

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 If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of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.

Lois D. Cashell,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-2776 Filed 2-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP97-198-000]

**Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization**

January 30, 1997.

Take notice that on January 17, 1997, as supplemented on January 28, 1997, Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company (Williston Basin), 200 North Third Street, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501, filed in Docket No. CP97-198-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.211) for authorization to construct and operate delivery facilities in South Dakota under Williston Basin's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-487-000, *et al.*, pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Williston Basin proposes to construct an additional one-inch tap at an existing tap site to effectuate natural gas transportation deliveries to Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) for ultimate use by additional residential customers. Williston Basin states that the existing tap and the additional one-inch tap will be manifolded together and used to serve Montana-Dakota, for ultimate use by the residents of the Mountain Shadow Estates mobile home park. Williston Basin estimates the current maximum daily quantity at the existing tap to be 200 Mcf per day. Williston Basin further estimates that after the additional one-inch tap is installed, the maximum daily delivery quantity will be 1,100 Mcf per day. Williston Basin states that the volumes to be delivered are within the contractual entitlements of the customer. In addition, Williston Basin estimates the cost of construction to be \$1,000, of which will be fully reimbursed by Montana-Dakota.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission,

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 § 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, 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 Natural Gas Act.

Lois D. Cashell,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-2775 Filed 2-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP96-647-000]

**Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 1998 Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues**

January 30, 1997.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the 1998 Expansion Project.<sup>1</sup> This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.

*Summary of the Proposed Project*

Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership (Great Lakes) requests authority to construct and operate the following:

1. Three 36-inch-diameter loops totalling about 71.5 miles of pipeline:

a. Loop 1—about 22.0 miles long, extending from St. Vincent Compressor Station at milepost (MP) 0.7 to MP 22.7 in Kittson County, Minnesota;

b. Loop 2—about 26.7 miles long, extending from MP 132.5 to MP 159.2 in Clearwater, Beltrami, and Hubbard Counties, Minnesota; and

c. Loop 3—about 22.8 miles long, extending from MP 283.5 to MP 306.3

in Carlton County, Minnesota and Douglas County, Wisconsin;

2. Two 7,400 horsepower compressor units and appurtenant facilities at the St. Vincent Compressor Station and Farwell Compressor Station in Kittson County, Minnesota and Clare County, Michigan, respectively;

3. A replacement aerodynamic assembly at the Thief River Falls Compressor Station in Marshall County, Minnesota; and

4. Minor permanent above ground ancillary facilities;

a. three crossover assemblies at the new loop ends at MPs 22.7, 159.2, and 306.3 in Kittson and Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, and Douglas County, Wisconsin, respectively;

b. the expansion of four existing mainline valve sites at MPs 16.3, 150.0, 283.5, and 299.3 in Kittson, Beltrami, and Carlton Counties, Minnesota, and Douglas County, Wisconsin, respectively; and

c. removal of the existing end-of-loop valve and crossover assembly by MP 132.5 in Clearwater County, Minnesota.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup> If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the project, please write to the Secretary of the Commission at the address on page 4 of this notice.

*Land Requirements for Construction*

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 867 acres of land. Following construction, about 222 acres would be maintained as new permanent right-of-way. The remaining 645 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to their former use.

*Construction Timing*

Great Lakes proposes to construct loopline facilities in two phases: a 1997/1998 winter phase and a 1998 summer phase. Loop 2 would be constructed during the 1997/1998 winter phase beginning November 15, 1997, and would be completed by March 1, 1998. Therefore, wetlands would be frozen during the crossings.

Loops 1 and 3 would be constructed during the 1998 summer phase beginning July 1, 1998, with an in-service date November 1, 1998.

The compressor station additions and modifications would be installed during the period of March 1, 1998, and November 1, 1998.

<sup>2</sup> The appendices 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, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

<sup>1</sup> Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.