Comment date: December 29, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

12. PECO Energy Company

[Docket No. ER98–779–000]

Take notice that on November 25, 1997, PECO Energy Company (PECO), filed under § 205 of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 792 *et seq.*, a Transaction Agreement dated October 30, 1997, with Enron Power Marketing, Inc. (Enron), under PECO's FERC Electric Tariff Original Volume No. 1 (Tariff). The Transaction Agreement is for a term of fourteen (14) months.

PECO requests an effective date of November 1, 1997, for the Transaction Agreement.

PECO states that copies of this filing have been supplied to Enron and to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

Comment date: December 29, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

13. PECO Energy Company

[Docket No. ER98–780–000]

Take notice that on November 25, 1997, PECO Energy Company (PECO), filed under § 205 of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 792 *et seq.*, a Transaction Agreement dated October 30, 1997, with NorAm Energy Management, Inc. (NEM), under PECO's FERC Electric Tariff Original Volume No. 1 (Tariff). The Transaction Agreement is for a term of fourteen (14) months.

PECO requests an effective date of November 1, 1997, for the Transaction Agreement.

PECO states that copies of this filing have been supplied to NEM and to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

Comment date: December 29, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

14. Union Electric Company

[Docket No. ER98–781–000]

Take notice that on November 25, 1997, Union Electric Company (UE), tendered for filing Service Agreements for Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Services between UE and AIG Trading Corporation and Tenaska Power Services Company. UE asserts that the purpose of the Agreements is to permit UE to provide transmission service to the parties pursuant to UE's Open Access Transmission Tariff filed in Docket No. OA96–50.

Comment date: December 29, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

15. Union Electric Company

[Docket No. ER98–782–000]

Take notice that on November 25, 1997, Union Electric Company (UE), tendered for filing Service Agreements for Market Based Rate Power Sales between UE and Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc., and PacifiCorp Power Marketing, Inc. UE asserts that the purpose of the Agreements is to permit UE to make sales of capacity and energy at market based rates to the parties pursuant to UE's Market Based Rate Power Sales Tariff filed in Docket No. ER97–3664–000.

Comment date: December 29, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

16. Union Electric Company

[Docket No. ER98–783–0000]

Take notice that on November 25, 1997, Union Electric Company (UE), tendered for filing Service Agreements for Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Services between UE and AIG Trading Corporation, Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc., and Tenaska Power Services Company. UE asserts that the purpose of the Agreements is to permit UE to provide transmission service to the parties pursuant to UE's Open Access Transmission Tariff filed in Docket No. OA96–50.

Comment date: December 29, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

17. PECO Energy Company

[Docket No. ER98–784–000]

Take notice that on November 25, 1997, PECO Energy Company (PECO), filed under § 205 of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 792 *et seq.*, a Transaction Agreement dated October 30, 1997, with Horizon Energy company (HORIZON ENERGY) under PECO's FERC Electric Tariff Original Volume No. 1 (Tariff). The Transaction Agreement is for a term of fourteen (14) months.

PECO requests an effective date of November 1, 1997, for the Transaction Agreement.

PECO states that copies of this filing have been supplied to HORIZON ENERGY and to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

Comment date: December 29, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

18. The Empire District Electric Company

[Docket No. ER98–785–000]

Take notice that on November 25, 1997, The Empire District Electric Company (EDE), tendered for filing a service agreement between EDE and Aquilla Power Corp., providing firm point-to-point transmission service pursuant to the open access transmission tariff (Schedule OATS) of EDE.

EDE states that a copy of this filing has been served by mail upon Aquilla Power Corp., 10750 E 350 Highway, Kansas City, MO 64138.

Comment date: December 29, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. 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. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–33040 Filed 12–17–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP98–60–000; and CP98–62–000]

Viking Voyageur Gas Transmission Company, L.L.C.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Viking Voyageur Pipeline Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings and Site Visit

December 15, 1997.

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 facilities proposed in the Viking Voyageur Pipeline Project.[1]

[1] Viking Voyageur Gas Transmission Company, L.L.C.'s application was filed with the Commission

Continued

This EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

Additionally, with this notice we are asking a number of Federal agencies (see appendix 2) with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to cooperate with use in the preparation of the EIS. These agencies may choose to participate once they have evaluated the proposal relative to their agencies' responsibilities.[2]

Summary of the Proposed Project

Viking Voyageur Gas Transmission Company, L.L.C. (Voyageur) proposes to build new natural gas pipeline and compression facilities to transport 1.4 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas from Noyes, Minnesota to Joliet, Illinois to move new natural gas supplies from western Canada markets to the Upper Midwest.

