transferee: Joe Hovenkotter, Energy Keepers, Inc., 110 Main Street, Suite 304, Polson, MT 59860, Phone: 406-883-1113, Email: joe.hovenkotter@energykeepersinc.com; Gary D. Bachman, Van Ness Feldman, LLP, 1050 Thomas Jefferson Street NW., Seventh Floor, Washington, DC 20007, Phone: 202-298-1880, Email: gdb@vnf.com.

FERC Contact: Patricia W. Gillis, (202) 502-8735.

Deadline for filing comments and motions to intervene: 30 days from the issuance date of this notice, by the Commission. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and comments using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-5-098.

Dated: April 28, 2015.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-11411 Filed 5-11-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P