

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Blair (202) 502-6092.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2213-009-Washington]

Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County; Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

January 23, 2004.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations (18 CFR Part 380), Commission staff have reviewed plans, filed September 3, 2003 and supplemented November 17, 2003 and December 10, 2003, to repair the Swift No. 2 Project's power canal, tailrace, and switchyard. The project is located on the North Fork Lewis River in Washington.

The project licensee (Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County) proposes to repair and reconstruct the damage to the Swift No. 2 Project's power canal, tailrace, and switchyard following an April 21, 2002 canal breach and washout. Under Section 10(c) of the FPA, the licensee is obligated to maintain the project works in a good state of repair. The licensee has proposed a reasonable schedule for the work. In the draft EA, Commission staff has analyzed the probable environmental effects of the proposed work and has concluded that approval, with appropriate environmental measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the draft EA are available for review in Public Reference Room 2-A of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC. The draft EA also may be viewed on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 502-6088 or on the Commission's Web site using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary 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,

contact FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY contact (202) 502-8659.

Anyone may file comments on the draft EA. The public, federal and state resource agencies are encouraged to provide comments. Any comments on the draft EA should be filed within 15 days of the date of this notice and should be addressed to: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Please reference "Swift No. 2 Project, FERC Project No. 2213-009" on all comments. Comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "e-Filing" link.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP93-541-013]

Young Gas Storage Company, Ltd.; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Young Storage Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

January 23, 2004.

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 Young Storage Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Young Gas Storage Company, Ltd (Young) in Morgan County, Colorado.¹ These facilities would consist of:

- 3 horizontally drilled injection/withdrawal wells (Wells 43, 44, and 45);
- Facilities associated with each well that include a surface wellhead and associated filters/separators, orifice meter, catalytic heater, and methanol injection/storage tanks with concrete footers;
- 600 feet of 6-inch-diameter steel gas pipeline;
- 1,090 feet of 4-inch-diameter steel gas pipeline;
- 1,090 feet of 2-inch-diameter poly instrument pipeline; and

¹ Young's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

- 1,090 feet of 2-inch-diameter fiberglass drainline pipeline.

This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

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. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with State 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 Young 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 Project

Young has analyzed the operation of the Young Storage Field and determined that water has been displaced and produced from the storage field during the 8 years of its operation. This has increased the pore space available for gas storage. The increased space has caused storage pressures to decrease below the pressure contemplated when the field was designed. The storage field has also expanded into areas that cannot be effectively drained by the existing wells. The reduced pressure and reservoir expansion have reduced deliverability from the field.

Young wants to drill there injection/withdrawal wells to better access certain areas within the existing Young Storage Field. It would also construct pipeline and related facilities to connect these new wells to its existing storage field pipeline system. The storage capacity and withdrawal capability of the Young Storage Field would not be increased above the presently certificated volumes (10 billion cubic feet and 198,813 thousand cubic feet per day, respectively) by construction and operation of the proposed facilities. Young also proposes to expand the protection zone for the storage field.