

project reservoirs and 11 of 12 existing transmission lines from the project.

m. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. *Scoping Process*: The Commission intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS will consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action.

Additional Scoping Meeting

In addition to previously scheduled scoping meetings in Boise (November 18, 2003) and Weiser (November 20, 2003), Idaho, and Halfway, Oregon (November 19, 2003), FERC staff will conduct an additional scoping meeting in Council, Adams County, Idaho. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend any of the meetings, and to assist the staff in identifying the scope of the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EIS. The time and location of the additional meeting is as follows:

When: Thursday, November 20, 2003, from 1 p.m. until about 2:30 p.m.
Where: Council Senior Center, 103 South Main Street, Council, Idaho.

Copies of the Scoping Document (SD1) outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the EIS were distributed to the parties on the Commission(s) mailing list. Copies of the SD1 will be available at the scoping meeting or may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link (see item m above).

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the

EIS; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EIS, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff(s) preliminary views; (4) determine the resource issues to be addressed in the EIS; and (5) identify those issues that require a detailed analysis, as well as those issues that do not require a detailed analysis.

Procedures

The meetings are recorded by a stenographer and become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meeting and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the EIS.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP04-4-000]

Lake Charles Express, LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Lake Charles Express Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

November 12, 2003.

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 Lake Charles Express Project (LCE Project) involving construction and operation of facilities by Lake Charles Express, LLC (LCE) in Beauregard, Allen, Jefferson Davis, and Calcasieu Parishes, Louisiana.¹ These facilities would consist of about 38.5 miles of various diameter pipeline. This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a

¹ LCE's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and part 157 of the Commission(s) regulations.

pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The pipeline company 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, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law.

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 LCE provided to 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 (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

Summary of the Proposed Project

LCE wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Louisiana to transport an additional 1,200,000 million British thermal units per day of natural gas to eight gas transmission companies. LCE seeks authority to:

- Construct an interconnection with the facilities of Trunkline LNG Company, LLC (TLNG) at the TLNG import terminal in Calcasieu Parish consisting of two tap valves, with meter and regulation facilities (M&Rs);
- Construct 22.84 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline (called the South Segment) from TLNG's facilities to Texas Eastern's Transmission, LP's (Texas Eastern's) Iowa Gas Plant in Jefferson Davis Parish;
- Construct 15.01 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline, (called the "North Segment") from the Iowa Gas Plant to an interconnection with the facilities of Texas Eastern's Gillis Compressor Station in Beauregard Parish;
- Construct five M&Rs along the South Segment to provide one interconnection with Sabine Gas Transmission Company (Sabine Gas); two interconnections with Cantera Natural Gas, Inc (Cantera); one interconnection with Calcasieu Gas Gathering System (Calcasieu Gas) in Calcasieu Parish; and an interconnection with Texas Eastern where the proposed pipeline enters the Iowa Gas Plant;
- Construct six M&Rs and associated facilities along the North Segment to provide interconnections with Texas Eastern where the proposed pipeline exits the Iowa Gas Plant and including

a bypass regulator; Texas Gas Transmission Corporation (Texas Gas); Florida Gas Transmission Company (Florida Gas); and Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee Gas) in Jefferson Davis Parish; Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) in Beauregard Parish; and Texas Eastern at the Gillis Compressor Station; and

- Construct two parallel 0.33-mile 16-inch-diameter lateral pipelines extending from the South Segment to the Cantera facility in Calcasieu Parish; and appurtenant facilities.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

Nonjurisdictional Facilities

Non-jurisdictional facilities that will be built as a result of the proposed LCE Project are limited to taps and connecting piping that may be installed by Sabine Gas, Cantera, and Calcasieu Gas to connect the M&R facilities to their respective pipelines. LCE states these non-jurisdictional facilities will generally include less than 250 feet of small diameter pipeline for each connection.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 461.8 acres of land. Following construction, about 227.5 acres would be maintained as new pipeline right-of-way or aboveground facility sites. The remaining 184.3 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

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 of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA.

² 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 and Files Maintenance Branch, 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.

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

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.

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
- Land use
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
- Cultural resources
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Air quality and noise
- Endangered and threatened species
- Hazardous waste
- Public safety
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands

We will also evaluate possible 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 beginning on page 5.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

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

- Two federally listed endangered or threatened species may occur in the proposed project area.
- A total of 29.56 acres of agricultural land, that includes prime farmland soils, would be permanently affected.
- Cultural resources may be affected in the project area.

- The Calcasieu River, designated as a state natural and scenic river by the Louisiana Natural and Scenic River System, would involve a 4,316 foot-long crossing using the horizontal directional drilling method.

Also, we have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts of the nonjurisdictional facilities. We will briefly describe their location and status in the EA.

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/routes), 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: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas Branch 2.
- Reference Docket No. CP04-4-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before December 19, 2003.

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 on-line."

If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to remain on our mailing list, please return the Information Request (appendix 4). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

In addition, the Commission Staff will hold a Scoping Meeting for the project on December 10, 2003, at 7 p.m. at the following address: Iowa City Hall, 115

N. Thompson Street, Iowa, Louisiana 70647.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor." Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. If you want 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) (see appendix 2).⁴ 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 environmental comments considered.

Environmental Mailing List

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. It is also being sent to all identified potential right-of-way grantors. By this notice we are also asking governmental agencies, especially those in appendix 3, 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 (<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 at 1-866-208-3676, TTY (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 www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm.

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.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP04-12-000]

TransColorado Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Compression Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

November 12, 2003.

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 Compression Expansion Project involving construction and operation of facilities by TransColorado Gas Transmission Company (TransCo) in various counties in Colorado.¹ These facilities would consist of three new compressor stations, additional compression at one existing compressor station, and an upgrade at one existing compressor station, providing a total of 20,120 additional horsepower. The new compression facilities would provide TransCo the ability to transport an additional 125,000 dekatherms per day. This EA will be used by the Commission in its decisionmaking process to determine whether the

project is in the public convenience and necessity.

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. The pipeline company 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, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with Colorado law.

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 TransCo provided to 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).

Summary of the Proposed Project

TransCo seeks authority to construct three new compressor stations; install additional compression at one existing compressor station; and make an upgrade at one existing compressor station. All facilities would be in Colorado. Specifically, TransCo would:

- Construct one new compressor station (Whitewater) in Mesa County and install one 4,735-horsepower (hp) compressor;
- Construct one new compressor station (Redvale) and 692 feet of 10-inch-diameter pipeline in Montrose County, and install one 4,735-hp compressor;
- Construct one new compressor station (Mancos) in Montezuma County and install two 3,550-hp compressors;
- Install one 3,550-hp compressor at an existing compressor station (Dolores) in Dolores County;
- Re-wheel a compressor at an existing compressor station (Olathe) in Montrose County, with no change in horsepower; and
- Construct, modify, and operate certain ancillary facilities entirely within or immediately adjacent to TransCo's existing facilities or those proposed in this application.

The general location of all project facilities as well as more detailed locations of the proposed new

⁴ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

¹ TransCo's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.