your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96–178–000;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. Jeff Gerber, EIS Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 71–40, Washington, DC 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 28, 1996.

In addition to sending written comments, you may attend public scoping meetings. We will conduct three public scoping meetings at the following times and locations:

Date	Time	Location
June 18, 1996.	7:00 p.m	Methuen, Massachusetts.
June 19, 1996.	4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Wells, Maine.
June 20, 1996.	4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Newton, New Hampshire.

The meetings in Newton and Wells will also cover the proposed PNGTS Project in New Hampshire and Maine. We will send a separate NOI for the PNGTS Project to landowners affected by that project. M&NP and/or PNGTS will be invited to present a description of their proposals at the appropriate meetings. The Newton and Wells meetings will have two sessions in order to provide sufficient time to discuss both projects. While all are invited to attend either session, we are requesting that state and local governments plan on attending a 4:00 p.m. session.

The meeting in Methuen, Massachusetts will be held at the Great Hall, 41 Pleasant Street. The meeting in Newton, New Hampshire will be held at the Memorial Grammar School Gymnasium, 31 West Main Street. The meeting in Wells, Maine will be held at the Wells High School Gymnasium, Sanford Road.

The purpose of the scoping meetings is to obtain input from state and local governments and from the public. Federal agencies have formal channels for input into the Federal process (including separate meetings which we have arranged) on an interagency basis. Federal agencies are expected to transmit their comments directly to the FERC at separate meetings or in writing, and not use the scoping meetings for this purpose.

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and present oral comments on the environmental issues which they believe should be addressed in the Draft EIS. Anyone who would like to make an oral presentation at the meeting should contact the EIS Project Manager identified at the end of this notice to have his or her name placed on the list of speakers. Priority will be given to those persons representing groups. A list will be available at the public meetings to allow for non-preregistered speakers to sign up. A transcript will be made of the meetings and comments will be used to help determine the scope of the Draft EIS.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EIS scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceedings or become an ''intervenor''. 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 copies of its filings to all other parties. 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 4).

The date for filing of timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Environmental Mailing List

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. It is also being sent to all potential rights-of-way grantors. As details of the project become established, representatives of M&NP may also separately contact landowners, communities, and public agencies concerning project matters, including acquisition of permits and rights-of-way.

All commenters will be retained on our mailing list. If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to keep informed and receive copies of the Draft and Final EISs, please return the Information Request (appendix 5). If you do not send comments or return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Jeff Gerber, EIS Project Manager, at (202) 208–1121.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

Appendix 1—Cooperating Agencies

The following Federal and state agencies are asked to indicate whether they want to be cooperating agencies for purposes of producing an EIS:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
  Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of the Air Force
Department of the Army
  Army Corps of Engineers
Department of Commerce
  National Marine Fisheries Service
Department of Energy
Department of the Interior
  Bureau of Indian Affairs
  Bureau of Mines
  Fish and Wildlife Service
  Geological Survey
Department of Transportation
  Federal Highway Administration
Environmental Protection Agency
Massachusetts Energy Facility Siting Board
Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

These, or any other Federal, state, or local agencies wanting to participate as a cooperating agency should send a letter describing the extent to which they want to be involved. Follow the instructions below if your agency wishes to participate in the EIS process or comment on the project:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96–178–000;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. Jeff Gerber, EIS Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 71–40, Washington, DC 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 28, 1996.

Cooperating agencies are encouraged to participate in the scoping process and provide us written comments. Agencies are also welcome to suggest format and content changes that will make it easier for them to adopt the EIS. However, we will decide what modifications will be adopted in light of our production constaints.

[FR Doc. 96–13485 Filed 5–29–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

[Docket No. CP96–248–000 and CP96–249–000]

Portland Natural Gas Transmission System; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed PNGTS Project, Request for Comments and Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting (NOI)

May 23, 1996.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the 246.2 miles of pipeline and metering facilities proposed in the PNGTS Project.[1] This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether to approve the project.

