Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP15–549–000]

Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed SM–80 MAOP Restoration Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

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 SM–80 MAOP Restoration Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC (Columbia Gas) in Wayne County, West Virginia. The Commission will use this EA 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. 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. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EA. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before November 14, 2015.

If you sent comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on September 2, 2015, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. CP15–549–000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission’s current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this proposed project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern. If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you 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 Commission approves the project, 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.

Columbia Gas provided landowners with a fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled “An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?” 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 (www.ferc.gov).

Public Participation

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (202) 502–8258 or efiling@ferc.gov. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature on the Commission’s Web site (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically by using the eFiling feature on the Commission’s Web site (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 create an account by clicking on “eRegister.” If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select “Comment on a Filing” as the filing type; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP15–549–000) with your submission:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Columbia Gas proposes to abandon in place approximately 3.3 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline and associated above ground appurtenances located on its existing SM–80 natural gas transmission system located in Wayne County, West Virginia. This section would be abandoned due to its age and condition, and the current Department of Transportation requirements based on increases in population density near the pipeline. Columbia Gas would also construct approximately 3.9 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipe to replace the abandoned pipeline. The new pipeline would be tied-in to the existing SM–80 pipeline at mileposts 0.67 and 4.56 and would be co-located with the existing SM–80 Loop 1 and other existing easements for 3.8 of the 3.9 miles. The 3.3 miles of 30-inch diameter pipeline is located in an area that has undergone an increase in residential development. In order to decrease the potential impacts to this residential development, Columbia Gas proposed to install the 30-inch diameter replacement pipeline to the south and east of the proposed abandonment.

In addition to the above-mentioned pipeline, the SM–80 MAOP Restoration Project would require minor modification to support facilities.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would disturb about 77.9 acres of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline. Following construction, Columbia Gas would maintain about 12.4 acres for permanent operation of the project’s facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses. About 96 percent of the

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1 A pipeline loop is a segment of pipe constructed parallel to an existing pipeline to increase capacity.
2 The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the Federal Register. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at 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.
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 3 to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This procedure 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. We will consider all filed comments 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;
- public safety; and
- cumulative impacts.

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.

The EA will present our independent analysis of the issues. The EA will be available in the public record through eLibrary. We may also publish and distribute the EA to the public for an allotted comment period. We will consider all comments on the EA before making our recommendations to the Commission. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section, beginning on page 2. With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues of this project to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA. 4 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.

Conferences 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 the applicable State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), 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. 5 We will define the project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPO as the project develops. 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.

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, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, 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 we publish and distribute the EA, 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. Intervenors 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 in the “Document-less Intervention Guide” under the “e-filing” link on the Commission’s Web site. Motions to intervene are more fully described at http://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/how-to-intervene.asp.

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 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., CP15–549). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at 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 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 www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

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

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3 “We,” “us,” and “our” refer to the environmental staff of the Commission’s Office of Energy Projects.

4 The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.6.

5 The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
Dated: October 23, 2015.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015–27574 Filed 10–28–15; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

FEDERAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD

Notice of Renewal of FASAB Charter

AGENCY: Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board.

ACTION: Notice.

Board Action: Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3511(d), the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463), as amended, and the FASAB Rules Of Procedure, as amended in October 2010, notice is hereby given that under the authority and in furtherance of the objectives of 31 U.S.C. 3511(d), the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of OMB, and the Comptroller General (the Sponsors) have agreed to continue an advisory committee to consider and recommend accounting standards and principles for the federal government.

For Further Information, or to Obtain a Copy of the Charter, Contact: Ms. Wendy M. Payne, Executive Director, 441 G St. NW., Mail Stop 6H20, Washington, DC 20548, or call (202) 512–7350.


Dated: October 23, 2015.

Charles Jackson,
Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015–27578 Filed 10–28–15; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 1610–02–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 15–1130]

Notice of Debarment; Federal Lifeline Universal Service Support Mechanism

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) gives notice of Oscar Enrique Perez-Zumaeta’s debarment from the federal Lifeline universal service support mechanism (Lifeline program) for a period of three years. During this debarment period, Mr. Perez-Zumaeta is prohibited from participating in activities associated with or related to the Lifeline program, including the receipt of funds or discounted services through the Lifeline program, or consulting with, assisting, or advising applicants or service providers regarding the Lifeline program.

DATES: Debarment commences on the date Mr. Perez-Zumaeta receives the debarment letter or October 29, 2015, whichever comes first, for a period of three years.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Celia Lewis, Paralegal Specialist, Federal Communications Commission, Enforcement Bureau, Investigations and Hearings Division, Room 4–A422, 445 12th Street SW., Washington, DC 20554. Celia Lewis may be contacted by telephone at (202) 418–7456 or email at Celia.Lewis@fcc.gov. If Ms. Lewis is unavailable, you may contact Mr. Kalun Lee, Deputy Chief, Investigations and Hearings Division, by telephone at (202) 418–0796 or email at Kalun.Lee@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bureau debars Mr. Perez-Zumaeta for a period of three years pursuant to 47 CFR 54.8 and 0.111(a)(14). Mr. Perez-Zumaeta’s conviction for money laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1957(a) and 18 U.S.C. 2, in connection with fraudulent claims against the Lifeline program is the basis for this debarment. Attached is the Notice of Debarment, DA 15–1130, which was mailed to Mr. Perez-Zumaeta and released on October 5, 2015. The complete text of the Notice of Debarment is available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC’s Reference Information Center, Portal II, 445 12th Street SW., Room CY–A257, Washington, DC 20554. In addition, the complete text is available on the FCC’s Web site at http://www.fcc.gov.

Federal Communications Commission.
Jeffrey J. Gee, Chief, Investigations and Hearings Division, Enforcement Bureau.

October 5, 2015
DA 15–1130
SEN'T VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Mr. Oscar Enrique Perez-Zumaeta
c/o William P. Earley
Federal Public Defender-OKC
215 Dean A McGee Ave
Suite 109
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Re: Notice of Debarment, File No. EB–IH–15–00019209
Dear Mr. Perez-Zumaeta:
The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) hereby notifies you that, pursuant to section 54.8 of the Commission’s rules, you are prohibited from participating in activities associated with or related to the federal low-income support mechanism (Lifeline program) for three years from either the date of your receipt of this Notice of Debarment or of its publication in the Federal Register, whichever comes first (Debarment Date).1

On June 8, 2015, the Commission’s Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) sent you a notice of suspension and initiation of debarment proceedings (Notice of Suspension) that was published in the Federal Register on July 9, 2015.2 The Notice of Suspension suspended you from participating in any activities associated with or related to the Lifeline program, including receiving funds or discounted services through the Lifeline program, or consulting with, assisting, or advising applicants or service providers regarding the Lifeline program.3 It also described the basis for initiating debarment proceedings against you, the applicable debarment procedures, and the effect of debarment.

As discussed in the Notice of Suspension, on November 7, 2014, you were convicted of money laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1957(a) and 18 U.S.C. 2, in connection with fraudulent claims against the federal Lifeline program.4 You owned and managed PSPS Sales LLC (PSPS), a California entity that recruited low-income individuals to apply for Lifeline telephone service through Icon Telecom, Inc. (Icon).5 Specifically, you pled guilty to one count of money laundering for depositing a $52,390.00 check from Icon into a PSPS bank account, despite knowing that more

1 47 CFR 54.8(e), (g). 47 CFR 0.111 (delegating to the Bureau authority to resolve universal service suspension and debarment proceedings). In 2007, the Commission extended the debarment rules to apply to all federal universal service support mechanisms, including the Lifeline program. See Comprehensive Review of the Universal Service Fund Management, Administration, & Oversight, Report and Order, 22 FCC Rcd 16372, 16410–12 (2007) (Program Management Order) (renumbering section 54.521 of the universal service debarment rules as section 54.8 and amending paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(5), (c), (d), (e)(2)(i), (e)(3), (e)(4), and (g)).
3 47 CFR 54.8(a)(1), (d).