

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission****[Docket No. RM93–11–000]****Revisions to Oil Pipeline Regulations Pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 1992; Notice of Annual Change in the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods**

The Commission's regulations include a methodology for oil pipelines to change their rates through use of an index system that establishes ceiling levels for such rates. The Commission bases the index system, found at 18 CFR 342.3, on the annual change in the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods (PPI-FG), plus one point two three percent (PPI-FG + 1.23). The Commission determined in an *Order Establishing Index Level*,<sup>1</sup> issued December 17, 2015, that PPI-FG + 1.23 is the appropriate oil pricing index factor for pipelines to use for the five-year period commencing July 1, 2016.

The regulations provide that the Commission will publish annually, an index figure reflecting the final change in the PPI-FG, after the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes the final PPI-FG in May of each calendar year. The annual average PPI-FG index figures were 193.9 for 2015 and 191.9 for 2016.<sup>2</sup> Thus, the percent change (expressed as a decimal) in the annual average PPI-FG from 2015 to 2016, plus 1.23 percent, is positive 0.001985.<sup>3</sup> Oil pipelines must multiply their July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, index ceiling levels by positive 1.001985<sup>4</sup> to compute their index ceiling levels for July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, in accordance with 18 CFR 342.3(d). For guidance in calculating the ceiling levels for each 12 month period beginning January 1, 1995,<sup>5</sup> see *Explorer Pipeline Company*, 71 FERC 61,416 at n.6 (1995).

<sup>1</sup> 153 FERC 61,312 at P 52 (2015).

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) publishes the final figure in mid-May of each year. This figure is publicly available from the Division of Industrial Prices and Price Indexes of the BLS, at 202–691–7705, and in print in August in Table 1 of the annual data supplement to the BLS publication *Producer Price Indexes* via the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ppi/home.htm>. To obtain the BLS data, scroll down to PPI Databases and click on Top Picks of the Commodity Data including headline FD-ID indexes (Producer Price Index—PPI). At the next screen, under the heading PPI Commodity Data, select the box, Finished goods—WPUFD49207, then scroll to the bottom of this screen and click on Retrieve data.

<sup>3</sup>  $(191.9 - 193.9) / 193.9 = -0.010315 + 0.0123 = +0.001985$ .

<sup>4</sup>  $1 + 0.001985 = 1.001985$ .

<sup>5</sup> For a listing of all prior multipliers issued by the Commission, see the Commission's Web site, <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/oil/gen-info/pipeline-index.asp>.

In addition to publishing the full text of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print this Notice via the Internet through FERC's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) and in FERC's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time) at 888 First Street NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426. The full text of this Notice is available on FERC's Home Page at the eLibrary link. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field and follow other directions on the search page.

User assistance is available for eLibrary and other aspects of FERC's Web site during normal business hours. For assistance, please contact the Commission's Online Support at 1–866–208–3676 (toll free) or 202–502–6652 (email at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov)), or the Public Reference Room at 202–502–8371, TTY 202–502–8659. E-Mail the Public Reference Room at [public.reference.room@ferc.gov](mailto:public.reference.room@ferc.gov).

Dated: May 12, 2017.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission****[Docket No. CP17–28–000]****Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 2017 Expansion Project**

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the 2017 Expansion Project, proposed by Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (Eastern Shore) in the above-referenced docket. Eastern Shore requests authorization to construct and operate pipeline facilities in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware. These facilities would include six pipeline loop segments totaling 22.7 miles; one 16.9-mile-long mainline extension; upgrades to an existing meter and regulator station; installation of an additional 3,750 horsepower (hp) compressor unit at an existing

compressor station; and the addition of two pressure control stations.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the 2017 Expansion Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service participated as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EA. Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to resources potentially affected by the proposal and participate in the NEPA analysis.

The proposed 2017 Expansion Project includes constructing and operating the following facilities:

- Pipeline loop segments (10-, 16-, and 24-inch-diameter) totaling 22.7 miles in the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware;
- One 10-inch-diameter 16.9-mile-long mainline extension in Sussex County, Delaware;
- Upgrades to an existing meter and regulator station and lateral piping at the existing interconnect with Texas Eastern in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania;
- Installation of an additional 3,750 horsepower (hp) compressor unit at the existing Daleville Compressor Station in Chester County, Pennsylvania; and
- Addition of two pressure control stations in Sussex County, Delaware.

The FERC staff mailed copies of the EA to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; newspapers and libraries in the project area; and potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups.

In addition, the EA is available for public viewing on the FERC's Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) using the eLibrary link. A limited number of copies of the EA are 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.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or