

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

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Comment Date: 5 p.m. on July 11, 2005.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP04-413-000, CP04-414-000, and CP04-415-000]

Entrega Gas Pipeline Inc.; Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Entrega Pipeline Project

July 1, 2005.

The environmental staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the interstate natural gas pipeline transmission facilities proposed by Entrega Gas Pipeline Inc. (Entrega) in the above-referenced dockets.

The final EIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Its purpose is to inform the Commission, the public, and other permitting agencies about the potential adverse and beneficial environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and its alternatives, and to recommend practical, reasonable, and appropriate mitigation measures which would avoid or reduce any significant adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable and, where feasible, to less than significant levels. The final EIS concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact.

The Entrega Pipeline Project involves the construction and operation of a new interstate natural gas pipeline system that would extend between a proposed

Meeker Hub in Rio Blanco County, Colorado; to Wamsutter, in Sweetwater County, Wyoming; and continuing on to the Cheyenne Hub in Weld County, Colorado. The final EIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities in Colorado and Wyoming:

- About 328.1 miles of new pipeline of 36- and 42-inch-diameter pipeline—

- 136.3 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline, with 86.1 miles in Colorado (Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties) and 50.2 miles in Wyoming (Sweetwater County); and

- 191.8 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline, with 183.1 miles in Wyoming (Sweetwater, Carbon, Albany, and Laramie Counties) and 8.7 miles in Colorado (Larimer and Weld Counties);

- Three new compressor stations (the Meeker Hub and Bighole Compressor Stations in Colorado, the Wamsutter Compressor Station in Wyoming);

- Seven meter stations at interconnections with other pipeline systems (three associated with the new compressor stations, one of which would be constructed by Wyoming Interstate Company), four at the new Cheyenne Hub Metering Station in Wyoming;

- Four pig launchers and four pig receivers (six associated with compressor and metering stations, one launcher and one receiver at the new Arlington Pigging Station in Wyoming);

- 22 mainline valves (5 valves at compressor and metering stations, 17 valves along the pipeline ROW); and

- Other associated facilities, such as access roads and powerlines.

The proposed project would be capable of transporting up to 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day from the Meeker Hub Compressor Station to interconnections at:

- Wamsutter, Wyoming with the Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG) and Wyoming Interstate Company transmission systems that serve markets east and west of Wamsutter; and

- The Cheyenne Hub (Weld County, Colorado) with CIG, Cheyenne Plains Gas Pipeline Company, Trailblazer Pipeline Company, and Public Service Company of Colorado. These systems would transport gas to markets in the Midwest and Central U.S. and the Eastern Slope south of the Cheyenne Hub.

The purpose of the Entrega Pipeline Project is to transport natural gas from supply basins in the central Rocky Mountains to interstate pipelines at

Wamsutter and the Cheyenne Hub. From these points, the gas could be transported to markets in the West, the Midwest, or the Central United States, depending on the delivery location specified by the shipper. The need for the project arises from the current and projected increase of natural gas production in the Rocky Mountain region, which is occurring without a concurrent increase in pipeline capacity to transport this gas out from the production basins and into the interstate pipeline network.

The final EIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference Room, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502-8371.

A limited number of copies are available from the FERC's Public Reference Room identified above. In addition, copies of the final EIS have been mailed to Federal, State, and local agencies; public interest groups; individuals and affected landowners who have requested the draft EIS; libraries and newspapers in the project area; and parties to this proceeding.

In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, no agency decision on a proposed action may be made until 30 days after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes a Notice of Availability of the final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

However, the CEQ regulations provide an exception to this rule when an agency decision is subject to a formal internal appeal process which allows other agencies or the public to make their views known. In such cases, the agency decision may be made at the same time the notice of the final EIS is published by the EPA, allowing both periods to run concurrently. The Commission's decision for this proposed action is subject to a 30-day rehearing period.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1-866-208-FERC or on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP04-413) in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at

FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676; or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link on the FERC Internet Web site also

provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E5-3609 Filed 7-7-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 12484-000]

Metro Hydroelectric Company; Notice of Intent To File License Application, Filing of Pre-Application Document, Commencement of Licensing Proceeding, Scoping Meetings and Study Request Workshop, Solicitation of Comments on the Pad and Scoping Document, and Identification of Issues and Associated Study Requests

July 1, 2005.

a. *Type of Filing:* Notice of Intent To File License Application for an Original License and Pre-Application Document; Commencing Licensing Proceeding.

b. *Project No.:* 12484-000.

c. *Date Filed:* May 5, 2005.

d. *Submitted by:* Metro Hydroelectric Company (MHC).

e. *Name of Project:* Metro Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* The proposed Metro Hydroelectric Project would be located on the Cuyahoga River in Summit County, Ohio. The project would not affect Federal lands.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* 18 CFR part 5 of the Commission's Regulations.

h. *Potential Applicant Contact:* M. Clifford Phillips, Metro Hydroelectric Company, LLC, 150 North Miller Road, Suite 450 C, Fairlawn, Ohio 44333, (330) 869-8451.

i. *FERC Contact:* Timothy Konnert (202) 502-6359 or via e-mail at timothy.konnert@ferc.gov.

j. We are asking Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to cooperate with us in the preparation of the environmental document. Agencies who would like to request cooperating status should follow the instructions for filing comments described in paragraph o below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document cannot also intervene. *See*, 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).

k. With this notice, we are initiating informal consultation with: (a) The U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service and/or NOAA Fisheries under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 CFR part 402 and (b) the State Historic Preservation Officer, as required by section 106, National Historical Preservation Act, and the implementing regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at 36 CFR 800.2.

l. With this notice, we are designating Metro Hydroelectric Company as the Commission's non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

m. Metro Hydroelectric Company filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD), including a proposed process plan and schedule with the Commission, pursuant to 18 CFR 5.6 of the Commission's regulations. The Commission issued Scoping Document 1 on July 1, 2005.

n. Copies of the PAD and Scoping Document 1 (SD1) are available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site (<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. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in paragraph h.

Register online at <http://ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm> to be notified via e-mail of new filing and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

o. With this notice, we are soliciting comments on the PAD and SD1 as well as study requests. All comments on the PAD and SD1, and study requests should be sent to the address above in paragraph h. In addition, all comments on the PAD and SD1, study requests, requests for cooperating agency status, and all communications to Commission staff related to the merits of the potential application (original and eight copies) must be filed with the Commission at the following address: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. All filings with the Commission must include on the first page, the project name (Metro Hydroelectric Project) and number (P-12484-000), and bear the heading "Comments on Pre-Application

Document," "Study Requests," "Comments on Scoping Document 1," "Request for Cooperating Agency Status," or "Communications to and from Commission Staff." Any individual or entity interested in submitting study requests, commenting on the PAD or SD1, and any agency requesting cooperating status must do so by August 27, 2005.

Comments on the PAD and SD1, study requests, requests for cooperating agency status, and other permissible forms of communications with the Commission may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the "e-filing" link.

p. At this time, Commission staff intends to prepare a single Environmental Assessment for the project, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Scoping Meetings

We will hold two scoping meetings at the times and places noted below. The daytime meeting will focus on resource agency, Indian tribes, and non-governmental organization concerns, while the evening meeting is primarily for receiving input from the public. We invite all interested individuals, organizations, and agencies to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist staff in identifying particular study needs, as well as the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the environmental document. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Daytime Scoping Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 27, 2005, 9:30 a.m. (EST).

Location: Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls, 1989 Front Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Evening Scoping Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 27, 2005, 6:30 p.m. (EST).

Location: Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls, 1989 Front Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

For Directions: Please call Clifford Phillips at (330) 869-8451.

Scoping Document 1 (SD1), which outlines the subject areas to be addressed in the environmental document, has been mailed to the individuals and entities on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of SD1 will be available at the scoping meetings, or may be viewed on the Web at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the