We are asking a number of Federal and state agencies to indicate whether they wish to cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS. These agencies are listed in appendix 1 and may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their agencies' responsibilities.[2]

Summary of the Proposed Project

Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS) wants to build new natural gas pipeline facilities in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts, with a peak day capacity of 178,000 thousand cubic feet per day (Mcf/d), of natural gas to transport up to 167,000 Mcf/d of natural gas for four shippers. PNGTS requests Commission authorization, in Docket CP96–249–000, to construct and operate the following facilities:

- 241.9 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline (mainline) extending from a connection with TransCanada PipeLines Limited (TCPL) at the border of the United States and Canada near North Troy, Vermont to the existing Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company transmission system in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Of the 241.9-mile-long mainline, about 58.8 miles would be in Vermont, 65.9 miles would be in New Hampshire, 117.1 miles would be in Maine, and 0.1 mile would be in Massachusetts;
- 3.3 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipeline lateral connected to the mainline in Westbrook, Maine and ending in Falmouth, Maine;
- 1.0 mile of 12-inch-diameter pipeline lateral connected to the mainline in Newington, New Hampshire and ending near Portsmouth, New Hampshire;
- Four new meter stations, one each in Falmouth and Wells, Maine; Newington, New Hampshire; and Haverhill, Massachusetts;
- Acquisition and modification of an existing meter station in Newington, New Hampshire adjacent to the proposed new meter station; and
- Associated pipeline facilities, such as 15 mainline block valves and 4 pig launchers and/or receivers.

PNGTS has also requested authorization in Docket No. CP96–248–000 to construct, operate, and maintain border facilities to import gas from Canada. The import point border facilities would include about 500 feet of 20-inch-diameter pipeline to connect with the facilities of TCPL near North Troy, Vermont.

PNGTS proposes to have the facilities in service by November 1, 1998. PNGTS also plans to construct but has not yet filed an application for additional pipeline laterals (future laterals) to serve markets near Newport, St. Johnsbury, and Gilman, Vermont; Groveton and Berlin, New Hampshire; and Jay, Maine. PNGTS indicates that it will file a separate application for these facilities in the fall of 1996.

The general locations of the project facilities are shown in appendix 2. The general locations of PNGTS future laterals and other natural gas projects under Commission review occurring in the same region and within the same timeframe (Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc. [Granite State], Granite State LNG Project, Docket No. CP95–52–000 and Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. [M&NP], Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline [Maritimes Project], Docket No. CP96–178–000) as shown in appendix 3. If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the project, contact the EIS Project Manager identified at the end of this notice.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would affect about 2,506 acres of land. Approximately 93 percent of the proposed pipeline and pipeline laterals would parallel existing pipeline, powerline, or other rights-of-way. The nominal construction rights-of-way for the 20-inch-diameter pipeline and 12-inch-diameter pipeline laterals would be 75 feet wide. Extra temporary work spaces would be used at road, stream, and large wetland crossings, as well as for pipeyards and contractor yards and areas where temporary topsoil or rock storage is required.

Following construction, about 1,473 acres of the land affected by the project would be retained for operation of the pipeline and aboveground facilities. This total includes about 0.5 acre for each of the four new and one existing meter stations and about 1.0 acre for each of the four pig launchers and/or receivers. Permanent 50-foot-wide rights-of-way would be maintained for the 20- and 12-inch-diameter pipelines. The mainline block valves would be within the permanent rights-of-way. Existing land uses on the remainder of the disturbed area, as well as most land uses on the permanent rights-of-way, would be allowed to continue following construction.

The EIS 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 us 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 EIS on the important environmental issues. By this NOI, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EIS. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EIS. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas concern.

The EIS will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project. We have already identified a number of issues under each topic that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by the applicant. These issues are listed below. This is a preliminary list of issues and may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Geology and Soils

—Seismology, soil liquefaction, and areas susceptible to landslide.
—39.6 miles of near-surface bedrock that may require blasting.
—Effect on exploitable mineral resources.