Voyageur requests Commission authorization, in Docket No. CP98–60–000, to construct and operate the following facilities:

- 773 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline extending from the border of the United States (U.S.) and Canada near Noyes, Minnesota in Kittson County to a point near Joliet, Illinois in Will County. Of the 773-mile-long mainline, about 359 miles would be located in Minnesota, 325 miles in Wisconsin, and 89 miles in Illinois;
- 22 new meter stations including one in Kittson County, Minnesota, four in Wood County, Wisconsin, two in Waushara County, Wisconsin, two in Dodge County, Wisconsin, one in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, three in Walworth County, Wisconsin, three in McHenry County, Illinois, one in Kane County, Illinois, one in Kendall County, Illinois, and four in Will County, Illinois;
- Four compressor stations each with 31,000 horsepower of compression in Kittson County, Minnesota, Otter Tail County, Minnesota, Polk County, Wisconsin, and Waushara County, Wisconsin. The two compressor stations in Minnesota and the compressor station in Polk County, Wisconsin would be built within the fenced property of existing Viking Gas Transmission Company compressor station sites;
- Associated pipeline facilities, including 48 new mainline valves and four pig launchers and five pig receivers, and permanent access roads for access to compressor stations and valves; and
- Two new operations and maintenance facilities in Walworth County, Wisconsin and Kendall County, Illinois.

The general location of Viking Voyageur's proposed project facilities is shown in appendix 1. If you are interested in obtaining procedural information, please write to the Secretary of the Commission.

In addition, Voyageur requests in Docket No. CP98–62–000 a Presidential Permit to site, construct, operate, own, and maintain facilities at the international border between the U.S. and Canada near Noyes, Minnesota. Voyageur's pipeline would originate at the point of interconnection with the Canadian facilities of TransVoyageur Gas Transmission.

In Illinois and Wisconsin, several local distribution companies are considering building lateral pipelines to interconnect with Voyageur. Although these facilities would not be under the jurisdiction of the FERC, to the extent they can be identified they will be discussed in the EIS. The following is a list of the nonjurisdictional laterals currently under consideration:

Lateral pipeline	Pipeline diameter (inches)	Approximate length (miles)	State
Marshfield ..	6	1.9	WI
Wausau	12	65.0	WI
Wisconsin Rapids	6	0.2	WI
Steven Point	8	20.7	WI
Green Bay/ Sheboygan	30/24/12	191.8	WI
Madison	16	42.8	WI
Milwaukee	22	32.5	WI
Eagle	16	7.6	WI
Delavan	8	0.6	WI
Hampshire	16	0.11	IL
Plano	20	0.34	IL
Aux Sable ..	20	0.21	IL

Land Requirements for Construction

Approximately 670 miles (86 percent) of Voyageur's pipeline would be installed parallel to various existing utility rights-of-way. Where possible, Voyageur's right-of-way would overlap the existing rights-of-way as much as 85 feet during construction to minimize impacts. Voyageur's proposed route deviates from the existing rights-of-way in selected locations to avoid impact on homes, existing utility structures (meter stations, etc.), improve waterbody crossings, and for other environmental or engineering reasons.

Construction of the Viking Voyageur Pipeline Project would affect a total of about 12,851 acres. Of this total, about 10,321 acres would be disturbed by construction along the pipeline right-of-way. The aboveground facilities would affect about 72 acres of land during construction. Pipe storage, staging ares and warehouse sites would affect about 2,458 acres. All these acreage figures are subject to change.

Voyageur proposes to use a right-of-way width of 105 feet for construction, with provisions for additional temporary work areas as necessary for waterbody, highway and railroad crossings, and extra topsoil storage. Following construction and restoration of the right-of-way and temporary work spaces, Voyageur would retain a 30-to 50-foot-wide permanent pipeline right-of-way depending on whether the pipeline is co-located with other utilities or on new right-of-way. Total land requirements for the permanent right-of-way would be about 4,476 acres. About 72 acres would be retained for the operation of the new aboveground facilities. The remaining 8,303 acres of land affected by construction of the project would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

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 Notice of Intent, 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 of concern.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

The EIS will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project. We have already

under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

[2] 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, 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.

identified a number of issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Voyageur. These issues are listed below. This is a preliminary list of issues and may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Air Quality and Noise

—Effect on local air quality and noise environment as a result of construction.
—Effect on local air quality and noise environment as a result of operation of the compressor stations.

- Soils

—Temporary and permanent impacts on prime farmland soils.
—Mixing of topsoil and subsoil during construction.
—Compaction of soil by heavy equipment.
—Impacts on drain tiles and irrigation systems.
—Erosion control and right-of-way restoration.

- Water Resources

—Effect of construction on areas with shallow
—Effect of construction on crossings of 186 perennial waterbodies.
—Crossing of 14 rivers 100 feet wide or greater.
—Crossing the St. Croix River which is designated as a National Scenic Waterway containing federally listed endangered mussels, and the Rum River which is designated as a Minnesota State Wild and Scenic River.
—Crossing 21 trout streams, 7 exceptional resource waters, 4 outstanding resource waters, 2 Northern Pike spawning waters, and 1 wildlife/fish migration corridor.
—Potential for erosion and sediment transport to the waterbodies.
—Effect of construction on groundwater and surface water supplies.
—Impact on wetland hydrology.

- Biological Resources

—Short- and long-term effects of right-of-way clearing and maintenance on wetlands, forests, riparian areas, and vegetation communities of special concern.
—Effect on wildlife and fisheries habitats.
—Impact on federally threatened species such as the bald eagle and prairie bush clover, and federally endangered species such as the Karner blue butterfly, gray wolf, winged mapleleaf mussel, Higgins' eye pearly mussel, and the Indian bat.

