

Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is required and whether or not to approve the project.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) wants Commission authorization to construct and operate 6.3 miles of pipeline to transport up to 24,240 dekatherms of natural gas per day to Panda-Brandywine L.P. (Panda) for its Brandywine, Maryland cogeneration plant. Columbia's facilities would consist of:

- 4.1 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline loop on Line WB in Hardy County, West Virginia;
- 1.6 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline (designated as Line WB-5) that would replace approximately 1.5 miles of 26-inch-diameter pipeline in three sections (designated as Line WB) in Braxton County, West Virginia; and
- 0.6 mile of 36-inch-diameter pipeline loop on Line SB-5 in Clay County, West Virginia.

In addition, a nonjurisdictional tap, measurement and regulation facilities, and about 0.5 mile of 20-inch-diameter nonjurisdictional pipeline would be constructed by Washington Gas Light Company (WGL) in Prince George's County, Maryland, to supply gas to Panda's cogeneration plant.

The locations of the project facilities are shown in appendix 1.2²

Land Requirements for Construction

The proposed replacement pipeline and loops would be built within or adjacent to existing pipeline rights-of-way (ROW). The construction ROW would typically be 75 feet wide consisting of a 50-foot-wide permanent ROW and a 25-foot-wide temporary ROW. The construction ROW would overlap existing ROW by about 25 feet. Generally, the old replaced pipeline would be removed except in specific areas such as some road/railroad crossings identified by Columbia. Following construction, the disturbed area would be restored and the 25 feet of temporary ROW and additional

workspaces would be allowed to revert to their former land 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 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 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
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Endangered and threatened species
- Hazardous waste

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 recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

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 Columbia. Keep in mind that this is a

preliminary list; the list of issues will be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our own analysis. Issues are:

- The proposed project would cross two perennial streams, three intermittent streams, and eight nonforested wetlands.
- Access roads would cross the two perennial streams at five locations and intermittent streams at seven locations.
- There are three private wells within 50 feet of the proposed construction ROW.
- There are six residences within 50 feet of the proposed ROW.

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 sending a letter addressing your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP95-37-000;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. John Wisniewski, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol St., N.E., Room 7312, Washington, D.C. 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before March 10, 1995.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Wisniewski at the above address.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an "intervenor". 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 copies of its filings to all other parties. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a Motion to Intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of

¹ Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available from the Commission's Public References and Files Maintenance Branch, Room 3104, at 941 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.