DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP26–548–000]

Guardian Pipeline, LLC; Notice of Schedule for the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Guardian 3 Expansion Project

On July 1, 2026, Guardian Pipeline, LLC (Guardian) filed an application in Docket No. CP26–548–000 requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act to construct and operate certain natural gas pipeline facilities in Illinois and Wisconsin. The proposed project is known as the Guardian 3 Expansion Project (Project) and would provide about 536,903 dekatherms/day (Dth/day) of long-term firm transportation capacity to help meet the growing demand for additional natural gas supplies in Wisconsin and neighboring states.

On July 14, 2026, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) issued its Notice of Application for the Project. Among other things, that notice alerted agencies issuing federal authorizations of the requirement to complete all necessary reviews and to reach a final decision on a request for a federal authorization within 90 days of the date of issuance of the Commission staff's environmental document for the Project.

This notice identifies Commission staff's intention to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the Project and the planned schedule for the completion of the environmental review.[1] The EA will be issued for a 30-day comment period.

Schedule for Environmental Review

Issuance of EA—March 5, 2027

90-day Federal Authorization Decision Deadline[2]—June 3, 2027.

In accordance with Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, agencies are to publish completion dates for all federal environmental reviews and authorizations. This notice identifies the Commission's anticipated schedule for issuance of the final order for the project, which is based on the anticipated issuance date for the final EA. We currently anticipate issuing a final order for the project no later than:

Issuance of Final Order—June 17, 2027

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

Project Description

The Project would consist of the following facilities:

- approximately 42.6 miles of 36-inch-diameter looping natural gas pipeline (Juliet Loop) in Kendall and DeKalb counties, Illinois;
- approximately 25.5 miles of 36-inch-diameter looping natural gas pipeline (Sycamore Loop) in DeKalb and McHenry counties, Illinois;
- two new 11,110-horsepower (HP) compressor units within Guardian's existing Joliet Compressor Station (CS) in Will County, Illinois;
- modifications to the compression facilities within Guardian's existing Sycamore CS in DeKalb County, Illinois;
- a greenfield 9,000–HP CS (Eden CS) in Dodge County, Wisconsin;
- a greenfield meter and regulator station (MS) (Sheboygan MS) in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin; and
- other appurtenant pipeline facilities in Illinois.

Background

On July 29, 2026, the Commission issued a *Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Proposed Guardian 3 Expansion Project* (Notice of Scoping). The Notice of Scoping 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. In response to the Notice of Scoping, the Commission received comments from The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and twelve stakeholders. The primary issues raised by the commenters are noise impacts and mitigation, agricultural drainage, pipeline safety, and landowner notification. Eight comments were submitted expressing support of the Project. One protest was filed that addresses legal, procedural, environmental, agricultural, hydrologic and operational aspects of the Project. All substantive comments will be addressed in the EA.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)—Chicago District, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, U.S. Department of Agriculture—Natural Resources Conservation Service—Illinois are cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EA.

Additional Information

In order to receive notification of the issuance of the EA and to keep track of formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription. This service provides automatic notification of filings made to subscribed dockets, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to *https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview* to register for eSubscription.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202)502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov.*

Additional information about the Project is available from the FERC website (*www.ferc.gov*). Using the ''eLibrary'' link, select ''General Search'' from the eLibrary menu, enter the selected date range and ''Docket Number'' excluding the last three digits (*i.e.,* CP26–548), and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to eLibrary, the helpline can be reached at (866) 208–3676, TTY (202) 502–8659, or at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.* The eLibrary link on the FERC website also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rule makings.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: September 24, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–19907 Filed 9–28–26; 8:45 am]

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[1] For tracking purposes under the National Environmental Policy Act, the unique identification number for documents relating to this environmental review is EAXX–019–20–000–1785915466.

[2] The Commission's deadline applies to the decisions of other federal agencies, and state agencies acting under federally delegated authority, that are responsible for federal authorizations, permits, and other approvals necessary for proposed projects under the Natural Gas Act. Per 18 CFR 157.22(a), the Commission's deadline for other agency's decisions applies unless a schedule is otherwise established by federal law.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PR26–75–000]

Bay Gas Storage Company, LLC; Notice of Staff Protest

1. Commission staff hereby protests, pursuant to section 284.123(g)(4)(i) of the Commission's regulations,[1] the rate petition made by Bay Gas Storage Company, LLC (Bay Gas) on July 30,

[1] 18 CFR 284.123(g)(4)(i) (2025).

