

of filings made with the Commission and must mail a copy to the applicant and to every other party in the proceeding. Only parties to the proceeding can ask for court review of Commission orders in the proceeding.

However, a person does not have to intervene in order to have comments considered. The second way to participate is by filing with the Secretary of the Commission, as soon as possible, an original and two copies of comments in support of or in opposition to this project. The Commission will consider these comments in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but the filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that persons filing comments in opposition to the project provide copies of their protests only to the party or parties directly involved in the protest.

Persons who wish to comment only on the environmental review of this project should submit an original and two copies of their comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Environmental commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of the environmental documents, and will be notified of meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Environmental commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, the nonparty commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission (except for the mailing of environmental documents issued by the Commission) and will not have the right to seek court review of the Commission's final order.

The Commission may issue a preliminary determination on non-environmental issues prior to the completion of its review of the environmental aspects of the project. This preliminary determination typically considers such issues as the need for the project and its economic effect on existing customers of the applicant, on other pipelines in the area, and on landowners and communities. For example, the Commission considers the extent to which the applicant may need to exercise eminent domain to obtain rights-of-way for the proposed project and balances that against the non-environmental benefits to be provided by the project. Therefore, if a person has comments on community and landowner impacts from this proposal, it is important either to file

comments or to intervene as early in the process as possible.

If the Commission decides to set the application for a formal hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, the Commission will issue another notice describing that process. At the end of the Commission's review process, a final Commission order approving or denying a certificate will be issued.

Comments, protests and interventions 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.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 6032-041]

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation and Fourth Branch Associates (Mechanicville); New York; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

March 4, 2002.

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 has reviewed the application for license for the Mechanicville Hydroelectric Project, located on the Hudson River in Saratoga and Rensselaer Counties, New York, and has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the project. A Draft Environmental Assessment was issued on November 13, 2001. No federal lands or Indian reservations are occupied by project works or located within the project boundary.

The FEA contains the staff's analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the project and concludes that surrendering the license for the project, with appropriate environmental protective measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

A copy of the FEA is attached to the Commission Order Accepting License Surrender issued on February 28, 2002 and is available for public inspection. The FEA may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "RIMS"

link—select "Docket #" and follow the instructions (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

For further information, contact Ellen Armbruster (202) 208-1672.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP01-361-000]

Northwest Pipeline Corp.; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Grays Harbor Pipeline Project

March 4, 2002.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest) in the above-referenced docket.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the proposed gas pipeline and aboveground facilities including:

- About 49.0 miles of a 20-inch-diameter pipeline in Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties, Washington, which would tie in with Northwest's existing mainline and mainline loop south of the Town of Ranier in Thurston County, Washington. The pipeline would extend from the interconnect with Northwest's existing system to the Satsop Combustion Turbine Project that is being constructed in the town of Satsop in Grays Harbor County, Washington.

- A meter station adjacent to the Satsop Project plant site at the end of the pipeline;

- Upgrades to the existing Tumwater Compressor Station in Thurston County, including the addition of a new compressor unit (rated 3,894 horsepower) and replacement of an existing backup generator with a 355 kilowatt backup generator; and

- Other aboveground facilities including two 20-inch-diameter

mainline taps, a pig launcher, four 20-inch-diameter block valve assemblies; and a new antenna and radio repeater at the existing Capitol Peak radio site.

The purpose of the proposed facilities would be to supply natural gas to fully operate Duke Energy Grays Harbor LLC's Satsop Combustion Turbine Project in Satsop, Washington. The pipeline would have a design capacity of up to 161,500 dekatherms per day. The electricity produced by the Satsop Combustion Turbine Project would be sold in the wholesale electric market. A portion of the output would be delivered to Energy Northwest, and the balance would be delivered to Bonneville Power Authority to help satisfy current and projected power demand.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your comments to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Office of Energy Projects (Gas Branch 2)
- Reference Docket No. CP01-361-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before April 3, 2002.

Comments may also 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 at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create an account which can be created by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentator a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to

become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).¹ Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.gov) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP01-415-000]

East Tennessee Natural Gas Company; Notice of Site Visit

March 4, 2002.

Between March 18-20, 2002 the staff will be conducting site visits of the project route for the proposed Patriot Expansion in Wythe and Smyth Counties in Virginia and in Sullivan, Knox, Hamilton, Franklin, and Morgan Counties in Tennessee. Representatives of East Tennessee Natural Gas Company will accompany Commission staff. Anyone interested in participating in

¹ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

the site visits may contact the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (201) 208-1088 for more details and must provide their own transportation.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL01-118-000]

Investigation of Terms and Conditions of Public Utility Market-Based Rate Authorizations; Notice of Staff Conference Agenda

March 1, 2002.

As announced in the Notice of Staff Conference issued on February 25, 2002, Commission staff will hold a conference on March 11, 2002 to address the comments and reply comments that were filed in this proceeding. The purpose of this conference is to determine whether and how the proposed tariff condition can be modified to address legitimate concerns that have been raised by commenters while, at the same time, protecting customers against unjust and unreasonable rates that may result from anticompetitive behavior or the exercise of market power. A key question to be considered is whether the proposed tariff condition can be modified to adequately protect customers on an interim basis until such time as the Commission adopts other measures to ensure competitive markets, including standard market design rules (with market-power mitigation rules where appropriate) and the establishment of RTO market monitoring units. At that time, a determination could be made as to whether a tariff condition will continue to be needed.

The conference will start at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at 1:30 p.m. It is scheduled to be held in the Commission meeting room at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC. The conference is open for the public to attend.

An agenda of the conference that includes a list of conference panelists is appended to this notice as Attachment A. In addition, a staff paper that provides an overview of the comments and identifies possible modifications to the tariff condition is appended to this notice as Attachment B. Those who wish to submit comments following the conference may file written comments,