

the internet in lieu of paper. *See*, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RT01-77-000]

Southern Company Services, Inc.; Notice of Filing

October 20, 2000.

Take notice that on October 16, 2000, Southern Company Services, Inc., acting on behalf of Alabama Power Company, Georgia Power Company, Gulf Power Company, Mississippi Power Company, and Savannah Electric and Power Company (collectively referred to as Southern Companies), filed a Petition for Declaratory Order in compliance with the Commission's Order No. 2000. In their Petition, Southern Companies proposed the formation of a Gridco that would be a Regional Transmission Organization. Southern Companies also proposed a ratemaking approach for the Gridco.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such filing should file a motion to intervene, comments, or protest 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). All such motions, comments and protests should be filed on or before November 20, 2000. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). Beginning November 1, 2000, comments and protests 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 at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-452-000]

Colorado Interstate Gas Company; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Raton Basin Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

October 20, 2000.

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 Raton Basin Expansion Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG) in Baca and Las Animas Counties, Colorado; Cimarron, Texas, and Beaver Counties, Oklahoma; and Morton County, Kansas.¹ These facilities would consist of about 70 miles of various diameter pipeline and 18,050 horsepower (hp) of compression. 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. 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 CIG 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

CIG wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Colorado, Oklahoma, and Kansas to transport an additional 85,000 Decatherms per day of natural gas in order to increase capacity to points east and south of CIG's Campo Regulator Station. CIG seeks authority to construct and operate the following:

- 21.4 miles of 8-inch-diameter pipeline loop of 3C Keyes to Campo Loop in Cimarron County, Oklahoma and Baca County, Colorado;
- 48.1 miles of 20-inch-diameter loop of 11B Morton to Hooker Loop in Morton County, Kansas and Texas County, Oklahoma;
- New 4,700 hp Trinidad Compressor Station in Las Animas County, Colorado;
- New 8,900 hp Kim Compressor Station in Las Animas County, Colorado;
- Additional 4,450 hp compressor unit at the existing Keyes Compressor Station in Cimarron County, Oklahoma;
- Recylindering of the compressors at the Beaver County Compressor Station in Beaver County, Oklahoma; and
- Facilities for blending of low and high BTU gas within the existing Campo Regulator Station yard in Baca County, Colorado.

The location of the project facilities is show in appendix 1.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 802 acres of land. About 95 percent of the project would be within 50 feet of existing pipelines. Following construction, about 429.0 acres would be maintained as permanent pipeline right-of-way and about 21.5 acres would be maintained as new aboveground facility sites. The remaining 351.5 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

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 us² to discover and address concerns the

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

² "We", "us", and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP).