

The Respondent's answer, motions to intervene, and protests must be served on the Complainants.

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.

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*Comment Date:* 5 p.m. Eastern Time on March 16, 2011.

Dated: March 3, 2011.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2011-5319 Filed 3-8-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP11-78-000]

#### CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company, LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Line AM-46 Replacement 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 Line AM-46 Replacement Project involving construction, operation, and abandonment of facilities by CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company, LLC (CEGT) in Howard, Hempstead, Sevier, and Little River Counties, Arkansas. 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.

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 April 1, 2011.

The Office of Energy Projects staff will conduct an onsite environmental review of the project area on March 29, 2011 to gather data for its environmental assessment. Staff will examine the proposed pipeline route, facilities, and alternative routes filed by CEGT. Viewing of this area is anticipated to be from public access points. All interested parties are invited to attend but must provide their own transportation. Those attending should meet at the following location and time: Line AM-46 Replacement Project, FERC Environmental Site Review, March 29, 2011 at 9 a.m. Central Time, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Millwood Lake Project Office, 1528 Hwy 32 East Ashdown, AR.

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.

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 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 where compensation would be determined 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 CEGT 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 also available for viewing on the FERC Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

#### Summary of the Proposed Project

The Line AM-46 Replacement Project would involve abandonment and replacement of natural gas facilities to ensure continued supply of about 50 million standard cubic feet of natural

gas per day to the Ashdown, Arkansas area. CEGT proposes to abandon in place related pipeline segments in Howard, Sevier, and Little River County, Arkansas. These segments cross Millwood Lake or associated waterbodies and were constructed between 1929 and 1965. Frequent repairs on these lines necessitate their replacement. CEGT proposes to replace these segments with a new pipeline which would bypass Millwood Lake and be located in Howard, Hempstead, and Little River Counties, Arkansas.

The Line AM-46 Replacement Project would consist of the following facilities:

- Construction of 16.7 miles of 10-inch-diameter pipeline,
- Construction of a pig launcher and receiver,<sup>1</sup> and
- Abandonment of a total of 16.2 miles of 8- and 10-inch-diameter pipeline.

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 196 acres of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline. Following construction, about 81 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. About 83 percent of the proposed pipeline route parallels existing pipeline, utility, or road rights-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 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

<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.

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;
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- Vegetation and wildlife;
- Endangered and threatened species;
- Land use;
- Cultural resources;
- Air quality and noise; 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 below.

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

- Crossing of wetlands enlisted under the Wetland Reserve Program for the protection, restoration and enhancement of wetlands.
- Potential impacts on federally listed threatened and endangered species occurring within the project area.

#### 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 April 1, 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 (CP11-78-000) 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;

(2) You may file your comments electronically by using the *eFiling* feature, which is located on the Commission's Web site 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

The environmental mailing list includes Federal, State, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose

property may be used temporarily for project purposes, and anyone who submits comments on the project. We will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that we send the information related to this environmental review to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. If the EA is published for distribution, copies will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment.

#### 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.*, CP11-78). 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: March 2, 2011.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2011-5316 Filed 3-8-11; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EF11-4-001]

#### Western Area Power Administration; Notice of Filing

Take notice that on March 3, 2011, the Western Area Power Administration, submitted its Open Access Transmission Tariff Compliance Filing, to be effective March 2, 2011.

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. On or before the comment date, it is not necessary to serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.

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 March 24, 2011.

Dated: March 3, 2011.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2011-5323 Filed 3-8-11; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL11-24-000]

#### SunZia Transmission, LLC; Notice of Petition for Declaratory Order

Take notice that on February 23, 2011, pursuant to Rule 207(a)(2) of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), 18 CFR 385.207(a)(2) (2010), SunZia Transmission, LLC (SunZia) filed a revised petition for declaratory order requesting that the Commission find that: (i) Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP), SouthWestern Power Group (SWPG), ECP SunZia, LLC (ECP SunZia), and Shell WindEnergy Inc. (SWE) (collectively SunZia Owners) each owns that portion of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (Project) equal to its *pro rata* share of investment in the Project,<sup>1</sup> (ii) SWPG, ECP SunZia, and SWE may allocate up to 50 percent of their *pro rata* shares of the Project to anchor customers through long-term firm negotiated rate contracts,<sup>2</sup> and (iii) electrical interconnection or transmission requests with respect to the Project are premature prior to the Project attaining sufficient maturity as to its permitting, licensing, determination of the final alignment, and determination of the resulting estimated costs.

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

<sup>1</sup> In addition to the SunZia Owners, Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District (SRP) and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (TSGT) are sponsors of the Project. Neither SRP nor TSGT is a "public utility" within the meaning of section 201(e) of the Federal Power Act.

<sup>2</sup> The remaining sponsors of the Project, SRP, TSGT, and TEP—all existing load-serving entities with existing transmission systems—plan to incorporate their *pro rata* shares of the Project into their transmission systems and provide service pursuant to their respective open access transmission tariffs (OATTs). As non-public utilities, SRP and TSGT are not required to file their OATTs with the Commission.

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. On or before the comment date, it is not necessary to serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.

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.

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*Comment Date:* 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, March 17, 2011.

Dated: March 3, 2011.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2011-5324 Filed 3-8-11; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 13885-000]

#### City of Tacoma, Washington; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments and Motions to Intervene

On November 22, 2010, the City of Tacoma, Washington (Tacoma), filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of the Tacoma Water Supply Hydroelectric Project (Tacoma Project or project) to be located on the existing Tacoma Water Transmission System, in Pierce County, Washington.<sup>1</sup> The sole

<sup>1</sup> Tacoma filed a competing preliminary permit application in response to the notice for a preliminary permit application for the same site from Energy Exchange, Inc. for Project No. 13729.

Continued