

site under the "eFiling" link. For further information, contact Tom Dean at (202) 502-6041.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 1855-027]

USGen New England, Inc.; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

January 24, 2005.

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 47897), the Office of Energy Projects' staff has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for an application for a non-capacity related amendment of the Bellows Falls Project. The Bellows Falls Project, FERC No. 1855, is located on the Connecticut River in Cheshire and Sullivan Counties, New Hampshire, and Windham and Windsor Counties, Vermont.

The EA contains the staff's analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the proposal and concludes that approval of the proposal would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

A copy of the EA is attached to a January 21, 2005 Commission order titled Order Approving Change In Project Boundary, 110 FERC ¶ 62,046, which is available for review and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426. The EA may also be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number (prefaced by P-) and 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 Rebecca Martin at (202) 502-6012.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PF05-2-000]

Midwestern Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed MGT Eastern Extension Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

January 21, 2005.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of Midwestern Gas Transmission Company's (MGT) MGT Eastern Extension Project in Sumner and Trousdale Counties, Tennessee. This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the project. Your input will help the Commission staff determine which issues need to be evaluated in the EA. The Commission will use the EA in its decision making process to determine whether or not to authorize the project. Please note that the scoping period will close on March 3, 2005.

Comments may be submitted in written form or verbally. Further details on how to submit written comments are provided in the public participation section of this notice. In lieu of sending written comments, you are invited to attend the public scoping meeting that is scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, February 24, 2005, 7 p.m. (CST): Sumner County Building, 355 No. Belvedere Drive, Gallatin, TN, (615) 452-3604.

This notice is being sent to affected landowners; federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers in this proceeding. We¹ encourage government representatives to notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

Summary of the Proposed Project

MGT proposes to construct and operate about 30 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline commencing at the MGT Portland Station in Sumner

County, Tennessee and traversing southeasterly to proposed interconnects with Columbia Gulf Transmission Company and East Tennessee Natural Gas Company in Trousdale County, Tennessee. The proposed pipeline would deliver up to 120,000 decatherms per day (Dth/d) to Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., a local distribution company, for long-term transportation. Additional pipeline facilities would consist of a pig launcher and piping modifications to existing reciprocating engines at the MGT Portland Station, mainline valve assemblies and a pig receiver at the terminus of the line, ultrasonic meters with electronic flow measurement, flow control valves, and data acquisition control buildings.

MGT plans to file a formal application for this project with the FERC in May 2005. They are requesting approval to begin construction in June 2006, with a proposed in-service date of November 1, 2006.

A map depicting MGT's proposed pipeline route is provided in Appendix 1.²

Several issues have already been raised by concerned citizens, which include public safety, eminent domain, proximity to residences, and property values.

The EA Process

Although no formal application for authorizing natural gas facilities has been filed, the FERC staff is initiating its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review now. The purpose of the FERC's Pre-filing Process is to encourage the early involvement of interested stakeholders and to identify and resolve issues before an application is filed with the FERC.

The FERC will use the EA to consider the environmental impact that could result if it issues MGT a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

This notice formally announces our preparation of the EA and the beginning of the process referred to as "scoping". We are soliciting input from the public and interested agencies to help us focus the analysis in the EA on the potentially significant environmental issues related to the proposed action.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be included in an EA that will be mailed to federal, state, and local

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 "eLibrary" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, Room 2A or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to "eLibrary" refer to the end 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.