

published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified an issue that we think deserves attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Columbia and FPL Energy Marcus Hook, L.P. This preliminary issue may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- There may be changes in noise impacts from the compressor unit additions at the existing compressor stations. We have not identified any other significant environmental issues.

Also, we have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts of the FPL Energy Marcus Hook, L.P. nonjurisdictional cogeneration plant facilities. We will briefly described its location and status in the EA.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commenter, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations/routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send an original and two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas 2.
- Reference Docket No. CP01-260-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 20, 2001.

Comments, protests and interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instruction on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm> under 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."

We may issue the EA for comment. If you are interested in receiving it, please return the Information Request (appendix 3). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the processing known as an "intervenor." Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 2).⁴ 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 environmental 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 website (www.ferc.fed.us) 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.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-13218 Filed 5-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP01-161-000]

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

May 21, 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 North System Expansion II Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Southern Natural Gas Company (Southern) in Pickens, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega, and Calhoun Counties in Alabama, and Noxubee and Lowndes Counties in Mississippi.¹ These facilities would consist of about 4.6 miles of new pipeline loop on Southern's 24-inch diameter 2nd North Main Line, replacement of about 11 miles of various diameter pipeline segments in Alabama, and requalifying pipeline segments by hydrostatic testing, and/or adding, removing, abandoning, replacing, requalifying and/or modifying appurtenant facilities within the project area. In addition, Southern proposes to add about 6,000 horsepower (hp) of compression at the existing Pell City Compressor Station in St. Clair County, Alabama. This 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.

⁴ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

¹ Southern's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

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 wants to uprate its North Main System by adding and replacing pipeline segments, requalifying pipeline segments by hydrostatic testing, and/or

adding, removing, abandoning, replacing, requalifying and/or modifying appurtenant facilities within the project area. Specifically, Southern seeks authorization to:

(a) Construct, own, and operate a total of about 4.6 miles of new pipeline loop on its 24-inch-diameter 2nd North Main Line extending from milepost (MP) 123.746 to MP 128.339 in Pickens County, Alabama (see table 1);

(b) Replace about 11 miles of various segments of the North Main Line and the Bessemer-Calera Line and Loop in Pickens, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega, and Calhoun Counties, Alabama (see table 1). In conjunction with the replacement of segments of these pipelines certain segments would be tested hydrostatically in order to increase their maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) (see table 1);

(c) Abandon in place three 12-inch-diameter pipeline crossings of the Tombigbee River. These river crossings would be replaced by an existing 20-inch-diameter pipeline connected to both the North Main Line and North Main Loop Line. These pipelines constitute the river crossing for the North Main Line (see table 2);

(d) Install one electric-motor-driven 6,000 hp reciprocating compressor at the existing Pell City Compressor Station in St. Clair County, Alabama;

(e) Construct an interconnecting facility, the Calhoun Power Tap, at MP 370.0 on the North Main Line and North Main Loop Line, consisting of dual 18-inch taps and 1.0 mile of replacement pipeline in Calhoun County, Alabama, to provide service to Calhoun Power; and

TABLE 1.—PIPELINE FACILITIES FOR THE NORTH SYSTEM EXPANSION II PROJECT

Facility	Type	Length (miles)	Mileposts	County/State
Jurisdictional—Pipeline Construction:				
North Main Line (Replacement, A).	22" Replacement	1.844	227.381–229.225	Pickens, AL.
North Main Line (Replacement B).	22" Replacement	1.073	240.978–242.051	Pickens, AL.
2nd North Main Line	New 24" Loop Pipeline	4.613	123.726–128.339	Pickens, AL.
Bessemer-Calera 12" Line ..	12" Replacement	0.017	10.479–10.496	Jefferson, AL.
Bessemer-Calera 8" Loop Line.	12" Replacement	2.400	12.900–15.300	Jefferson, AL.
Bessemer-Calera 8" Loop Line (Cahaba River).	12" Replacement	0.2	20.900–21.100	Shelby, AL.
North Main Line (Replacement C).	20" Replacement	0.496	354.303–354.799	St. Clair, AL.
North Main Line (Replacement D).	20" Replacement	0.169	355.556–355.725	St. Clair, AL.
North Main Line (Replacement E).	20" Replacement	3.140	356.360–359.500	Talladega, AL.
North Main Line (Replacement F).	20" Replacement	1.717	367.150–368.867	Talladega/Calhoun, AL.
North Main Line (Replacement G).	20" Replacement	1.050	369.650–370.700	Calhoun, AL.
Pipeline Requalification:				
Bassemer-Calera 12" Line ..	Hydrostatic Test	2.674	7.972–10.646	Jefferson, AL.
Bessemer-Calera 8" Loop Line.	Hydrostatic Test	2.319	21.013–23.332	Shelby, AL.
North Main Line (Requalification 1).	Hydrostatic Test	0.757	354.799–355.556	St. Clair, AL.
North Main Line (Requalification 2).	Hydrostatic Test	0.635	355.725–356.360	Talladega, AL.
North Main Line (Requalification 3).	Hydrostatic Test	1.093	368.710–369.803	Calhoun, AL.
Non-Jurisdictional—Pipeline Construction:				
Calhoun Power Pipeline 16"	New Pipeline	1.000		Calhoun, AL.

TABLE 2.—ABOVEGROUND FACILITIES FOR THE NORTH SYSTEM EXPANSION II PROJECT

Facility	New/modified	Type of work	Mileposts	County/state
Jurisdictional:				
Brooksville Junction	Modified	New Feed Line	208.478	Noxubee, MS.
M.V.G. Farm Tap 121	Modified	Remove Farm Tap	209.767	Noxubee, MS.
Pugh Tap	Modified	New Check Valve	217.500	Noxubee, MS.

TABLE 2.—ABOVEGROUND FACILITIES FOR THE NORTH SYSTEM EXPANSION II PROJECT—Continued

Facility	New/modified	Type of work	Mileposts	County/state
Togo Gate	Modified	Crossovers	220.927	Lowndes, MS.
M.V.G. Farm Tap 123	Modified	Over-pressure Protection	223.100	Lowndes, MS.
Tombigbee River Crossing (Auxiliary River Crossing Line).	Modified	Disconnect and abandon line; re- place Valves and Fittings.	224.189–224.350 224.550–224.606	Lowndes, MS.
Reform Tap	Modified	Over-pressure Protection	241.887	Pickens, AL.
Reform Compressor Station ..	Modified	Tap, Pigging Facilities, Valves, Regulators, Over-Pressure Pro- tection.	242.223	Pickens, AL.
Crossover and Pigging Facil- ity.	New	Add New Crossover and Pigging Facilities.	123.746	Pickens, AL.
Pleasant Grove Tap, Gate Setting and Meter Station.	Modified	Tap and Tap Line	7.972	Jefferson, AL.
Dr. Cales Farm Tap (Aban- doned pursuant to blanket certificate authorization).	Modified	Remove Taps	8.955	Jefferson, AL.
Bessemer Lateral Tap	Modified	Check Valve and Blind Flange	10.429	Jefferson, AL.
Bessemer Gate and Cross- over.	Modified	Replace and Remove Valves	10.646	Jefferson, AL.
NATCO Tap	Modified	Remove Obsolete Tap	14.655	Jefferson, AL.
Bessemer No. 2 Tap and Meter Station.	Modified	Replace Tap and Install New Tap Line.	14.740	Jefferson, AL.
Hopewell Block Gate	Modified	Test Crossovers	15.537	Jefferson, AL.
Genery Gap Tap and Meter Station.	Modified	Test or Remove Taps	19.498	Shelby, AL.
Cahaba Field Tap	Modified	Install Blind Flange	22.200	Shelby, AL.
Calera Line Regulatory Sta- tion.	Modified	Valve and Tap Settings	23.332	Shelby, AL.
Helena-Alagasco Meter Sta- tion and Tap.	Modified	Relocate Taps	23.332	Shelby, AL.
Gas Cooler at Tarrant Com- pressor Station (2nd North Mail Line).	Modified	Install Electric Motor Fin Fan Cooler.	321.947	Jefferson, AL.
Compressor at Pell City Com- pressor Station (North Main Line/2nd North Main Line).	Modified	Install 6000 HP Electric Driven Compressor.	352.478	St. Clair, AL.
Pell City Compressor Station Power Substation.	Modified	Construct 115kV/4160V Capacity Electrical Substation.	(¹)	St. Clair, AL.
Vincent Tap and Meter Sta- tion (North Main Line).	Modified	Monitor, Regulator and Tap Valve	352.700	St. Clair, AL.
Lincoln No. 2 Tap and Meter Station.	Modified	Monitor, Regulator and Tap Valve	353.834	St. Clair, AL.
Childersburg No. 2 Tap and Meter Station.	Modified	Monitor, Regulator and Tap Valve	358.000	Talladega, AL.
Rowe Block Gate No. 1	Modified	Gate Setting, blowoff crossovers	358.510	Talladega, AL.
Lincoln Tap and Meter Sta- tion.	Modified	Monitor, Regulator and Tap Valve	360.365	Talladega, AL.
Talladega Tap	Modified	Monitor, Regulator and Tap Valve	361.014	Talladega, AL.
Lincoln Block Gate	Modified	Gate Setting, blowoff crossovers	361.666	Talladega, AL.
Talladega Raceway Tap	Modified	Monitor, Regulator and Tap Valve	365.385	Talladega, AL.
Eastaboga Gate	Modified	Gate Setting	369.078	Calhoun, AL.
Calhoun Power Meter Station	New	Meter Station	370.000	Calhoun, AL.
Anniston No. 3 Tap and Meter Station.	Modified	Monitor and Regulator	371.641	Calhoun, AL.
Coldwater Regulator Station	New	Monitor, Regulator and Block Valves.	371.852	Calhoun, AL.
Non-Jurisdictional: Pell City Compressor Station 115 kV Power Line.	New	New 115 kV Power Line	(¹)	St. Clair, AL.

