

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.

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.

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.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP02-37-000]

#### Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company; Notice of Application

December 7, 2001.

Take notice that on November 30, 2001, Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company (Williston Basin), 1250 West Century Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota 58530, filed pursuant to sections 7(c) and 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Regulations thereunder, an Abbreviated Application for a Certificate of Public and Necessity to construct and operate the Grasslands Pipeline Project, and for authority to abandon certain facilities, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing 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).

Specifically, Williston Basin proposes to:

- Construct and operate approximately 219 miles of new 16-inch natural gas pipeline from Belle Creek, Montana to Dunn County, North Dakota and 28 miles of 16-inch looping along an existing 8-inch pipeline in Campbell County, Wyoming;

- Construct and operate three new 4,180 Horsepower compressor stations in Campbell County, Wyoming, Fallon County, Montana and Dunn County, North Dakota;

- Construct and operate one mile of 16-inch pipeline, and associated facilities, to interconnect with the facilities of Northern Border Pipeline Company in Dunn County, North Dakota;

- Construct and operate 0.9 miles of 12-inch lateral line in Fallon County, Montana;

- Construct and operate various metering and regulating facilities in Campbell County, Wyoming, Dunn County, North Dakota, and Fallon County, Montana;

- Upgrade 40 miles of existing 8-inch supply line in Campbell County, Wyoming to a maximum allowable operating pressure of 1,440 psig, and to abandon and replace nine-existing underground road crossings as part of the upgrading effort; and

- To construct and operate certain permanent and temporary miscellaneous facilities such as pig launcher/receiver sites, cathodic protection units, pipe yards, access roads and staging areas.

Williston Basin states that the proposed project will accomplish three objectives. Specifically, the project will provide: (1) An outlet for coal bed natural gas production in the Powder River Basin along with other conventional gas sources in Wyoming and Montana; (2) access to Williston Basin's storage facilities to shippers of gas produced in Powder River Basin; and (3) access from Williston Basin's storage facilities to the facilities of Northern Border Pipeline Company.

Williston Basin proposes an in-service date of November 1, 2002 and asks that the Commission authorize its proposal by August 21, 2002.

Any questions regarding the amendment should be directed to Keith A. Tiggelaar, Director, Regulatory Affairs, Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company, PO Box 5601, Bismarck, ND, 58506-5601, (701) 530-1560.

There are two ways to become involved in the Commission's review of

this project. First, any person wishing to obtain legal status by becoming a party to the proceedings for this project should, on or before December 28, 2001, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene 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 NGA (18 CFR 157.10). A person obtaining party 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 all other parties. A party must submit 14 copies 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 non-party 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.

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.

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.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP01-176-000 and CP01-179-000]

#### Georgia Strait Crossing Pipeline LP; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Georgia Strait Crossing Project

December 7, 2001.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Georgia Strait Crossing Pipeline LP (GSX-US) in the above-referenced dockets.

The draft EIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse

environmental impact. The draft EIS also evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system alternatives, route alternatives, and route variations.

The draft EIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities in Whatcom and San Juan Counties, Washington:

- About 32.0 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline (onshore mainline pipeline) extending from the interconnect facilities at the international border between the United States and Canada near Sumas, Washington, across Whatcom County, to a new compressor station (Cherry Point Compressor Station) near Cherry Point, Washington;

- About 1.1 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline (onshore mainline pipeline) extending from the Cherry Point Compressor Station to the beginning of the marine portion of the pipeline at the edge of the Strait of Georgia;

- About 13.9 miles of 16-inch-diameter marine pipeline (offshore mainline pipeline) extending from the edge of the Strait of Georgia near Cherry Point, Washington to the international border between the United States and Canada at a point about midway between the west end of Patos Island (Washington) and the east end of Saturna Island (British Columbia) in Boundary Pass;

- Interconnect facilities including a receipt point meter station, pig launcher, interconnect piping, and associated valves (Sumas Interconnect Facility) adjacent to the existing Sumas Compressor Station in Whatcom County, Washington;

- A new compressor station (Cherry Point Compressor Station) consisting of one 10,302-hp two-stage compressor unit, pig launcher/receiver facilities, and associated valves near Cherry Point in Whatcom County, Washington;

- Six mainline valves (MLV), one each at the Sumas Interconnect Facility and Cherry Point Compressor Station and four valves along the proposed pipeline route; and

- An onshore and an offshore tap valve.

The purpose of the GSX-US project is to provide a natural gas transportation system to supply the growing demand for natural gas on Vancouver Island.

#### Comment Procedures and Public Meetings

Any person wishing to comment on the EIS 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 are properly recorded:

- Send an original and two copies of your comments to: Linwood A. Watson, Jr., Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

- Reference Docket Nos. CP01-176-000.

- Label one copy of your comments for the attention of Gas Group 2, PJ-11.2.

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before February 4, 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 by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."

Due to current events, we cannot guarantee that we will receive mail on a timely basis from the U.S. Postal Service, and we do not know how long this situation will continue. However, we continue to receive filings from private mail delivery services, including messenger services in a reliable manner. The Commission encourages electronic filing of any comments on this draft EIS. We will include all comments that we receive within a reasonable time frame in our environmental analysis of this project.

We will announce in a future notice, the location and time of at least one local public meeting to receive comments on the draft EIS.

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend and present oral comments on the environmental impacts described in the draft EIS. Transcripts of the meetings will be prepared.

After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the draft EIS as necessary, a final EIS will be published and distributed by the staff. The final EIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments received on the draft EIS.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor 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 practices and procedures (18 CFR 385.214).