- Cultural Resources

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

- Socioeconomics

—Effect of the construction workforce on demands for services in surrounding areas.
—Impact on property values.

- Land Use

—Impact on crop production.
—Impact on residential areas.
—Effect on public lands and special use areas including waterfowl production areas, state game refuge, state wildlife management areas, national and state scenic trails, state forest lands, state canoe rivers, state parks and recreation areas, public fishing areas, public hunting grounds, and forest preserves.
—Impact on future land uses and consistency with local land use plans and zoning.
—Visual effect of the aboveground facilities on surrounding areas.

- 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, including other natural gas transmission and distribution lines, which have been or may be proposed in the same region and similar time frames.

- Nonjurisdictional Facilities

—Assessment of the effects of the construction of lateral pipelines that would be entirely within state jurisdiction.

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, affected landowners and other interested individuals, 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 on the Draft EIS 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:

- Send two copies to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, D.C. 20426.
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR–11.1;
- Reference Docket Nos. CP98–60–000 and CP98–62–000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before January 20, 1998.

In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments, we invite you to attend the public scoping meetings the FERC will conduct in the project area. The locations and times for these meetings are listed below.

Schedure of Public Scoping Meetings for the Viking Voyageur Pipeline Project Environmental Impact Statement

Jan. 5, 1998 7:00 pm—Elgin, Illinois, Holiday Inn, 345 West River Road, 847–695–5000
Jan. 6, 1998 7:00 pm—Nekoosa, Wisconsin, Lake Arrowhead Clubhouse, 1195 Apache Lane, 715–325–2938
Jan. 7, 1998 7:00 pm—Dresser, Wisconsin, Trollhaugen Ski Area, Convention Center, 2232 100th Avenue, 715–755–2955
Jan. 8, 1998 1:00 pm—Crookston, Minnesota, Northland Inn, Highway 2, 218–281–5210
7:30 pm—Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, Holiday Inn, 1155 Highway 10 East, 218–847–2121.

The public meetings are designed to provide you with more detailed information and another opportunity to offer your comments on the proposed project. Voyageur representatives will be present at the scoping meetings to describe their proposal. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and to present comments on the environmental issues

they believe should be addressed in the Draft EIS. A transcript of each meeting will be made so that your comments will be accurately recorded.

On the dates of the meetings, we will also be conducting limited site visits to the project area. Anyone interested in participating in the site visit may contact the Commission's Office of External Affairs identified at the end of this notice for more details and must provide their own transportation.

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 3).

The date for filing of timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has been extended to January 4, 1998. After that date, parties 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 identified potential right-of-way grantors. As details of the project become established, representatives of Voyageur may also separately contact landowners, communities, and public agencies concerning project matters, including acquisition of permits and rights-of-way.

All commentors 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 EIS, you must return the Information Request (appendix 4). 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 Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208–1088.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–33039 Filed 12–17–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Transfer of License

December 12, 1997.

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

a. *Type of Application:* Transfer of License.

b. *Project No.:* 2347–022.

c. *Date filed:* November 5, 1997.

d. *Applicants:* Wisconsin Power & Light Company and Midwest Hydro, Inc.

e. *Name of Project:* Janesville Central.

f. *Location:* On the Rock River, in the City of Janesville, in Rock County, Wisconsin.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 USC 791(a)–825(r).

h. *Applicants Contact:* Charles Alsberg, President, MIdwest Hydro, Inc., 116 State Street, P.O. BOX 167, Neshkoro, WI 54960, (920) 292–4628.

i. *FERC Contact:* Thomas F. Papsidero (202) 219–2715.

j. *Comment Date:* January 28, 1998.

k. *Description of Filing:* Application to transfer the license for the Janesville Central Project to Midwest Hydro, Inc.

l. This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs: B, C1 & D2.

B. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene—Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

C1. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title ''COMMENTS'', ''RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS'', ''PROTEST'', OR ''MOTION TO INTERVENE'', as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

D2. Agency Comments—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–32977 Filed 12–17–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Transfer of License

December 12, 1997.

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

a. *Type of Application:* Transfer of License.

b. *Project No.:* 2348–013.

c. *Date filed:* November 5, 1997.

d. *Applicants:* Wisconsin Power & Light Company and Midwest Hydro, Inc.

e. *Name of Project:* Beloit Blackhawk.

f. *Location:* On the Rock River, near the City of Beloit, in Rock County, Wisconsin.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 USC 791(a)–825(r).

h. *Applicants Contact:* Charles Alsberg, President, Midwest Hydro, Inc., 116 State Street, P.O. Box 167, Neshkoro, WI 54960, (920) 292–4628.

i. *FERC Contact:* Thomas F. Papsidero (202) 219–2715.

j. *Comment Date:* January 28, 1998.

k. *Description of Filing:* Application to transfer the license for the Beloit Blackhawk Project to Midwest Hydro, Inc.