compressor station in Fairfax County, Virginia.

The purpose of the Cove Point East Project is to fulfill requests for service by Washington Gas Light and Virginia Power Service Energy Corporation, Inc. DCP's Cove Point East Project would create an additional 445 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscfd) of natural gas capacity on its system in order to fulfill requests for service by Washington Gas Light (350 MMscfd) and Virginia Power Service Energy Corporation, Inc (95 MMscfd).

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502–8371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, State and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. 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 comments to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Gas Branch 1, PJ11.1;
- Reference Docket No. CP03–74–000;
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before October 22, 2003.

Please note we are continuing to experience delays in mail 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 by clicking on ''Login to File'' and then ''New User Account.''

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the preceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).[1] Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1–866–208–FERC or on the FERC Internet Web site (*http://www.ferc.gov)*using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance with eLibrary, call toll-free (1–866) 208–3676, TTY (202) 502–8659 or at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov*. The eLibrary link on the FERC Internet Web site also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the commission, such as orders, notices, or rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to *http://www.ferc.gov/esubcribenow.htm.*

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–24640 Filed 9–26–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

[1] Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. *See* the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PF03–6–000]

Sound Energy Solutions, POLB Application No. HDP 03–079; Notice of Intent To Prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Preparation of Joint Environmental Impact Report, Application Summary Report for SES' Proposed Long Beach LNG Import Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

September 22, 2003.

The staffs of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) and the Port of Long Beach (POLB or Port) will jointly prepare an environmental impact statement, an environmental impact report, and an application summary report (EIS/EIR/ASR) on Sound Energy Solutions' (SES) proposed Long Beach LNG Import Project. This notice announces the opening of the scoping process we [1] will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the project. Your input will help us determine which issues need to be evaluated in the EIS/EIR/ASR. Please note that the scoping period will close on October 30, 2003.

Comments may be submitted in written form or verbally. Further details on how to submit written comments are provided in the public participation section of this notice. In lieu of sending written comments, we invite you to attend the public scoping meeting we have scheduled as follows:

FERC/POLB Public Scoping Meeting, Long Beach LNG Import Project, October 9, 2003 at 7 p.m., Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center, Seaside Meeting Room 301, (562) 436–3636.

The FERC will be the lead Federal agency in the preparation of the EIS/EIR/ASR and the POLB will be the lead state agency for California. The joint document will satisfy the requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

This notice is being sent to affected landowners; POLB tenants; Federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; other interested parties; and local

[1] ''We,'' ''us,'' and ''our'' refer to the environmental staffs of the FERC's Office of Energy Projects and the POLB.

libraries and newspapers. We encourage government representatives to notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

Summary of the Proposed Project

SES proposes to construct and operate a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal facility on a 27-acre site on a portion of Pier T, designated Berth T–126, on Terminal Island within the Port of Long Beach, California. The proposed site, which was formerly part of a naval shipyard, would require a limited amount of dredging (between 75,000 and 125,000 cubic yards) to support the ship berth and achieve uniform water depth. The dredged material would be disposed of in a confined landfill within the Port. The project would not require the intake or discharge of sea water and/or process water. During construction, SES would require an additional 20- to 30-acre site in the project area for materials storage and fabrication. The location of this construction laydown area has not yet been identified.

The Long Beach LNG Import Project would provide about 700 million standard cubic feet of natural gas per day to the local transmission and distribution systems. In addition, a portion of the LNG would be distributed locally to fuel LNG-powered vehicles. According to SES, its project would provide large volumes of natural gas to southern California markets to enhance reliability of supply and ensure price competition. The distribution of LNG as vehicle fuel would enable diesel trucks and other vehicles to convert to natural gas, which would reduce vehicle pollutant emissions in the region.

The project facilities would include:

- a ship berth and unloading facilities capable of receiving LNG tankers ranging in capacity from 95,000 to 145,000 cubic meters;
- two LNG storage tanks, each with a capacity of 160,000 cubic meters;
- vaporization equipment, boil-off gas compressors, and natural gas liquids recovery system;
- truck loading facilities;
- associated hazard detection, control, and prevention systems;
- ancillary service facilities; and
- up to 4.4 miles of pipeline currently proposed to interconnect with the existing Southern California Gas Company pipeline system.

Maps depicting the proposed terminal site, site layout, and various pipeline routes under consideration are provided in appendix 1.[2]

SES proposes to place the project in service in late 2007 or early 2008. To achieve this in-service date, SES is requesting approval to begin construction of the terminal facilities in the fall of 2004. The approximate duration of construction would be 3 years.

The EIS/EIR/ASR ProcessThe FERC will use the EIS/EIR/ASR to consider the environmental impact that could result if it issues SES an Order Authorizing Approval of a Place of Import under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act. The POLB will use the document to determine the project's consistency with the certified Port Master Plan and the California Coastal Act as well as to consider the environmental impact that could result if it issues SES a Harbor Development Permit.

