

disadvantage to El Paso's other customers.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after the Commission has issued this notice, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the allowed time, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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[Docket No. RP96-147-000]

Equitrans, L.P.; Notice of Technical Conference

May 8, 1996.

In the Commission's order issued on March 22, 1996, in the above-captioned proceeding,¹ the Commission held that the filing raises issues for which a technical conference is to be convened.

The conference to address the issues has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 1996, at 10:00 a.m. in a room to be designated at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

All interested persons and Staff are permitted to attend.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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[Project No. 11574-000 CT]

City of Norwich, Department of Public Utilities; Notice Not Ready for Environmental Analysis, Notice Requesting Interventions and Protests, Notice Inviting Competing Applications, and Notice of Scoping Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

May 8, 1996.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has issued a letter accepting the City of Norwich,

Department of Public Utilities, application for the Occum Hydroelectric Project, located on the Shetucket River, near the City of Norwich, New London County, Connecticut.

The existing Occum Project's facilities consist of a 90-acre impoundment; a dam consisting of two adjacent spillway sections, earth embankments, and an intake structure; a 225-foot-long by 160-foot-wide forebay area; a 40-foot-long by 32-foot-wide powerhouse, housing one turbine with a total capacity of 800 kW; and appurtenant facilities. The project would have an average annual generation of about 3,750 megawatt-hours.

The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time. A public notice will be issued in the future indicating its readiness for environmental analysis and soliciting comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions on the application, and the applicant's reply comments.

The purpose of this notice is to: (1) Invite interventions and protests; (2) advise all parties as to the proposed scope of the staff's environmental analysis, including cumulative effects, and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis; (3) advise all parties of their opportunity for comment; and (4) to invite competing applications.

Competition

Any qualified applicant desiring to file a competing application must submit to the Commission, on or before the specified deadline date for this application, the competing development application or a notice of intent to file such an application. Submitting a timely notice of intent allows an interested person to file the competing development application no later than 120 days after the specified deadline date for the particular application. Applications for a preliminary permit will not be accepted in response to this notice.

A notice of intent must specify the exact name, business address, and telephone number of the prospective applicant, and must include an unequivocal statement of intent to submit a development application. A notice of intent must be served on the applicant named in this public notice.

Interventions and Protests

All filings must: (1) Bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST," "MOTION TO INTERVENE," "NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE COMPETING APPLICATION," or "COMPETING APPLICATION;" (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 protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. Any of these documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies required by the Commission's regulations to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.

An additional copy must be sent to: Director, Division of Project Review, Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, at the above address. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application.

All filings for any protest or motion to intervene, competing application, or notice of intent must be received 60 days from the issuance date of this notice.

Scoping Process

The Commission's scoping objectives are to:

- Identify significant environmental issues;
- Determine the depth of analysis appropriate to each issue;
- Identify the resource issues not requiring detailed analysis; and
- Identify reasonable project alternatives.

The purpose of the scoping process is to identify significant issues related to the proposed action and to determine what issues should be covered in the environmental document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The document entitled "Scoping Document I" (SDI) will be circulated to enable appropriate federal, state, and local resource agencies, developers, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other interested parties to effectively participate in and contribute to the scoping process. SDI provides a brief description of the proposed action, project alternatives, the geographic and temporal scope of a cumulative effects analysis, and a list of preliminary issues identified by staff.

The Commission will decide, based on the application, and agency and public comments to scoping, whether licensing the Occum Hydroelectric Project constitutes a major federal action significantly impacting the quality of the human environment. The

¹ 74 FERC ¶ 61,309.