

instructions on the Commission's web site under the "e-Filing" link.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2077-016—NH/VT]

USGenNE; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

November 16, 2001.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for a new license for the Fifteen Mile Falls Hydroelectric Project located on the Connecticut River, in Grafton County, New Hampshire and Caledonia County, Vermont, and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project. In the EA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental effects of the project and has concluded that approval of the project, with appropriate environmental measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the EA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2-A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. The EA may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.gov> using the "RIMS" link, select "Docket#" and follow the instructions. Please call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

Any comments should be filed within 30 days from the date of this notice and should be addressed to David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1-A, Washington, DC 20426. Please affix "Fifteen Mile Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 2077-016" to all comments. For further information, contact William Guey-Lee at (202) 219-2808. 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.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP02-1-000]

Southern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed South System Expansion II Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

November 16, 2001.

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 South System Expansion II Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Southern Natural Gas Company (Southern) in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana; Clarke, Lauderdale, and Jefferson Davis Counties, Mississippi; Sumter, Marengo, Hale, Perry, Autauga, Elmore, Tallapoosa, and Lee Counties, Alabama; and Harris, Talbot, Monroe, Bibb, Jones, Baldwin, Washington, Jefferson, Richmond, Upson, Effingham, and Chatham Counties, Georgia.¹ These facilities consist of about 123.3 miles of 36-, 30-, and 24-inch-diameter pipeline, modifications to 9 existing compressor stations, construction of a new compressor station on the site of a previously abandoned compressor station, taps, and a meter station. The 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 Southern 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 website (www.ferc.fed.us).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Southern is proposing the South System Expansion II Project to expand its existing mainline system and increase capacity of its facilities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia to supply increased quantities of gas to existing local distribution customers due to population growth in the region and the increasing demand for energy resources. The expansion of its facilities would enable Southern to provide for additional firm transportation capacity to serve eight shippers. This project would allow Southern to deliver 359,891 thousand cubic feet per day (Mcf) of gas to these shippers.

Southern proposes to construct, install, and operate certain pipeline loops, compression, a meter station, and other appurtenances, in two phases. Phase I would consist of the facilities necessary to provide about 320,714 Mcf of gas, and Phase II would consist of the facilities necessary to provide the remaining 39,177 Mcf of gas.

Southern proposes to construct and operate the following facilities:

Phase I Facilities

- 36-inch South Main 3rd Loop Line (Loop 1): about 13.9 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline loop² of its South Main Line System from milepost (MP) 75.9 in Clarke County, Mississippi to MP 89.8 in Lauderdale County, Mississippi;

- 36-inch South Main 3rd Loop Line (Loop 2): about 9.6 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline loop of its South Main Line System from MP 115.7 in Sumter County, Alabama to MP 125.3 in Marengo County, Alabama;

- 36-inch South Main 4th Loop Line (Loop 3): about 11.0 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline loop of its South

¹ Southern's application was filed with the Commission on October 1, 2001, under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

² A loop is a segment of pipeline that is installed adjacent to an existing pipeline and connected to it on both ends. The loop allows more gas to be moved through the pipeline system.