

### 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 Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) attached as appendix 2.

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by § 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. John Wisniewski, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-1073.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP95-130-000]

### Northern Natural Gas Co.; Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed East Leg Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

February 7, 1995.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or the Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the East Leg Expansion 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 to approve the project.

#### Summary of the Proposed Project

Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin to transport an additional

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

107,600 million British thermal units per day of natural gas to four local distribution companies and one electric cogeneration plant. Northern requests Commission authorization, in Docket No. CP95-130-000, to construct and operate the following facilities needed to transport those volumes:

#### Phase I Facilities (1995)

- 6,000 horsepower (hp) of electric motor-driven compression at the new Hubbard Compressor Station in Hardin County, Iowa;
- Modification and repiping of the existing Waterloo Compressor Station in Black Hawk County, Iowa;
- 14,000 hp of gas turbine-driven compression at the new Earlville Compressor Station in Delaware County, Iowa;
- A new Quad Cities town border station (TBS) in Dubuque County, Iowa for deliveries to the Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company;
- Modification of the existing Galena Compressor Station in Jo Daviess County, Illinois;
- Modification of the existing Beloit TBS near Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin for deliveries to the Wisconsin Power and Light Company; and
- A new LS Power TBS in Walworth County, Wisconsin for Deliveries to the LS Power-Whitewater Limited Partnership (LS Power).

#### Phase II Facilities (1996)

- 3,200 hp of compression (two 1,600-hp gas turbine-driven compressors) at the new Belleville Compressor Station in Green County, Wisconsin.

The general location of the project facilities and specific locations for facilities on new sites are shown in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

#### Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 26.9 acres of land. Following construction about 8.6 acres would be maintained as new above-ground facility sites. The remaining 18.3 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

<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, 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.

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 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
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands<sup>3</sup>
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Endangered and threatened species
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Air quality and noise
- 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 issue 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 Northern. Keep in mind that this is a

<sup>3</sup> According to the applicant, the project will not affect any waters of the United States. We will report any potential impacts, or their absence, under this heading.