

the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47879), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for license for the Hart Hydroelectric Project, located on the South Branch of the Pentwater River, in Oceana County, Michigan, and has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the project. There are no federal lands occupied by the project works or located within the project boundaries.

The FEA contains the staff's analysis of the potential environmental effects of the project and concludes that licensing the project, with appropriate environmental measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

A copy of the FEA is available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

For further information, contact Steve Kartalia at 202-502-6131 or by E-mail at stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP01-5-003 and CP03-305-000]

Algonquin Gas Transmission Company, Distrigas of Massachusetts LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Everett Extension Project, and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues for the Distrigas of Massachusetts LLC Application

June 26, 2003.

A Notice of Intent to prepare and environmental assessment was sent out on March 19, 2003 for the proposed Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin) application for authorization to construct and operate the Everett Extension Project in Suffolk County, Massachusetts. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that

based on the comments and information received during the scoping process a decision was made to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the Everett Extension Project instead of an environmental assessment. In addition, we¹ are requesting comments on additional facilities proposed by Distrigas of Massachusetts LLC (DOMAC).

On May 22, 2003 DOMAC filed an application for a Certification of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct facilities in Suffolk County, Massachusetts to deliver regasified liquefied natural gas (LNG) to customers through the Everett Extension Project. We will review both projects in the same EIS. This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

The applications, and other supplemental filings in these dockets are available for viewing on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>). Click on the "FERRIS" link, select "General Search" from the FERRIS menu, and follow the instructions, being sure to input the correct docket numbers [CP01-5-003 (Algonquin) and CP03-305-000 (DOMAC)].

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 proposed facilities. The pipeline 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 and under certain circumstances the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with Massachusetts law.

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 that Algonquin 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 (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

Summary of the Proposed Projects

Algonquin would construct 6.64 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline, 0.31 miles

of 8-inch-diameter pipeline, three meter stations, and appurtenant facilities. The proposal would extend the 24-inch-diameter Deer Island Lateral pipeline (approved on June 4, 2002, in Docket No. CP01-5-002, but unbuilt yet). The proposal would provide 110,000 dekatherms per day of firm transportation service.

Algonquin requests final authorization for the proposed facilities by December 15, 2003, and would construct its facilities in 2004 during the summer and fall, so that it could place the facilities in service by June 1, 2005.

DOMAC would construct a new 300-foot-long send-out line, odorant system, metering system, and reconfigure its existing vaporization equipment. The proposed facilities would be constructed within the existing boundaries of the LNG terminal. DOMAC requests that the Commission issue a final certificate by December 1, 2003, in order to provide DOMAC with an in-service date for the project in time to meet its contractual commitments to Algonquin.

The general locations of the project facilities are shown in Appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the Everett Extension Project would temporarily disturb a total of about 72.7 acres of land. This includes about 22.9 acres offshore and 36.2 acres onshore for the pipeline construction right-of-way (ROW), and 13.6 acres for extra workspace and contractor staging areas. The total land requirements for the permanent ROW would be about 14.1 acres, including 1.4 acres of land for operation of the new aboveground facilities. The remaining 58.6 acres of land affected by construction would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

Approximately 3.9 miles of the pipeline would be built onshore, and 3.1 miles would be offshore. The offshore construction would include about 2.3 miles of horizontal directional drilling, and about 0.8 miles of shallow water dredging. The offshore disturbance would include about 8.7 acres for trench excavation and 14.2 acres for temporarily storing the side-cast trench spoil. Algonquin states that most (69 percent) of the proposed onshore route would not require

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.

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