

motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's rules.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the Applicant and by every one of the intervenors. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order. However, an intervenor must submit copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a federal court.

The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters or those requesting intervenor status.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to jurisdiction conferred upon the Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the NGA and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Horizon to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-8461 Filed 4-5-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2454-042; New York]

Minnesota Power, Inc.; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

March 31, 2000.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is available for public review. The EA analyzes the environmental effects of proposed changes to the project boundary for the Sylvan Hydroelectric Project located on the Crow Wing and Gull Rivers in Cass, Crow Wing, and Morrison Counties, Minnesota. The proposed boundary changes would result in the removal of a total of 20.42 acres of land from the project.

The EA was written by staff in the Office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Based on the environmental analyses presented in the EA, the Commission's staff finds that the proposed project boundary changes would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA has been attached to and made a part of an Order Amending License, issued March 21, 2000, for the Sylvan Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2454-042). The EA is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room located at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington DC 20426. Copies of the EA also may be obtained by calling (202) 208-1371, or by email at Public.ReferenceRoom@ferc.fed.us. The EA also may be viewed on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call (202) 208-2222 for assistance).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-139-000]

National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation; Notice of Application

March 31, 2000.

Take notice that on March 29, 2000, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Fuel), 10 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, New York 14203, filed an

application in Docket No. CP00-139-000 pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's Regulations, for authority to abandon certain minor underground natural gas storage facilities, all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

In its filing, National Fuel proposes to abandon facilities in Hebron Storage Field, jointly owned with Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, in Potter County, Pennsylvania. National Fuel proposes to abandon Wells 4895 and 4960 and to abandon the associated well lines Y-W4895 and Y-W4960. The wells are no longer useful due to poor injection performance and poor deliverability and need to be reconditioned or plugged due to deterioration of well casings. The lines will serve no purpose once the wells are plugged and abandoned.

The two well lines total approximately 1,099 feet of 4-inch, 6-inch and 8-inch pipeline. Line Y-W4859 consists of 4-inch (16 feet), 6-inch (796 feet), and 8-inch (134 feet) line, totaling 946 feet in length and is connected to Well 4859. National Fuel proposes to abandon Line Y-W4859 in place, except for a 16 foot section starting at the well which will be removed in order to make room for the rig used in plugging the well. Line Y-W4960 consists of 4-inch and 6-inch line, totaling approximately 153 feet in length, and is connected to Well 4960. National Fuel proposes to remove Line YW-4960 in accordance with the procedures in the Environmental Report submitted as a part of National Fuel's application.

National Fuel avers that there will be no decrease in field performance, nor will there be any abandonment or decrease in service to customers as a result of the proposed abandonment of facilities. The cost of the project will be approximately \$316,000, 86.1% of which shall be borne by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company pursuant to the Hebron Storage Agreement.

National Fuel has contacted the affected landowners regarding this project. National Fuel certifies that all affected landowners will be notified as required by § 157.6(d) and Order No. 609.

Any questions regarding this application should be directed to David W. Reitz, Assistant General Counsel for National Fuel, 10 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, New York 14203 at (716) 857-7949.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make a protest with reference to said application should on or before April 21, 2000, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene or protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestant a party to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by every one of the intervenor. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order. However, an intervenor must submit copies of comments or any other filings it makes with the Commission to every intervenor in the proceeding, as well as an original and 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have environmental comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a federal court. The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters or those requesting intervenor status.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further review before the Commission or its

designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given. Under the procedures herein provide for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for National Fuel to appear or to be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-8466 Filed 4-5-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-132-000]

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Application for Certificate

March 31, 2000.

Take notice that on March 23, 2000, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Natural or Applicant), 747 E. 22nd Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148-5072, filed in Docket No. CP00-132-000 an application pursuant to sections 7(b) and 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for permission and approval to abandon, by operating lease to Horizon Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (Horizon),¹ firm capacity on its system, and for certificate authority to construct and operate certain facilities, all as more fully set forth in the application which are on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222).

Natural is seeking authority to abandon 380 MDth/d of firm capacity on its system by lease to Horizon pursuant to the terms of a Lease Agreement, dated January 18, 2000. Horizon will incorporate the leased capacity as part of its interstate pipeline system, thereby avoiding the need of building duplicate facilities. The leased capacity will run for a total of 42 miles, from an interconnection between

Alliance Pipeline L.P. (Alliance) and Natural's Gulf Coast mainline (at a point approximately 9 miles south of Natural's Compressor Station 113 (CS 113) to the interconnection between Horizon's new pipeline and an existing 36-inch line of Natural (at a point approximately 33-miles north of CS 113). Central to the lease agreement is the construction and ownership by Horizon of a new 8,900 horsepower compressor at CS 113, which will have the effect of creating the 380 MDth/d of leased capacity.

The capacity lease, will also require Natural to construct certain new facilities and the rearrangement of certain existing Natural facilities. Specifically, Natural is seeking certificate authority to increase the horsepower of each of its nine 1,040 horsepower compressor units, totaling 9,360 horsepower, at CS 113, so that the new total will be 13,050 horsepower. Natural is also seeking to rearrange its 20-inch line that runs 63 miles north to Volo, Illinois and one of its 36-inch lines that runs north to Natural's Howard Street Lines² so that in the future the Howard Street Lines will be served by a 20-inch line and a 36-inch line, in conjunction with the nine Natural compressors at CS 113.³ Natural seeks certificate authority for a tap at the interconnection with the new Horizon pipeline and a second tap at the point where the northern terminus of Horizon meets an existing west-to-east line of Natural. Natural also seeks certificate authority for revisions at its Streamwood meter station, which is at the start of the Howard Street Lines.

Natural states that neither Natural nor its customers will subsidize Horizon, because any costs to Natural will be more than offset by the lease payments it will receive from Horizon. Under the Lease Agreement, Horizon has contracted with Natural for an initial term of 20 years to lease capacity at \$0.015 per Dth within a 42-mile section of Natural's pipeline system in Grundy, Will and DuPage Counties, Illinois. This lease payment compensates Natural for its related costs in providing the leased capacity, primarily the \$7.8 million in facilities proposed by Natural in this application, but also the fuel associated with the maintenance of Natural's service to its customers.

Any questions regarding this application should be directed to James

² A west-to-east system providing delivery capability to both Chicago and its northwestern suburbs.

³ This arrangement will provide Howard Street Lines with service that is substantially the same as that is provided currently under the current facility arrangement.

¹ Horizon has simultaneously filed applications in Docket Nos. CP00-129-000, CP00-130-000, and CP00-131-000 to construct, own, lease, operate and maintain a new natural gas pipeline (Horizon Project) from Joliet, Illinois to McHenry, Illinois.