[1] Portland Natural Gas Transmission System's applications were filed with the Commission under Sections 3 and 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Parts 153 and 157 of the Commission's regulations.

[2] Appendices 2 through 5 referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426 or call (202) 208–1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

—Effect on farmland.
—Erosion control and right-of-way revegetation procedures.

- Water Resources

—Effect on groundwater and surface water supplies.
—832 crossings of perennial and intermittent waterbodies, including 9 crossings of waterbodies over 100 feet wide (Moos, Connecticut, Peabody, Androscoggin, Presumpscot, Saco, Mousam, Squamscott, and Piscataqua Rivers) and crossings of the Missisquoi, Israel, and Exeter Rivers and Great Brook.
—Consistency with state Coastal Zone Management Programs.

- Biological Resources

—Clearing of upland forest and the permanent conversion of forest to open land.
—Effect on wetland habitat, including tidal salt marshes along the Squamscott and Piscataqua Rivers, resulting from the crossing of 940 wetlands.
—Effect on warmwater, coldwater, anadromous, and estuarine fisheries, habitat.
—Effect on wildlife habitat, including deer wintering areas and waterfowl and wading bird habitat.
—Effect on Federal threatened and endangered species and state special concern species.
—Effect on Kennebunk Plains, an unusual dry grassland community.

- Cultural Resources

—Effect on historic and prehistoric sites.
—Native American and tribal concerns.

- Land Use

—Effect on 103 residences within 50 feet of construction work areas.
—Effect on planned residential developments.
—Effect on public and recreation lands, including the Willoughby State Forest, Victory State Forest, Victory Bog State Wildlife Management Area, Roaring Brook Park, White Birches Campground, Bean Pond Fish and Wildlife Area, White Mountain National Forest, and the Pease Development Authority property.
—Effect on snowmobile, jeep, and hiking trails, several of which are important to the Appalachian Mountain Club and Randolph Mountain Club, including the Carter-Moriah Trail and Appalachian Trail.
—Effect on scenic waterbodies and byways, including the Connecticut, Exeter, and Piscataqua Rivers; and Routes 3, 116, 16, 2, 107, and 238 in New Hampshire and Route 11 in Maine.
—Effects resulting from crossing over or near known hazardous waste sites.

- Socioeconomics

—Effect of construction workforce on surrounding areas.
—Effect on property values.

- Air Quality and Noise

—Effect on local air quality and noise environment as a result of construction.

- Reliability and Safety

—Assessment of hazards associated with natural gas pipelines.

- Cumulative Impact

—Assessment of the combined effect of the proposed project with other projects occurring in the same general area and within the same time frame, including the Granite State LNG Project and Maritimes Project.

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 Draft EIS which will be 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 45-day comment period will be allotted for review of the Draft EIS. We will consider all comments on the Draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a Final EIS. The Final EIS will include our response to each comment received and will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether to approve the project.

Public Participation and Scoping Meetings

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96–249–000;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. Mark Jensen, EIS Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Room 72–65, Washington, DC 20426; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 28, 1996.

In addition to sending written comments, you may attend public scoping meetings. We will conduct four public scoping meetings comprising six sessions at the following times and locations:

Date	Time	Location
June 17, 1996.	7:00 p.m	Orleans, VT.
June 18, 1996.	7:00 p.m	Gorham, NH.
June 19, 1996.	4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Wells, ME.
June 20, 1996.	4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Newton, NH.

The meetings in Newton and Wells will also cover the proposed Maritimes Project in New Hampshire and Maine. We will send a separate NOI for the Maritimes Project to landowners affected by that project. PNGTS and/or M&NP will be invited to present a description of their proposals at the appropriate meetings. The Newton and Wells meetings will have two sessions in order to provide sufficient time to discuss both projects at each session. While all are invited to attend either session, we are requesting that state and local governments plan on attending the 4:00 p.m. session.

