Comments: Comments are invited on:
(1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility;
(2) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
(3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and
(4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: March 29, 2016.
Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP15–558–000]

PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC; Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review of the PennEast Pipeline Project

On September 24, 2015, PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC (PennEast) filed an application in Docket No. CP15–558–000 under section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct, operate, and maintain a new natural gas pipeline system in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The proposed project is known as the PennEast Pipeline Project and will provide approximately 1.0 billion cubic feet per day of year-round transportation natural gas service to markets in eastern and southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

On October 8, 2015, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) issued its Notice of Application for the project. Among other things, that notice alerted other agencies issuing federal authorizations of the requirement to complete all necessary reviews and to reach a final decision on the request for a federal authorization within 90 days of the date of issuance of the Commission staff’s final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the PennEast Pipeline Project. This instant notice identifies the FERC staff’s planned schedule for completion of the final EIS for the project.

Schedule for Environmental Review

Issuance of Notice of Availability of the final EIS—December 16, 2016.

If a schedule change becomes necessary, additional notice will be provided so the relevant agencies are kept informed of the project’s progress.

Project Description

The project includes a total of 118.8 miles of pipeline and laterals composed of 115.0 miles of new, 36-inch-diameter pipeline extending from Luzerne County, Pennsylvania to Mercer County, New Jersey. The Project would also have three pipeline laterals: The 2.1-mile Hollertown Lateral consisting of 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Northampton County, Pennsylvania; the 0.1-mile Gilbert Lateral consisting of 12-inch-diameter pipeline in Hunterdon County, Pennsylvania; and the 1.5-mile Lambertville Lateral consisting of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

The proposed aboveground facilities consist of a new, 47,700 horsepower compressor station in Kidder Township, Carbon County, Pennsylvania. The project would also include the construction of 8 meter and regulator stations, 11 mainline valves, and 11 pig launcher/receiver sites.

Background

On October 10, 2014, the Commission staff granted PennEast’s request to use the FERC’s Pre-filing environmental review process and assigned the PennEast Pipeline Project Docket No. PF15–1–000. On January 13, 2015, the Commission issued, in that docket, a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Planned PennEast Pipeline Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings (NOI). The NOI was sent to affected landowners; federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers.

The primary issues raised by the commenters during scoping included concerns about potential impacts on agricultural farms, ground water resources on Sourland Region, protected conservation lands, threatened and endangered species, archaeological sites, forest (i.e., fragmentation), and impacts on property value. In addition, the added responsibility for emergency response teams; potential for arsenic release into groundwater; safety of local residents in the event of a pipeline incident; long-term impacts of compressor stations on human health and the environment; construction in karst areas; and need for alternatives were also raised.


Additional Information

In order to receive notification of the issuance of the EIS and to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 14744–000]

Energy Resources USA, Inc.; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments and Motions To Intervene

On December 22, 2015, Energy Resources USA, Inc. (Energy Resources) 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 Nolin Lake Dam Hydroelectric Project (Nolin Project or project) to be located at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Nolin Lake Dam on the Nolin River in Edmonson County, Kentucky. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners’ express permission.

The proposed project would consist of the following: (1) A control structure with three 9.5-foot-wide, 25-foot-long spill gates; (2) one 10-foot-diameter, 65-foot-long penstock with a butterfly valve; (3) a bifurcation structure; (4) two 6.5-foot-diameter, 32-foot-long penstocks; (5) a powerhouse containing two generating units with a total capacity of 7 megawatts; (6) a 1000-foot-long, 220-foot-wide tailrace; (7) a substation; and (8) a 3-mile-long, 69 kV transmission line. The proposed project would have an estimated average annual generation of 26,900 megawatt-hours, and operate as directed by the Corps.

Applicant Contact: Mr. Ander Gonzalez, Energy Resources USA Inc., 2655 Le Jeune Road, Suite 804, Coral Gables, Florida 33134; Phone: (954) 248–8425; Email: agonzalez@energyresources.es.

FERC Contact: Christiane Casey; phone: (202) 502–8577.

Deadline for filing comments and motions to intervene: 60 days from the issuance of this notice.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments and motions to intervene using the Commission’s eFiling system at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/eComment.asp. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERConlinesupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208–FERC or on the FERC Web site at www.ferc.gov/efiling."