

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 Northwest 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 available for viewing on the FERC Internet Web site (www.ferc.gov).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Northwest proposes to abandon in place and by removal 1.42 miles (7,500 feet) of its 16-inch-diameter Lateral from mileposts (MPs) 19.57 to 20.99. part of this pipeline crosses the Clackamas River. River scour from high flood events has exposed part of the pipeline traversing the Clackamas River and poses a navigational hazard for recreational users. Northwest plans to take the this portion of the Lateral out of service. Service from the Lateral would be maintained by Northwest's use of a 20-inch-diameter loop that parallels the Lateral. Northwest seeks authority to:

- Abandon in place a 5,850-foot-long segment of pipeline from MP 19.57 near the Southeast Portland Meter Station to MP 19.68 on the north bank of the north channel of the Clackamas River;
- Abandon by removal a 370-foot-long segment of pipeline from MP 19.68 to MP 19.75 in the north channel of the Clackamas River. No disturbance of Northwest's parallel 20-inch-diameter loop is required;
- Abandon in place a 1,267-foot-long segment of pipeline from MP 20.75 to MP 20.99 beginning at the northern edge of an island that separates the north and south channels of the Clackamas River, and ending just north of the Oregon City Compressor Station;
- Construct and operate a temporary pig launching facility within the existing fenced-in yard of the Southeast Portland Meter Station, and a temporary pig receiving facility just north of the Oregon City Compressor Station.

The segments of pipeline to be abandoned in place will be purged with nitrogen and capped. The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1, figures 1–3.²

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's Web site at the "FERRIS" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502–8371. For instructions on connecting to FERRIS refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require 13.9 acres of land, most of which would be temporary right-of-way. This land is comprised of residential property, riverine shoreline (river island), emergent and forested wetlands, and open water. No new permanent right-of-way would be required, and all temporary right-of-way would be restored to previous condition. Northwest plans to retain and maintain as before its permanent right-of-way along all portions of the pipeline to be abandoned.

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 us³ 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 of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA 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.

We will make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and

³ "We", "us", and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP).

the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. 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.

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

- Residential area in and around the Euler's Circle access road and the SR 224 access road on the north side of the Clackamas River.
- Suitable habitat for federally listed or proposed threatened and endangered species, including Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, may occur in the project area.
- Temporary disturbance of 7.7 acres of wetlands and open water associated with the Clackamas River, including temporary construction of a dry-area structure in the north channel.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentor, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

1. Send an original and two copies of your letter to: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
2. Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas 2 Branch.
3. Reference Docket No. CP03–013–000.
4. Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before February 3, 2003.

Please note that we are continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. As a result, we will include all comments that we