The meeting in Orleans, Vermont will be held at the Lake Region Union High School. The meeting in Gorham, New Hampshire will be held at the Town and Country Motor Inn, Route 2. The two meetings in Wells, Maine will be held at the Wells High School Gymnasium, Sanford Road. The two meetings in Newton, New Hampshire will be held at the Memorial Grammar School Gymnasium, 31 West Main Street.

The purpose of the scoping meetings is to obtain input from state and local governments and from the public. Federal agencies have formal channels for input into the Federal process (including separate meetings which we have arranged) on an interagency basis. Federal agencies are expected to transmit their comments directly to the

FERC and not use the scoping meetings for this purpose.

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and present oral comments on the environmental issues which they believe should be addressed in the Draft EIS. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Anyone who would like to make an oral presentation at the meeting should contact the EIS Project Manager identified at the end of this notice to have his or her name placed on the list of speakers. Priority will be given to those persons representing groups. A list will be available at the public meetings to allow for non-preregistered speakers to sign up. A transcript will be made of the meetings and comments will be used to help determine the scope of the Draft EIS.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EIS scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an ''intervenor.'' 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 copies of its filings to all other parties. 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 4).

The date for filing of timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Environmental Mailing List

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. It is also being sent to all potential right-of-way grantors to solicit comments regarding environmental considerations related to the proposed project. As details of the project become established, representatives to PNGTS may also separately contact landowners, communities, and public agencies concerning project matters, including acquisition of permits and rights-of-way.

If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to keep informed and receive copies of the Draft and Final EIS's, please return the Information Request (appendix 5). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Mark Jensen, EIS Project Manager, at (202) 208–0828.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

Appendix 1—Cooperating Agencies

The following Federal and state agencies are asked to indicate whether they want to be cooperating agencies for purposes of producing an EIS:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
  Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of the Army
  Army Corps of Engineers
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Department of Energy
Department of the Interior
  Bureau of Indian Affairs
  Fish and Wildlife Service
  Geological Survey
  National Park Service
Department of Transportation
  Federal Highway Administration
Environmental Protection Agency
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

These, or any other Federal, state, or local agencies wanting to participate as a cooperating agency should send a letter describing the extent to which they want to be involved. Follow the instructions below if your agency wishes to participate in the EIS process or comment on the project:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96–249–000;
- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. Mark Jensen, EIS Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Room 72–65, Washington, DC 20426; and Docket No. CP96–248–000, *et al.*
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 28, 1996.

Cooperating agencies are encouraged to participate in the scoping process and provide us written comments. Agencies are also welcome to suggest format and content changes that will make it easier for them to adopt the EIS. However, we will decide what modifications will be adopted in light of our production constraints.

[FR Doc. 96–13486 Filed 5–29–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 0717–01–M

Notice of Addition of a Second Entity as Applicant

May 23, 1996.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

a. Type of Application: Amendment to the Pending Application for Major License to Add a Second Entity as Applicant.

b. Project No.: 10756–001.

c. Date filed: March 15, 1996 (the license application was filed on May 28, 1992).

d. Applicant: Blue Diamond South Pumped Storage Power Company, Inc. and Blue Diamond Power Partners Limited Partnership (requesting to add Blue Diamond Power Partners Limited Partnership).

e. Name of Project: Blue Diamond South Pumped Storage.

f. Location: Mostly on U.S. lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, on two man-made reservoirs—on and near the Blue Diamond Hill, about 5 miles west of Las Vegas in Clark County, Nevada.

g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)–825(r).

h. Applicant Contact: Mr. David K. Iverson, Synergics, Inc., 191 Main Street, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 268–8820.

i. FERC Contact: Mr. Surender M. Yepuri, P.E., (202) 219–2847.

j. Deadline Date: Thirty days from the issuance date of this notice. (Please restrict your comments to the addition of a second entity as applicant—the subject of this notice.)

k. Current Processing Status of the Application: The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for this application was issued on January 26, 1996. The deadline for filing comments on the DEIS was March 11, 1996.

l. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—The Commission is requesting comments on the addition of a second entity as applicant.

All filings must: (1) bear in all capital letters the title ''COMMENTS''; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR