

on the Commission's Web site under the "e-filing" link. Based on the comments filed, Commission staff may elect to revise the EA and issue a final environmental document. For further information, please contact Allan Creamer by telephone at (202) 502-8365 or by e-mail at allan.creamer@ferc.gov.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP05-412-000]

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Northeast ConneXion Project—New England

February 6, 2006.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee) in the above-referenced docket.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The 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 EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the installation of 55,400 horsepower (hp) and replacement of 10,500 hp for a net total increase of 44,900 hp of compression at one new compressor station and upgrade at six existing compressor stations which includes:

- Installation of two additional 3,550-hp CAT 3612 compressor units at each of the existing Compressor Stations 241, 245, and 249 located in Onondaga, Herkimer, and Schoharie Counties, New York;
- Replacement of an existing 4,500-hp compressor unit with a single 10,300-hp Solar Taurus 70S turbine-driven compressor unit at existing Compressor 254 in Columbia County, New York;
- Replacement of three existing compressor units totaling 6,000 hp with the installation of two 6,275-hp Solar Centaur 50L turbine-driven compressor units (12,550 hp total) at existing

Compressor Station 264 in Worcester County, Massachusetts;

- Installation of one additional 3,550-hp CAT 3612 compressor unit at existing Compressor Station 313 in Potter County, Pennsylvania; and
- Construction of new Compressor Station 405A, with a single 7,700-hp Solar Taurus 60S turbine-driven compressor unit in Steuben County, New York.

Tennessee indicates that the proposed facilities would enable it to provide up to 136,300 decatherms per day of incremental firm transportation capacity on Tennessee's Lines 200 and 400.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. 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.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, State and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA 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: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Gas Branch 2, PJ11.2.
- Reference Docket No. CP05-412-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before March 8, 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 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 by clicking on "Sign-up."

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentator 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).¹ Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

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 comments considered.

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, please contact FERC Online Support at 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.

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 <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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