

participate in any aspect of the hearing process.

Persons wishing to become a formal "party" to BPA's rate proceeding must notify the Hearing Officer and BPA in writing of their request. Petitions to intervene shall state the name and address of the person and the person's interests in the outcome of the hearing. Petitioners may designate no more than two representatives upon whom service of documents will be made. BPA customers and customer groups whose rates are subject to revision in the hearing will be granted intervention based on a petition filed in conformance with this section. Other petitioners must explain their interests in sufficient detail to permit the Hearing Officer to determine whether they have a relevant interest in the hearing. Intervention Petitions will be available for inspection in BPA's Public Information Center; 1st Floor; 905 NE. 11th; Portland, Oregon. Any opposition to a Petition to Intervene must be filed with the Hearing Officer and served on all parties by March 9, 1995. All timely applications will be ruled on by the Hearing Officer. Late interventions are strongly disfavored and may not be accepted. Opposition to an untimely Petition to Intervene shall be filed and served within two days after service of the petition. Interventions are subject to § 1010.4 of BPA's Procedures.

Because of the complexity of the issues in this rate case, in part occasioned by continuing contract negotiations between BPA and its customers, as well as BPA's "reinvention" and Competitiveness Project, BPA anticipates that it will need to meet with customers and other interested third parties during the rate case on a very frequent, and possibly extended, basis. To comport with the rate case procedural rule prohibiting ex parte communications, BPA will provide necessary notice of meetings involving rate case issues for participation by all rate case parties. Parties should be aware, however, that such meetings may be held on very short notice and they should be prepared to devote the necessary resources to participate fully in every aspect of the rate proceeding. Consequently, parties should be prepared to attend meetings every day during the course of the rate case.

Issued in Portland, Oregon on February 24, 1995.

Randall W. Hardy,  
Administrator and Chief Executive Officer.  
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## Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP95-109-000]

### CNG Transmission Corp.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed TL-470, Extension 5 Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

February 27, 1995.

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 construction and operation of the facilities proposed by CNG Transmission Corporation (CNG) for its TL-470, Extension 5 Project.<sup>1</sup> This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether or not to approve the project.

#### Summary of the Proposed Project

CNG requests Commission authorization to construct and operate about 4.73 miles of 30-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline loop in Rotterdam Township, Schenectady County, New York.

The proposed loop would be constructed parallel and adjacent to CNG's existing facilities and would begin at a new gate station on CNG's system near Gregg Road and end at a new gate station near Burdeck Street.

CNG indicates that the proposed facility would enable it to deliver additional natural gas to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's distribution system serving the Albany, New York area.

The location of the project facility is shown in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

#### Land Requirements for Construction

CNG proposes to use a 75-foot-wide right-of-way for construction. Since CNG proposes to construct its pipeline near the edge of its existing, maintained right-of-way, only about 50 feet of additional right-of-way width would be cleared for construction. Following construction, 25 feet of the additional width would be restored and allowed to revert back to its former use. Therefore,

<sup>1</sup> CNG's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

<sup>2</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, Room 3104, 941 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

only about 25 feet of additional permanent right-of-way width would be required.

Additional working space would be required adjacent to the planned construction right-of-way at bored road crossings, the Delaware and Hudson Railroad crossing, stream and wetland crossings, and in agricultural areas where topsoil would be segregated.

An approximate 600-foot by 600-foot (8.3 acres) pipeyard would be used for the construction trailer and storage of pipe.

Four existing roads or farm lanes would be used as access roads.

#### 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 us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "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. All comments received are taken into account 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
- Water resources, fisheries and wetlands
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Hazardous waste
- Endangered and threatened species
- Public safety

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