

TABLE 1.—CONSTRUCTION AND ABANDONMENT FACILITIES PROPOSED BY NORTHWEST

Project component	Length (feet)	Beginning stationing	Ending stationing
Abandon by Removal 26" & 30" Existing Pipelines in the North Bank Structure	325	15388+93	15391+40
Abandon by Removal 26" Existing Pipeline in the South Floodplain	1360	15370+30	15384+10
Abandon by Removal 30" Existing Pipeline in the South Floodplain	1420	15370+30	15384+49
Abandon by Removal 26" & 30" Existing Pipelines on Private Property	300	15395+23	15397+60
Abandon In Place 26"; Existing Pipeline under the White River	500	15384+10	15388+93
Abandon In Place 30" Existing Pipeline under the White River	450	15384+49	15388+93
Abandon In Place 26" & 30" Existing Pipelines under State Highway 164	340	15397+60	15400+21
Abandon In Place 26" & 30" Existing Pipelines on the North Bank Slope	410	15391+40	15395+23
Retain 26" & 30" Existing Pipelines for Service Feed to the Enumclaw Meter Station	1,100	15402+00	15413+00
Remove Sheet Piling in the South Floodplain	380	15380+74	15384+23
Remove the North Bank Structure		15388+39	15390+22
Remove the previously abandoned 26" Pipeline from the White River	665	15383+59	15390+21
Install 26" Replacement Pipeline by HDD	3120	15378+62	15409+83
Install 30" Replacement Pipeline by HDD	3260	15377+62	15410+23
Install 26" Replacement Pipeline in the South Floodplain by conventional trenching	830	15370+30	15378+62
Install 30" Replacement Pipeline in the South Floodplain by conventional trenching	730	15370+30	15377+62
Tie-in 26" Replacement Pipeline at north end by conventional trenching	340	15409+83	15413+21
Tie-in 30" Replacement Pipeline at north end by conventional trenching	300	15410+23	15413+21

- Install approximately 3,200 feet of replacement pipelines with 2 parallel HDDs traversing underneath the floodplain and White River channel, the slope north of the White River, State Route 164, and Cameron Park.

- Install 300–340 feet of replacement pipelines at the north end of the project to tie into the HDD pipelines.

Northwest must construct the replacement pipelines with HDD prior to removing the existing pipelines in order to maintain service through its Ignacio to Sumas Line. In order to limit in-stream construction to the drier summer months, Northwest proposes to break the construction schedule into two parts: (1) construction of the replacement pipelines from June to October 2003, and (2) removal of the existing pipelines and of the previously abandoned 665-foot-long pipeline from April to August 2004. The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1, figures 1–4.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require 35 acres of land. The construction work area is comprised of 5 acres of existing permanent right-of-way and 30 acres of temporary work space. The construction work area is on 16.4 acres of forested riparian land in the floodplain and north slope, 13 acres of cropland/pasture, 4 acres of

industrial land in the City of Auburn (for a utility yard), 1.5 acres of commercial property, and 1 acre of residential property. Due to the offsetting of the replacement pipelines 50 to 175 feet to the west, Northwest would require 3 additional acres of new permanent right-of-way but would relinquish 4.2 acres of existing permanent right-of-way.

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

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

- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands

- cultural resources
- vegetation and wildlife
- air quality and noise
- endangered and threatened species
- hazardous wastes
- public safety
- alternative routes

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 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 potential impacts may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Federal species of concern which may occur in the project area and could be affected, including the chinook

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.