2026, in the above referenced docket. Pursuant to sections 284.123(b)(2) and 284.123(g) of the Commission's regulations, Bay Gas filed a rate petition to revise rates for firm and interruptible interstate transportation services provided under section 311 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978. Bay Gas states that the instant rate petition complies with its commitment to file a petition for rate approval on or before July 30, 2026, as stipulated in an amendment filing in Docket No. PR21–58–000. Bay Gas also states that in compliance with an agreement with Commission staff in Docket No. PR21–58–000, it has incorporated Original Cost of plant into the cost of service for its proposed rates. Bay Gas argues that it qualifies for an exemption to the Commission's straight-fixed variable (SFV) rate design policy due to its long-standing rate design that was the result of a settlement in March 1999 which has been carried forward since without change.

2. Commission staff is concerned that Bay Gas has not adequately demonstrated that the proposed firm and interruptible transportation rates are fair and equitable and comply with the underlying principles of SFV rate design. For instance, Bay Gas' proposed rate design does not properly account for variable costs. Bay Gas utilizes a 3400 horsepower Salco compressor station situated between its Whistler Spur Facilities and Mainline Facilities and has various measuring and regulating station equipment throughout its system. Operating these types of plant usually incurs variable costs. However, Bay Gas' proposed transportation rates do not have a usage or commodity charge, and propose a minimum rate of zero. In particular, Commission staff questions the allocation of Total Transmission plant costs for Compressor Station Equipment in Schedule 5 and the lack of compressor station expenses under Transmission Expenses in Schedule 8. Without properly understanding the impact of variable costs on its transmission system, we are unable to determine whether the proposed section 311 transportation rates are fair and equitable.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: September 23, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–19816 Filed 9–28–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings

Take notice that the Commission received the following Natural Gas Pipeline Rate and Refund Report filings:

Filings Instituting Proceedings

Docket Numbers: RP26–1271–000.
Applicants: Cheyenne Plains Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.
Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: Negotiated Rate Agreement Filing (Various) to be effective 11/1/2026.
Filed Date: 9/23/26.
Accession Number: 20260923–5120.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/5/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–1272–000.
Applicants: Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC.
Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: Leidy South—Ellisburg—NFGS Fuel Retention to be effective 11/1/2026.
Filed Date: 9/24/26.
Accession Number: 20260924–5000.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–1273–000.
Applicants: NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC.
Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: Negotiated Rates—DTE 860002 and 860003 to be effective 11/1/2026.
Filed Date: 9/24/26.
Accession Number: 20260924–5003.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–1274–000.
Applicants: Talos Exploration, LLC, Walter Oil & Gas Corporation.
Description: Joint Petition for Limited Waiver of Capacity Release Regulations, *et al.*, Request for Expedited Action and Request for Shortened Comment Period of Talos Exploration LLC, *et al.*
Filed Date: 9/24/26.
Accession Number: 20260924–5054.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/6/26.

Any person desiring to intervene, to protest, or to answer a complaint in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211, 214, or 206 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214, or 385.206) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system (*https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp*) by querying the docket number.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf.* For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov.*

Dated: September 24, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–19908 Filed 9–28–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP26–578–000]

Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC; Notice of Application and Establishing Intervention Deadline

Take notice that on September 9, 2026, Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC (FGT), 1300 Main St., Houston, Texas 77002, filed an application under section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations requesting authorization for its Phase IX Project (Project). The Project consists of increasing the certificated capacity and increase throughput at certain compressor stations, and construct, modify, install, own, and operate certain natural gas transmission facilities to provide transportation services in the states of Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi. The Project is designed to provide 526,750 million British thermal units per day. FGT estimates the total cost of the Project to be $1,220,215,365 and proposes new Rate-Schedule FTS–4 at initial incremental negotiated rates, and to roll project fuel into its existing system fuel treatment, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open for public inspection.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (*http://www.ferc.gov*). From the Commission's Home Page on the internet, this information is available on eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing,