

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP02-90-001]

AES Ocean Express Pipeline Project; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Announcement of a Public Comment Meeting for the Proposed Ocean Express Pipeline Project

June 27, 2003.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by AES Ocean Express, L.L.C. (Ocean Express) in the above-referenced docket.

The DEIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project with the appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact. The DEIS also evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system alternatives, major route alternatives, and route variations, and requests comments on them.

The DEIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of approximately 54.4 miles of 24-inch diameter, interstate natural gas pipeline extending from a receipt point on the Exclusive Economic Zone boundary between the United States and the Bahamas to delivery points in Broward County, Florida. In addition, associated ancillary facilities proposed to be constructed include two meter stations, one below-ground valve, one aboveground main pipeline shutoff valve, and one pig launching/receiving station.

The purpose of the Ocean Express Pipeline Project is to transport 842,000 dekatherms/day of natural gas on an annual basis to new markets in southeastern Florida.

Comment Procedures and Public Meeting

Any person wishing to comment on the DEIS 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:

Magalie 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 3, PJ11.3;
- Reference Docket No. CP02-90-001; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before August 12, 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 by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."

In addition to accepting written and electronically filed comments, one public meeting to receive comments on this DEIS will be held at the following time and location.

Date

Monday, July 28, 2003, 7 p.m.—

Location

Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Drive, Hollywood, Florida 33019, (954) 921-3600

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend and present oral comments on the environmental impacts described in the DEIS. Transcripts of the meetings will be prepared.

After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the DEIS, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be published and distributed by the staff. The FEIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments filed on the DEIS.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor 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).

Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this DEIS. You

must file your request to intervene as specified above. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

The DEIS 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 and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502-8371.

A limited number of copies are available from the Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch identified above. In addition, copies of the DEIS have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, individuals who have requested the DEIS, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

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 FERRIS link. Click on the FERRIS link, 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 FERRIS, the FERRIS helpline can be reached at 1-866-208-3676, TTY (202) 502-8659 or at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. The FERRIS 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 <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-16851 Filed 7-2-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 3516-008]

City of Hart, MI; Notice of Availability

June 27, 2003.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and

the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47879), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for license for the Hart Hydroelectric Project, located on the South Branch of the Pentwater River, in Oceana County, Michigan, and has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the project. There are no federal lands occupied by the project works or located within the project boundaries.

The FEA contains the staff's analysis of the potential environmental effects of the project and concludes that licensing the project, with appropriate environmental measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

A copy of the FEA is available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "FERRIS" 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 (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

For further information, contact Steve Kartalia at 202-502-6131 or by E-mail at stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-16856 Filed 7-2-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP01-5-003 and CP03-305-000]

Algonquin Gas Transmission Company, Distringas of Massachusetts LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Everett Extension Project, and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues for the Distringas of Massachusetts LLC Application

June 26, 2003.

A Notice of Intent to prepare and environmental assessment was sent out on March 19, 2003 for the proposed Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin) application for authorization to construct and operate the Everett Extension Project in Suffolk County, Massachusetts. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that

based on the comments and information received during the scoping process a decision was made to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the Everett Extension Project instead of an environmental assessment. In addition, we¹ are requesting comments on additional facilities proposed by Distringas of Massachusetts LLC (DOMAC).

On May 22, 2003 DOMAC filed an application for a Certification of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct facilities in Suffolk County, Massachusetts to deliver regasified liquefied natural gas (LNG) to customers through the Everett Extension Project. We will review both projects in the same EIS. This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

The applications, and other supplemental filings in these dockets are available for viewing on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>). Click on the "FERRIS" link, select "General Search" from the FERRIS menu, and follow the instructions, being sure to input the correct docket numbers [CP01-5-003 (Algonquin) and CP03-305-000 (DOMAC)].

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 and under certain circumstances the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with Massachusetts 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 that Algonquin 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 Projects

Algonquin would construct 6.64 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline, 0.31 miles

of 8-inch-diameter pipeline, three meter stations, and appurtenant facilities. The proposal would extend the 24-inch-diameter Deer Island Lateral pipeline (approved on June 4, 2002, in Docket No. CP01-5-002, but unbuilt yet). The proposal would provide 110,000 dekatherms per day of firm transportation service.

Algonquin requests final authorization for the proposed facilities by December 15, 2003, and would construct its facilities in 2004 during the summer and fall, so that it could place the facilities in service by June 1, 2005.

DOMAC would construct a new 300-foot-long send-out line, odorant system, metering system, and reconfigure its existing vaporization equipment. The proposed facilities would be constructed within the existing boundaries of the LNG terminal. DOMAC requests that the Commission issue a final certificate by December 1, 2003, in order to provide DOMAC with an in-service date for the project in time to meet its contractual commitments to Algonquin.

The general locations of the project facilities are shown in Appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the Everett Extension Project would temporarily disturb a total of about 72.7 acres of land. This includes about 22.9 acres offshore and 36.2 acres onshore for the pipeline construction right-of-way (ROW), and 13.6 acres for extra workspace and contractor staging areas. The total land requirements for the permanent ROW would be about 14.1 acres, including 1.4 acres of land for operation of the new aboveground facilities. The remaining 58.6 acres of land affected by construction would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

Approximately 3.9 miles of the pipeline would be built onshore, and 3.1 miles would be offshore. The offshore construction would include about 2.3 miles of horizontal directional drilling, and about 0.8 miles of shallow water dredging. The offshore disturbance would include about 8.7 acres for trench excavation and 14.2 acres for temporarily storing the side-cast trench spoil. Algonquin states that most (69 percent) of the proposed onshore route would not require

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's Web site at the "FERRIS" 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 FERRIS refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

¹ "We", "us", and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP).