

a bypass regulator; Texas Gas Transmission Corporation (Texas Gas); Florida Gas Transmission Company (Florida Gas); and Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee Gas) in Jefferson Davis Parish; Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) in Beauregard Parish; and Texas Eastern at the Gillis Compressor Station; and

- Construct two parallel 0.33-mile 16-inch-diameter lateral pipelines extending from the South Segment to the Cantera facility in Calcasieu Parish; and appurtenant facilities.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

Nonjurisdictional Facilities

Non-jurisdictional facilities that will be built as a result of the proposed LCE Project are limited to taps and connecting piping that may be installed by Sabine Gas, Cantera, and Calcasieu Gas to connect the M&R facilities to their respective pipelines. LCE states these non-jurisdictional facilities will generally include less than 250 feet of small diameter pipeline for each connection.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 461.8 acres of land. Following construction, about 227.5 acres would be maintained as new pipeline right-of-way or aboveground facility sites. The remaining 184.3 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

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.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies of all appendices, other than appendix 1 (maps), are available on the Commission's website at the "eLibrary" 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 eLibrary refer to the last page of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

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

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
- Hazardous waste
- Public safety
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands

We will also 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 5.

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

- Two federally listed endangered or threatened species may occur in the proposed project area.
- A total of 29.56 acres of agricultural land, that includes prime farmland soils, would be permanently affected.
- Cultural resources may be affected in the project area.

- The Calcasieu River, designated as a state natural and scenic river by the Louisiana Natural and Scenic River System, would involve a 4,316 foot-long crossing using the horizontal directional drilling method.

Also, we have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts of the nonjurisdictional facilities. We will briefly describe their location and status in the EA.

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/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 2.
- Reference Docket No. CP04-4-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before December 19, 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 on-line."

If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to remain on our mailing list, please return the Information Request (appendix 4). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

In addition, the Commission Staff will hold a Scoping Meeting for the project on December 10, 2003, at 7 p.m. at the following address: Iowa City Hall, 115