

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation

Docket No. PF10-1-000

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PLANNED LINE N PROJECTS,
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

(February 18, 2010)

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 N Relocation and Interconnect Project and the Line N Compressor Installation Expansion Project (the Line N Projects), proposed by National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Fuel), in Greene and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania (PA). 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.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process we¹ 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 March 22, 2010.**

Comments may be submitted in written form or verbally. Further details on how to submit written comments are provided in the Public Participation section of this notice. In lieu of or in addition to sending written comments, we invite you to attend the public scoping meeting scheduled as follows:

FERC Public Scoping Meeting - Line N Projects

March 3, 2010, 6pm
Graysville Elementary
1029 West Roy Furman Highway
Graysville, PA 15337

1 "We," "us," and "our" refer to environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP).

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project, which includes affected landowners; 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. 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 planned 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 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?" is available for viewing on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov/for-citizens/citizen-guides.asp). 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.

Summary of the Planned Project

National Fuel has proposed to construct, operate, and maintain the Line N Projects, which consist of the Line N Relocation and Interconnect Project (Line N R&I Project) and the Line N Compressor Installation Expansion Project (Line N CIE Project), located in Greene and Washington Counties, PA. The Line N Projects consists of the following facilities:

- The Line N R&I Project consists of the construction of approximately 17.5 miles of new 20-inch diameter natural gas pipeline and a new metering and regulating facility in Green County, PA.
- The Line N CIE Project consists of the construction of the new 5,000 horsepower Buffalo Compressor Station, and replacement of two miles of 20-inch diameter natural gas replacement pipeline located in Washington County, PA.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in Appendix 1.²

²

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 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.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the planned facilities would disturb about 157.6 acres of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline. Following construction, about 119.4 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.

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 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 address in the EA. All comments received will be considered during the preparation of the EA. To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section of this notice, beginning on page 4.

In the EA we will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the planned project under these general headings:

- geology and soils;
- land use, recreation and visual resources;
- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- cultural resources;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- air quality and noise;
- endangered and threatened species;
- hazardous waste;
- public safety; and,
- cumulative impacts.

We will also evaluate reasonable alternatives to the planned project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Although no formal application has been filed, we have already initiated our NEPA review under the Commission's pre-filing process. The purpose of the pre-filing process is to encourage early involvement of interested stakeholders and to identify and

resolve issues before an application is filed with the FERC. As part of our pre-filing review, we have begun to contact some federal and state agencies to discuss their involvement in the scoping process and the preparation of the EA.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be presented in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to those on our environmental mailing list. A comment period will be allotted for review of the EA if it is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

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

Based on a preliminary review of the planned facilities and the environmental information provided by National Fuel, we have identified potential visual and land use impacts that we think deserve attention. National Fuel anticipates that long wall coal mining may proceed beneath the pipeline at some point in the future. Additional issues may be included in our analysis based on your comments.

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 written comments are timely and properly recorded, please send in your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before **March 22, 2010**.

For your convenience, there are three methods which you can use to submit your written comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert eFiling staff available to assist you at 202-502-8258 or efiling@ferc.gov.

- (1) You may file your comments electronically by using the Quick Comment feature, which is located at www.ferc.gov under the link called "[Documents](#)"

[and Filings](#)". A Quick Comment is an easy method for interested persons to submit text-only comments on a project;

- (2) You may file your comments electronically by using the "eFiling" feature that is listed under the "[Documents and Filings](#)" link. eFiling involves preparing your submission in the same manner as you would if filing on paper, and then saving the file on your computer's hard drive. You will attach that file to your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on the links called "[Sign up](#)" or "[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, 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 planned project.

If the EA is published for distribution, 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

Once National Fuel files its application with the Commission, 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 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 website. Please note that you may not request intervenor status at this time. You must wait until a formal application for the project is filed with the Commission.

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 website (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., PF10-1). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, 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.

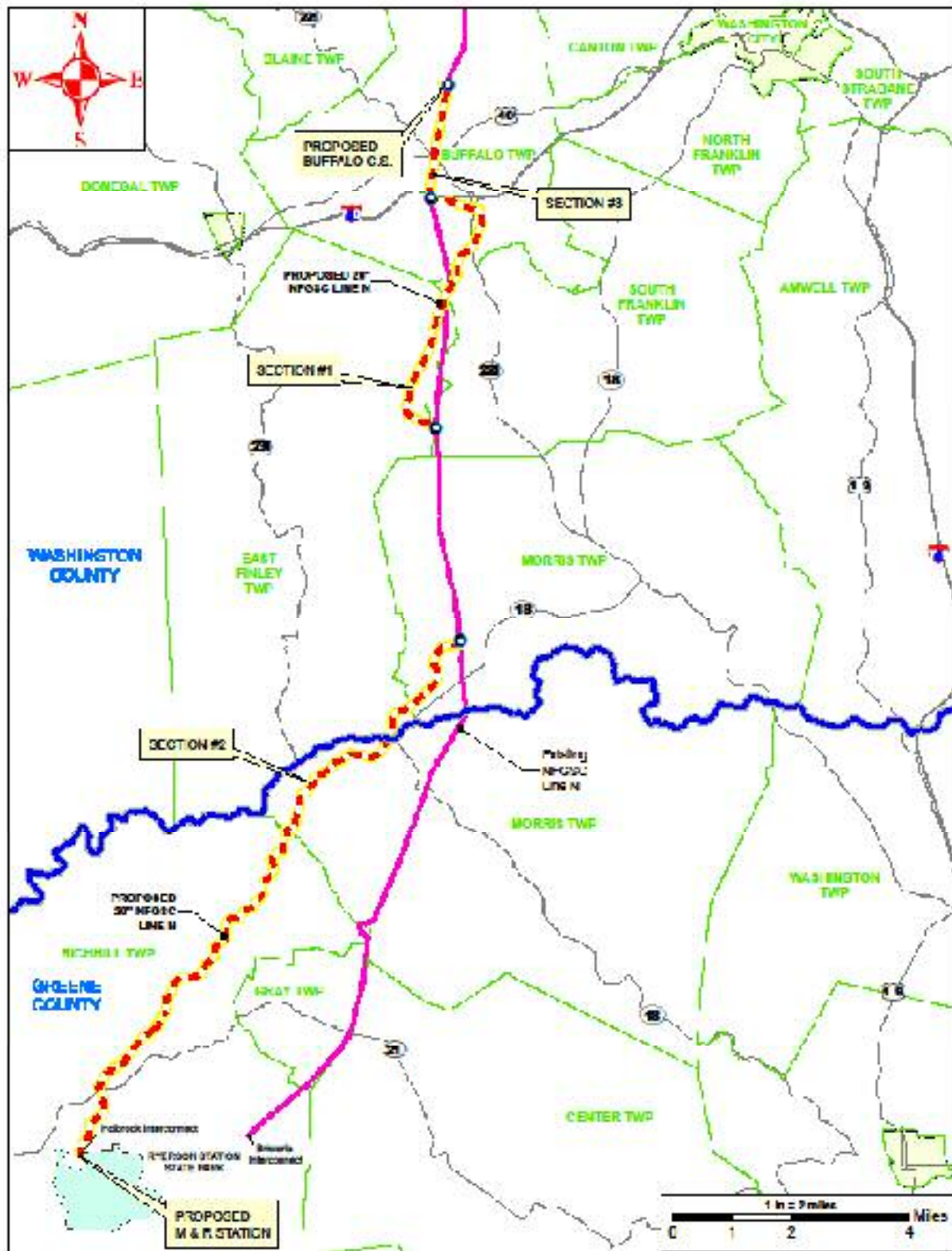
In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to the documents. Go to 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.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

Appendix 1

(Facility Locations)



INFORMATION REQUEST

Line N Projects

Name _____

Agency _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Please send me a paper copy of the published NEPA document

Please remove my name from the mailing list

FROM _____

ATTN: OEP - Gas 3, PJ - 11.3
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

PF10-1-000, Line N Projects

Staple or Tape Here

Document Content(s)

PF10-1-000.DOC.....1-10