

the date that retail access commences in the state of Nevada.

Comment Date: October 18, 2002.

Standard Paragraph

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing should file 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). 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 motion to intervene. All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date, and, to the extent applicable, must be served on the applicant and on any other person designated on the official service list. This filing is available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" and follow the instructions (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). Protests and interventions 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.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-25540 Filed 10-7-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP02-420-000]

Red Lake Gas Storage, L.P.; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Red Lake Gas Storage Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

October 1, 2002.

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 Red Lake Gas Storage Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Red Lake Gas Storage, L.P. (RLGS) in Mohave County, Arizona.¹

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

These facilities would consist of: 2 underground salt caverns, about 52 miles of various diameter pipeline, 34,000 horsepower (hp) of compression, and appurtenant gas storage facilities. 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 RLGS representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. RLGS 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, RLGS 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 RLGS 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 Web site (www.ferc.gov).

Summary of the Proposed Project

RLGS proposes to construct the underground gas storage facilities in Mohave County, Arizona to provide firm and interruptible gas storage and hub services in interstate commerce. RLGS seeks authority to construct and operate:

1. Two subsurface solution-mined salt caverns for gas storage;
2. 31.0 miles of 36-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline with a collocated fiber optic cable;
3. 4.7 miles of 6-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline;
4. 11.5 miles of 18-inch-diameter brine disposal pipeline;
5. 4.7 miles of 16-inch-diameter raw-water supply pipeline;
6. four raw water supply wells;
7. four brine disposal wells;
8. a 25,000-horsepower (hp) gas storage field compressor station;
9. a gas dehydration system;
10. a 4.9-mile-long access road;
11. electric power generators; and
12. an interconnecting facility containing a meter station, a 9,000-hp compressor station, and 18-inch-diameter interconnecting pipelines to El Paso Natural Gas Company (0.3-mile-long), Transwestern Pipeline Company (0.2-mile-long), and Questar Southern

Trails Pipeline Company (0.4-mile-long).

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.² If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the project, send in your request using the form in Appendix 3.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 746.9 acres of land. Following construction, about 414.3 acres would be maintained as new aboveground facility sites and permanent right-of-way. The remaining 332.6 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 us³ 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 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
Land use
Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
Cultural resources
Vegetation and wildlife
Air quality and noise
Endangered and threatened species
Hazardous waste
Public safety

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 "FERRIS" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to FERRIS 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).

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 beginning on page 5.

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

Impact on habitats unique to ephemeral waterbodies;

Water use and brine disposal; and
Impact on protected species and/or Federal Species of Concern (SC) including:

Plants—Parish's phacelia (SC), desert monopod, and three-hearts;
Birds—Loggerhead shrike (SC), western burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk;
Mammals—sensitive bat species; and
Reptiles/Amphibians—Sonoran desert tortoise, chuckwalla, and rosy boa

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 effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations and/or 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: Magalie R. Salas, 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 Hydro.

Reference Docket No. CP02-420-000.

Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before October 31, 2002.

Please note that we are continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. As a result, we will include all comments that we receive within a reasonable time frame in our environmental analysis of this project. However, the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing of any comments or interventions or protests to this proceeding. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create a free account which can be created by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."

If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to remain on our mailing list, please return the Information Request (Appendix 4). 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 proceeding 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

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

which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Environmental Mailing List

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. It is also being sent to all identified potential right-of-way grantors. By this notice we are also asking governmental agencies, especially those in appendix 3, to express their interest in becoming cooperating agencies for the preparation of the EA.

Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1-866-208-FERC or on the FERC Internet Web site (www.ferc.gov) using the FERRIS link. Click on the FERRIS link, enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance with FERRIS, the FERRIS helpline can be reached at (202) 502-8222, TTY (202) 502-8659. The FERRIS link on the FERC Internet website also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Deputy Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2210-082]

Notice of Application for Amendment of License and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests

October 1, 2002.

Take notice that the following application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

a. *Application Type*: Non-Project Use of Project Lands.

b. *Project No*: 2210-082.

c. *Date Filed*: September 5, 2002.

d. *Applicant*: Appalachian Power Company (APC).

e. *Name of Project*: Smith Mountain.

f. *Location*: The project is located on the Roanoke River, in Bedford,