

Comment Date: September 17, 2003.

Standard Paragraph

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing should file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date, and, to the extent applicable, must be served on the applicant and on any other person designated on the official service list. This filing 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 filed to access the document. For assistance, call (202) 502-8222 or TTY, (202) 502-8659. Protests and interventions may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper; see 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "e-Filing" link. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP01-49-002]

Northwest Pipeline Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the Amended Everett Delta Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

September 3, 2003.

On October 25, 2001, the Commission issued Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest) a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Everett Delta Lateral Project (Order). We¹ prepared an environmental assessment (EA) and on August 10,

2001, we issued a notice of availability for comment on the EA. Comments received on the EA were addressed in the Order authorizing construction and operation of the Everett Delta Project, subject to Northwest's compliance with the environmental conditions. As currently certificated, the Everett Delta Lateral Project in Snohomish County, Washington,² includes approximately 9 miles of 20-inch-diameter lateral pipeline, two delivery stations, and related facilities to provide transportation deliveries from Northwest's mainline to serve a planned Northwest Power Company power plant in Everett, Washington, and to provide additional service to a local distribution company, Puget Sound Energy (PSE). After issuance of the Order for the project, the new power plant that was the anchor market for the project was canceled and the facility agreements underlying this project were terminated. Northwest and PSE then negotiated new commercial arrangements for a revised Everett Delta Lateral Project designed to serve only PSE's distribution system.

Northwest now requests the Commission to amend the certificate for the project to authorize Northwest to construct approximately 9.19 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline (on the certificated route with some variations), instead of 20-inch-diameter pipeline, one meter station, two delivery taps and related facilities designed to provide approximately 113 million decatherms per day of firm transportation service for PSE. The facility differences in the amendment versus the certificated project are: smaller diameter pipeline; 0.19 miles longer pipeline; one less meter station; and small changes to related facilities. We will study the amendments and determine if they are environmentally preferred over the certificated route.

The primary route change involves the certificated route crossing of Catherine Creek by horizontal directional drill (HDD) between mileposts (MPs) 1.2 and 1.52. Geotechnical investigations and site analysis subsequent to the Order have determined that the route through this area has less than a 25 percent probability of success, due to the amount of subsurface gravels and cobbles that would be encountered along the path of the HDD. Northwest has identified a route that would avoid the use of the Catherine Creek HDD—designated the Holly Lane Reroute. The reroute affects the proposed alignment

between MPs 1.16 and 1.78 and crosses Catherine Creek at MP 1.32 where a culvert has already been installed. The majority of the reroute would be within the right-of-way of Callow Road and Holly Lane.

This Notice of Intent is to inform the public that staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare a supplemental EA that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Everett Delta Lateral involving construction and operation of facilities by Northwest in Snohomish County, Washington. The EA will focus on the amendments to determine if they affect our original conclusion that the project does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

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. 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?" 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 (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

Summary of the Proposed Project as Amended

Northwest proposes to construct:

- Approximately 9.19 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline in Snohomish County, Washington, which would tie-in with Northwest's existing mainline and mainline loop at milepost (MP) 1411.3 north of the City of Lake Stevens. The 16-inch-diameter lateral would extend from the interconnect with Northwest's existing system at MP 0.0 and extend to PSE in Everett, Washington;

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

² (Northwest's) application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and part 157 of the Commission's regulations.