

The general location of Eastern Shore's proposed facilities is shown on the maps attached as appendix 1.³

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of Eastern Shore's proposed facilities would require about 51.3 acres of land, including construction right-of-way for the loops, the meter station, and extra work areas needed for pipe storage yards, staging areas, and warehouse sites. The majority of the loops would be constructed directly adjacent to Eastern Shore's existing rights-of-way. For the construction of the loops, Eastern Shore proposes to use a 75-foot-wide construction right-of-way, which includes a 35-foot overlap of the existing right-of-way for workspace and temporary spoil storage. About 22.2 acres would be maintained as permanent right-of-way. Construction access to Eastern Shore's project generally would use the construction right-of-way and existing road network.

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 us⁴ to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "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

- Water resources and wetlands
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Threatened and endangered species
- Cultural resources
- Land use
- Reliability and safety

We will evaluate possible 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.

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 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 beginning on page 8.

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

- Resources and Wetlands
 - Crossing 8 perennial waterbodies.
 - Crossing 15 wetlands, including 0.6 acres of forested wetlands.
- Vegetation
 - Clearing 3.8 acres of upland forest.
- Threatened and Endangered Species
 - One Federally-listed amphibian specie.
- Land Use
 - 33 residences located within 50 feet of the construction work area.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations or routes), 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:

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; Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas Branch 1; Reference Docket No. CP03-80-000; and Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 27, 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 receive within a reasonable time frame in our environmental analysis of this project. However, the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing of any comments or interventions or protests to this proceeding. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create a free account which can be created by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor". Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 2).⁵ Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do

³ 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 "RIMS" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. For instructions on connecting to RIMS refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

⁴ "We", "us", and "our", refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP).

⁵ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.