

Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS), as to the number, position, range, or arc of visibility of lights or shapes, as well as to the disposition and characteristics of sound-signaling appliances, shall not apply to a vessel or class of vessels of the Navy where the Secretary of the Navy shall find and certify that, by reason of special construction or purpose, it is not possible for such vessel(s) to comply fully with the provisions without interfering with the special function of the vessel(s). Notice of issuance of a Certificate of Alternate Compliance must be made in the **Federal Register**.

In accordance with 33 U.S.C. 1605, the DAJAG (Admiralty and Maritime Law), under authority delegated by the Secretary of the Navy, hereby finds and certifies that USS MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL (LCS 21) is a vessel of special construction or purpose, and that, with respect to the position of the following navigational lights, it is not possible to comply fully with the requirements of the provisions enumerated in the 72 COLREGS without interfering with the special function of the vessel:

Annex I, paragraph 2(a)(i), pertaining to the vertical position of the forward masthead light; Annex I, paragraph 3(a), pertaining to the horizontal position of the forward masthead light; and Annex I, paragraph 3(a), pertaining to the horizontal separation between the forward and aft masthead lights.

The DAJAG (Admiralty and Maritime Law) further finds and certifies that these navigational lights are in closest possible compliance with the applicable provision of the 72 COLREGS.

**Authority:** 33 U.S.C. 1605(c), E.O. 11964.

Approved: July 22, 2020.

**D.J. Antenucci,**

*Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2020–16470 Filed 7–29–20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810–FF–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### Certificate of Alternate Compliance for USS MOBILE (LCS 26)

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of Issuance of Certificate of Alternate Compliance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Navy hereby announces that a Certificate of Alternate Compliance has been issued for USS MOBILE (LCS 26). Due to the special construction and purpose of this vessel, the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (DAJAG)(Admiralty and

Maritime Law) has determined it is a vessel of the Navy which, due to its special construction and purpose, cannot comply fully with the navigation lights provisions of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS) without interfering with its special function as a naval ship. The intended effect of this notice is to warn mariners in waters where 72 COLREGS apply.

**DATES:** This Certificate of Alternate Compliance is effective July 30, 2020 and is applicable beginning July 22, 2020.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lieutenant Commander Tom Bright, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Admiralty Attorney, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Admiralty and Maritime Law Division (Code 11), 1322 Patterson Ave. SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374–5066, 202–685–5040, or [admiralty@navy.mil](mailto:admiralty@navy.mil).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background and Purpose

Executive Order 11964 of January 19, 1977 and 33 U.S.C. 1605 provide that the requirements of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS), as to the number, position, range, or arc of visibility of lights or shapes, as well as to the disposition and characteristics of sound-signaling appliances, shall not apply to a vessel or class of vessels of the Navy where the Secretary of the Navy shall find and certify that, by reason of special construction or purpose, it is not possible for such vessel(s) to comply fully with the provisions without interfering with the special function of the vessel(s). Notice of issuance of a Certificate of Alternate Compliance must be made in the **Federal Register**.

In accordance with 33 U.S.C. 1605, the DAJAG (Admiralty and Maritime Law), under authority delegated by the Secretary of the Navy, hereby finds and certifies that USS MOBILE (LCS 26) is a vessel of special construction or purpose, and that, with respect to the position of the following navigational lights, it is not possible to comply fully with the requirements of the provisions enumerated in the 72 COLREGS without interfering with the special function of the vessel:

Annex I, paragraph 2(a)(i), pertaining to the vertical position of the forward masthead light; Annex I, paragraph 3(a), pertaining to the horizontal position of the forward masthead light; Rule 21(a) and Annex I, paragraph 2(f)(i), pertaining to masthead light obstructions; and Annex I, paragraph

3(a), pertaining to the horizontal separation between the forward and aft masthead lights.

The DAJAG (Admiralty and Maritime Law) further finds and certifies that these navigational lights are in closest possible compliance with the applicable provision of the 72 COLREGS.

(Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1605(c), E.O. 11964)

Approved: July 22, 2020.

**D.J. Antenucci,**

*Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2020–16471 Filed 7–29–20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810–FF–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PF20–3–000]

#### Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Planned Regional Energy Access Expansion Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Virtual Scoping Sessions

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 Regional Energy Access Expansion Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco) in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Wyoming, and York Counties, Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset, and Warren Counties, New Jersey; and Baltimore County, Maryland. The Commission will use this EA in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies about issues regarding the project. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires the Commission to discover concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as “scoping.” The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis

in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of issues to address in the EA. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on August 24, 2020. Comments may be submitted in written or oral form. Further details on how to submit comments are provided in the Public Participation section of this notice.

You can make a difference by submitting your specific comments or concerns about the project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EA. Commission staff will consider all written or oral comments during the preparation of the EA.

If you sent comments on this project to the Commission *before* the opening of this docket on June 18, 2020, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. PF20–3–000 to ensure they are considered.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the

planned facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable easement agreement. You are not required to enter into an agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, the Natural Gas Act conveys the right of eminent domain to the company. Therefore, if you and the company do not reach an easement agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in court. In such instances, compensation would be determined by a judge 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?* is available for viewing on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the natural gas Landowner Topics link. 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.

#### Public Participation

The Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which makes it easy to stay informed of all issuances and submittals regarding the dockets/projects to which you subscribe. These instant email notifications are the fastest way to receive notification and provide a link to the document files which can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings. Go to <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview> to register for eSubscription.

For your convenience, there are four methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208–3676 or [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov). Please

carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the *eComment* feature, which is located on the Commission's website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to FERC Online. Using eComment is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically by using the eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to FERC Online. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on eRegister. You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; a comment on a particular project is considered a Comment on a Filing;

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the Commission. Be sure to reference the project docket number (PF20–3–000) on your letter. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852; or

(4) In lieu of sending written comments, the Commission invites you to attend one of the virtual public scoping sessions its staff will conduct by telephone, scheduled as follows:

#### DATE AND TIME

Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 6:00–8:00 p.m. EDT, Call in number: 888–455–9739, Participant passcode: 4753713.

Wednesday, August 19, 2020, 6:00–8:00 p.m. EDT, Call in number: 888–455–9739, Participant passcode: 4753713.

Thursday, August 20, 2020, 6:00–8:00 p.m. EDT, Call in number: 888–455–9739, Participant passcode: 4753713.

The primary goal of these scoping sessions is to have you identify the specific environmental issues and concerns that should be considered in the EA. Individual oral comments will be taken on a one-on-one basis with a court reporter present on the line. This format is designed to receive the maximum amount of oral comments, in a convenient way during the timeframe allotted and is in response to the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic.

Each scoping session is scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern

Daylight Time. You may call at any time after 6:00 p.m. at which time you will be placed on mute and hold. Calls will be answered in the order they are received. Once answered, you will have the opportunity to provide your comment directly to a court reporter with FERC staff or representative present on the line. A time limit of three minutes will be implemented for each commentator.

Transcripts of all comments received during the scoping sessions will be publicly available on FERC's eLibrary

system (see the last page of this notice for instructions on using eLibrary).

*It is important to note that the Commission provides equal consideration to all comments received, whether filed in written form or provided orally at a virtual scoping session.*

There will not be a formal presentation provided by Commission staff. However, information about FERC's environmental review process can be found on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the natural gas

Landowner Topics link. In addition, Transco has created a project-specific website with additional information at <https://www.williams.com/expansion-project/regional-energy-access/>.

Please note this is not your only public input opportunity; please refer to the review process flow chart in appendix 1.<sup>1</sup>

### Summary of the Planned Project

Transco plans to construct and operate approximately 35.8 miles of pipeline loop<sup>2</sup> and one new compressor station, as well as modify existing compressor stations and facilities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The project would provide about 760 million standard cubic feet of natural gas per day to multiple delivery points along Transco's existing system in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland. According to Transco, its project would provide its customers with enhanced access to Marcellus and Utica Shale natural gas supplies.

The project would consist of the following facilities:

- Installation of 22 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline loop in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (Regional Energy Lateral);
- installation of 13.8 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline loop in Monroe County, Pennsylvania (Effort Loop);
- installation of the new Compressor Station 201 (up to 11,500 horsepower [hp]) in Gloucester County, New Jersey);
- installation of a gas turbine or electric motor-driven compressor unit (up to 16,000 hp) at existing Compressor Station 505 in Somerset County, New Jersey;
- installation of a gas turbine compressor unit (up to an additional 31,871 hp) and modifications to three existing compressors at existing Compressor Station 515 in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania;
- modifications at existing compressor stations, meter stations, interconnects, and ancillary facilities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland; and
- installation of ancillary facilities such as mainline valves, communication facilities, and pig<sup>3</sup> launchers and receivers.

<sup>1</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the **Federal Register**. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the link called eLibrary or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371.

<sup>2</sup> A pipeline loop is a segment of pipe constructed parallel to an existing pipeline to increase capacity.

<sup>3</sup> A pig is a tool that the pipeline company inserts into and pushes through the pipeline for cleaning

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 2.

### Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the planned facilities would disturb about 814 acres<sup>4</sup> of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline loops. Following construction, Transco would maintain about 232 acres for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses. The majority of the planned pipeline loops parallel Transco's existing pipeline rights-of-way.

### The EA Process

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the planned project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils;
- water resources and wetlands;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- threatened and endangered species;
- cultural resources;
- land use and visual impacts;
- socioeconomic;
- air quality and noise;
- public safety; and
- cumulative impacts.

Commission staff will also evaluate possible alternatives to the planned project or portions of the project and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Although no formal application has been filed, Commission staff have already initiated a NEPA review under the Commission's pre-filing process. The purpose of the pre-filing process is to encourage early involvement of interested stakeholders and to identify and resolve issues before the Commission receives an application. As part of the pre-filing review, Commission staff will contact federal and state agencies to discuss their involvement in the scoping process and the preparation of the EA.

The EA will present Commission staff's independent analysis of the issues. The EA will be available in electronic format in the public record through eLibrary<sup>5</sup> and the Commission's natural gas environmental documents web page (<https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environment/>)

the pipeline, conducting internal inspections, or other purposes.

<sup>4</sup> Transco is evaluating workspace requirements at three of the planned aboveground facilities to determine whether additional land requirements will be necessary.

<sup>5</sup> For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

*environmental-documents*). If eSubscribed, you will receive instant email notification when the EA is issued. The EA may be issued for an allotted public comment period. Commission staff will consider all comments on the EA before making recommendations to the Commission. To ensure Commission staff have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section, beginning on page 2.

With this notice, the Commission is asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues related to this project to formally cooperate in the preparation of the EA.<sup>6</sup> Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the Public Participation section of this notice.

### Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Commission is using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Office(s), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project's potential effects on historic properties.<sup>7</sup> The EA for this project will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

### Environmental Mailing List

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes

<sup>6</sup> The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.6.

<sup>7</sup> The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the project and includes a mailing address with their comments. Commission staff will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that Commission notices related to this environmental review are sent to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the planned project.

If the Commission issues the EA for an allotted public comment period, a *Notice of Availability* of the EA will be sent to the environmental mailing list and will provide instructions to access the electronic document on the FERC's website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)). *If you need to make changes to your name/address, or if you would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Mailing List Update Form (appendix 3).*

#### Becoming an Intervenor

Once Transco files its application with the Commission, you may want to become an intervenor which is an official party to the Commission's proceeding. Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission's final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214). Motions to intervene are more fully described at <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/ferc-online/how-guides>. Please note that the Commission will not accept requests for intervenor status at this time. You must wait until the Commission receives a formal application for the project, after which the Commission will issue a public notice that establishes an intervention deadline.

#### Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on General Search and enter the docket number in the Docket Number field, excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, PF20-3). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all formal

documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

Public virtual scoping sessions or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/events> along with other related information.

Dated: July 24, 2020.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-16518 Filed 7-29-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER20-2493-000]

#### OTCF, II LLC; Supplemental Notice That Initial Market-Based Rate Filing Includes Request for Blanket Section 204 Authorization

This is a supplemental notice in the above-referenced proceeding of OTCF, LLC's application for market-based rate authority, with an accompanying rate tariff, noting that such application includes a request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest should file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing protests with regard to the applicant's request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability, is August 13, 2020.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper, using the FERC Online links at <http://www.ferc.gov>. To facilitate electronic service, persons with internet access who will eFile a document and/or be listed as a contact for an intervenor must create and validate an eRegistration account using the eRegistration link. Select the eFiling link to log on and submit the intervention or protests.

Persons unable to file electronically may mail similar pleadings to the

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. Hand delivered submissions in docketed proceedings should be delivered to Health and Human Services, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the eLibrary link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's Public Reference Room, due to the proclamation declaring a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), issued by the President on March 13, 2020. For assistance, contact the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or call toll-free, (866) 208-3676 or TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Dated: July 24, 2020.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-16517 Filed 7-29-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP20-479-000]

#### Northern Natural Gas; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 2021 Auburn A-Line Abandonment and Capacity Replacement Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

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 2021 Auburn A-line Abandonment and Capacity Replacement Project involving construction, operation, and abandonment of facilities by Northern Natural Gas (Northern) in Lancaster, Otoe, Johnson, and Nemaha counties, Nebraska. The Commission will use this EA in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission