

to submit brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You may file your comments electronically by using the eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the link to Documents and Filings. 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"; or

(3) You may file a paper copy of your comments at the following address: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

#### Environmental Mailing List

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If the EA is published for distribution, copies will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the document instead of the CD version or would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Information Request (Appendix 2).

#### Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an "intervenor" which is an official party to the Commission's proceeding. Intervenor play a more formal role in the process and are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, 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. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are included in the User's Guide under the "e-filing" link on the Commission's Web site.

#### 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 Web site at <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 in the Docket Number field (i.e., CP11-59). 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 formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>.

Finally, public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx> along with other related information.

Dated: February 16, 2011.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2011-4082 Filed 2-23-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP11-46-000]

##### Kern River Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Mountain Pass Lateral Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues and Notice of Onsite Environmental Review

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 Mountain Pass Lateral Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Kern River Gas Transmission Company (Kern River) in San Bernardino County, California. This EA will be used by the Commission in its decisionmaking 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 on the project. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues need to be evaluated in the EA. Please note that the scoping period will close on March 18, 2011.

#### Site Visit

On March 8, 2011, the Office of Energy Projects (OEP) staff will conduct a site visit of the planned Mountain Pass Lateral Project. We will inspect accessible locations along the proposed pipeline route, as feasible. Examination of the proposed pipeline route will be by automobile, remote observation from vantage point(s) at higher elevations relative to the proposed route, and on foot. Representatives from BLM, Kern River and Molycorp will accompany the OEP staff.

All interested parties may attend. Those planning to attend must provide their own transportation (vehicles with high clearance are required) and should meet at the following time and location: Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 10 a.m. (PST), Location: Primm Valley Golf Club, Directions: (Interstate 15 Exit #291, Yates Well Road, right at stop sign; follow signs; meet in parking lot past entrance gate).

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

#### Summary of the Proposed Project

Kern River proposes to construct approximately 8.6 miles of 8-inch lateral pipeline in San Bernardino County, California extending from the existing Kern River mainline along the western edge of Ivanpah Valley and terminating at the active mining operation on property owned by Molycorp Minerals, LLC (Molycorp). The lateral pipeline would have a design capacity of 24.27 million standard cubic feet per day. According to Kern River, its project and the natural gas it delivers to the Molycorp facility would provide reliable power generation and steam production in order to facilitate

Molycorp's existing rare earth separations process.

The Mountain Pass Lateral Project would consist of the following facilities:

- Approximately 8.6 miles of 8-inch lateral pipeline;
- A tap assembly and pig launcher<sup>1</sup> within and adjacent to Kern River's existing mainline pipeline system right-of-way at milepost 585.77; and
- A new meter station and pig receiver on the existing Molycorp property.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in Appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

#### Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would disturb about 93.51 acres of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline. The majority of construction would occur on land managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM); remaining construction would occur on property owned by Molycorp. Following construction, about 51.97 acres would be maintained for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and allowed to revert to former uses.

#### 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 us<sup>3</sup> to discover and address 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 the issues to address in the EA. All comments received will be considered during the preparation of the EA.

In the EA we 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;
- Land use;
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- Cultural resources;
- Vegetation and wildlife;
- Air quality and noise;
- Endangered and threatened species; and
- Public safety.

We will also evaluate reasonable 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 presented in the EA. The EA will be placed in the public record and, depending on the comments received during the scoping process, may be published and distributed to the public. A comment period will be allotted if the EA is published for review. 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 beginning on page 4.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA. These agencies may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their responsibilities. 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. Currently, the BLM Needles Field Office has expressed its intention to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EA to satisfy its NEPA responsibilities related to this project.

#### Consultations 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, we are using this notice to initiate consultation with 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>4</sup> We will define the

project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPO(s) as the project is further developed. On natural gas facility projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, compressor stations, and access roads). Our EA for this project will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

#### 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 Kern River. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Threatened endangered species (including desert tortoise) habitat
- Alternative pipeline routes
- Access road improvements

#### Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with 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. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before March 18, 2011.

For your convenience, there are three methods which you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. In all instances please reference the project docket number (CP11-46-000) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert eFiling staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov).

(1) You may file your comments electronically by using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the link to Documents and Filings. An eComment is an easy method for interested persons to submit brief, text-only comments on a project;

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defined in those regulations as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register for Historic Places.

<sup>1</sup> A "pig" is a tool that is inserted into and moves through the pipeline, and is used for cleaning the pipeline, internal inspections, or other purposes.

<sup>2</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at <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. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

<sup>3</sup> "We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

<sup>4</sup> The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Historic properties are

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Dated: February 16, 2011.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2011-4081 Filed 2-23-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER11-2641-000]

##### Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; Notice of Filing

Take notice that, on February 10, 2011, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC filed to supplement its filing, in the above captioned docket, with information required under the Commission's regulations. Such filing serves to reset the filing date in this proceeding.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as

appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant and all the parties in this proceeding.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 14 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link and is available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an "eSubscription" link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive e-mail notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please e-mail [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

*Comment Date:* 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, February 23, 2011.

Dated: February 16, 2011.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2011-4080 Filed 2-23-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ID-6495-000]

##### Keyser, Michael J.; Notice of Filing

Take notice that on February 15, 2011, Michael J. Keyser submitted for filing, an application for authority to hold interlocking positions, pursuant to section 305(b) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 825d(b) (2008), Part 45 of Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 18 CFR part 45 and 45.8 (2010), and Commission Order No. 664, 112 FERC ¶ 61,298 (2005).

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of