¹ Approximate M.P. 352.478 on Southern's North Main Line.

(f) modify several aboveground facilities in Mississippi and Alabama (see table 2).

Nonjurisdictional facilities

(a) Calhoun Power would construct certain nonjurisdictional facilities consisting of a simple cycle power

generation plant, a meter station, and about 1 mile of 16-inch-diameter connecting pipeline extending from Southern's mainline to its plant. Southern would operate and maintain this connecting pipeline in Calhoun County, Alabama for Calhoun Power.

(b) Alabama Power would construct a 0.5-mile-long nonjurisdictional 115 kV transmission line to provide power to the compressor to be installed at the Pell City Compressor Station. Alabama Power would coordinate construction of this power line with the construction of the new compressor.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 274.5 acres of land. Following construction, about 92.5 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use. No new permanent right-of-way is proposed by Southern except for the two new meter stations (Calhoun Meter Station and Coldwater Regulator Station) which would require a total of 8.09 acres (0.46 acre permanent and 7.63 existing permanent right-of-way).

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us³ to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

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

- Geology and soils
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Endangered and threatened species
- Public safety
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Air quality and noise
- Hazardous waste

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or

portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the commission.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section below.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Southern. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Eight federally listed endangered or threatened species may occur in the project area (bald eagle, red cockaded woodpecker, Cahaba shiner, finlined pocketbook mussel, flattened musk turtle, goldline darter, round rocksnail, and triangular kidneyshell mussel). With the exception of the bald eagle and red cockaded woodpecker all other federally listed species occur in the Cahaba River. Southern proposes to directionally drill the Cahaba river which would avoid impact on these species.

- The project would require three major waterbody crossings greater than 100 feet in width (Cahaba River, Coosa River, and Blue Eye Creek).

- A total of 72 residences are located within 50 feet of the construction work area, of which 50 are within 25 feet of the construction work area.

In addition, the project would involve lands owned by the City of Bessemer and the University of Alabama, the State of Alabama along the Bessemer-Calera Lines; and the property of the Alabama Development Office on the North Main Line. All of these lands are crossed by the existing pipelines.

Also, we have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts of the nonjurisdictional facilities. We will briefly describe their location and status in the EA.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentor, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

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⁴ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's website at the "RIMS" link or from the Commission's Public reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. For instructions on connecting to RIMS refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

³ "We", "us", and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP).

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 environmental 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 website (www.ferc.fed.us) 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.

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David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-13219 Filed 5-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6618-4]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under section 309 of the Clean Air Act and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167. An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 14, 2000 (65 FR 20157).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-J65334-MT Rating EC2, Keystone-Quartz Ecosystem Management, Implementation, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Wise River Ranger District, Beaverhead County, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns with low standard roads. EPA suggests that the final EIS include information regarding enforcement of off-road vehicle travel restrictions, and proposed noxious weed treatment, including potential environmental impacts from weed control chemicals.

ERP No. D-AFS-J65335-MT Rating EC2, Dry Fork Vegetation Restoration Project, To Improve Forest and Watershed Health and Sustainability, King Hill Ranger District, Lewis and Clark National Forest, Cascade and Judith Basin Counties, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns with low standard roads and recommends restoration. EPA recommends that the final EIS include information on aquatic monitoring, enforcement of off-road vehicle travel restrictions, proposed noxious weed treatments, and potential environmental impacts from weed control chemicals.

ERP No. D-AFS-L65376-OR Rating EC2, Silvies Canyon Watershed Restoration Project, To Improve the Ecosystem Health of the Watershed, Grant and Harney Counties, OR.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns with road densities exceeding forest plan objectives, access issues posed by ATVs, adverse impacts to aquatic and upland resources and impacts from livestock grazing activities. EPA suggests that the final EIS include a Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Protocol for listed waters, and a smoke management program for prescribe fires.

ERP No. D-BLM-K67054-NV Rating 3, Phoenix Project, Expansion of Current Mining Operations and Processing Activities, Battle Mountain, Plan of Operations, Lander County, NV.

Summary: EPA determined that the DEIS was inadequate because it lacked any itemized cost estimate for closure and perpetually operating and maintaining the site, and did not include an adequate guarantee that a financial instrument will exist to ensure funds would be available in perpetuity to prevent degradation of groundwater quality and impacts to biological resources. Given the very clear evidence that this mining project would create a perpetual and significant acid mine drainage problem, EPA believes a cost estimate and detailed discussion is necessary in order to determine the magnitude and certainty of the mitigation measures.

ERP No. D-DOE-K08023-AZ Rating EC2, Sundance Energy Project, Interconnecting a 600-megawatt Natural Gas-Fired, Simple Cycle Peaking Power

Plant with Western's Electric Transmission System, Construction and Operation on Private Lands, Pinal County, AZ.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding the availability of process water, the storage and use of wastewater, potential significant air quality impacts, and consultation with Indian Tribal governments. EPA advocated an energy development approach which assures a long-term, sustainable balance between available energy supplies, energy demand, and protection of ecosystem and human health.

ERP No. D-NPS-G65079-OK Rating LO, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, General Management Plan, Implementation, Roger Mill County, OK.

Summary: EPA expressed lack of objections.

ERP No. DA-DOE-A22088-SC Rating EC2, Savannah River Site Salt Processing Alternatives, Evaluation for Separating High-Activity and Low-Activity Fractions of Liquid High-Level Radio-active Waste and Potential Environmental Impacts of Alternatives to the In-Tank-Precipitation Process (ITP), Aiken and Barnwell Counties, SC.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding cumulative impacts and the need to provide additional alternative analysis.

Dated: May 22, 2001.

Joseph C. Montgomery,
Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 01-13293 Filed 5-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6618-3]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency:

Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 or www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa
Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements Filed May 14, 2001

Through May 18, 2001
Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 010174, FINAL EIS, FHWA, CA, U.S. Highway 101 Transportation Improvement Project, between Vineyard Avenue to Johnson Drive, Funding, in the Cities of Oxnard and San Buenaventura, Ventura County, CA, Due: June 18, 2001, Contact: Jeff Kolb (916) 498-5037.

This EIS should have appeared in the FR on 05/18/2001.