This notice formally announces our preparation of the EIS/EIR/ASR and the beginning of the process referred to as ''scoping.'' We are soliciting input from the public and interested agencies to help us focus the analysis in the EIS/EIR/ASR on the potentially significant environmental issues related to the proposed action.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be included in a draft EIS/EIR/ASR. The draft EIS/EIR/ASR will be mailed to Federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; affected landowners; POLB tenants; other interested parties; local libraries and newspapers; and the FERC's official service list for this proceeding. A 45-day comment period will be allotted for review of the draft EIS/EIR/ASR. We will consider all comments on the draft EIS/EIR/ASR and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS/EIR/ASR.

The POLB is initiating its CEQA review based on SES' submittal of a Harbor Development Permit application on July 25, 2003. Although no formal application for import authorization has been filed, the FERC staff is initiating its NEPA review now. The purpose of the FERC's NEPA Pre-filing Process is to encourage the early involvement of interested stakeholders and to identify and resolve issues before an application is filed with the FERC. The POLB has agreed to conduct its CEQA review in conjunction with the NEPA Pre-filing Process. A diagram depicting the lead agencies' joint environmental review process is attached to this notice as appendix 2.

We have held early discussions with other jurisdictional agencies to identify their issues and concerns. These agencies include the California Coastal Commission; California Department of Fish and Game; National Marine Fisheries Service; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region; South Coast Air Quality Management District; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), U.S. Coast Guard; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. By this notice, we are asking these and other Federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS/EIR/ASR. Agencies that would like to request cooperating status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided below. Currently, the ACOE has expressed its intention to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS/EIR/ASR to satisfy its NEPA responsibilities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the proposal. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives (including alternative terminal sites and pipeline routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before October 30, 2003, and carefully follow these instructions:

- 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 your comments for the attention of Gas Branch 1, DG2E;
- Reference Docket No. PF03–6–000 on the original and both copies;
- Send an additional copy of your letter to: Robert Kanter, Ph.D., Planning Division, 925 Harbor Plaza, Port of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA 90807; and
- Reference Application No. HDP 03–079 on your letter.

[2] The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's Internet Web site (*http://www.ferc.gov*) at the ''eLibrary'' link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch at (202) 502–8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the end of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

The public scoping meeting to be held on October 9, 2003 at the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center is designed to provide another opportunity to offer comments on the proposed project. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meeting and to present comments on the environmental issues they believe should be addressed in the EIS/EIR/ASR. A transcript of the meeting will be made so that your comments will be accurately recorded.

Please note that the FERC is continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. Therefore, the Commission encourages electronic filing of comments. *See* 18 Code of Federal Regulations 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Internet Web site at *http://www.ferc.gov* under the ''eFiling'' link and the link to the User's Guide. Prepare your submission in the same manner as you would if filing on paper and save it to a file on your hard drive. Before you can file comments you will need to create an account by clicking on ''Login to File'' and then ''New User Account.'' You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. This filing is considered a ''Comment on Filing.''

Availability of Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at 1–866–208 FERC (3372) or on the FERC Internet Web site (*http://www.ferc.gov*). Using the ''eLibrary'' link, select ''General Search'' from the eLibrary menu, enter the selected date range and ''Docket Number'' (*i.e.*, PF03–6–000), and follow the instructions. Searches may also be done using the phrase ''Long Beach LNG'' in the ''Text Search'' field. For assistance with access to eLibrary, the helpline can be reached at 1–866–208–3676, TTY (202) 502–8659, or at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.* The eLibrary link on the FERC Internet Web site also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rule makings.

In addition, the FERC now offers a free service called eSubscription that allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. To register for this service, go to *http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm.*

Information about the project is also available from the POLB. You may call the POLB Environmental Planning Section at 562–590–4160 or e-mail questions and comments to the POLB at *Crouch@POLB.com.*

Finally, SES has established an Internet Web site for this project at *http://www.soundenergysolutions.com.* The Web site includes a description of the project, maps and photographs of the proposed site, SES' answers to frequently asked questions about LNG, and links to related documents.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–24639 Filed 9–29–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. P–178–017]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment, Availability of Scoping Document, and Soliciting Scoping Comments

September 23, 2003.

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

a. *Type of Application:* New Major License.

b. *Project No.:* 178–017.

c. *Date filed:* April 14, 2003.

d. *Applicant:* Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

e. *Name of Project:* Kern Canyon Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On the Kern River, near the Town of Bakersfield, Kern County, California. The project occupies approximately 11.26 acres of public land located within the Sequoia National Forest.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Randal S. Livingston, Pacific Gas and Electric Company Power Generation, Mail Code N11E, P.O. Box 770000, San Francisco, CA 94177 (415) 973–7000.

i. *FERC Contact:* Allison Arnold at (202) 502–6346 or *allison.arnold@ferc.gov.*

j. *Deadline for filing scoping comments:* 30 days from the date of this notice.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all interveners filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervener files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. *See* 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site (*http://www.ferc.gov*) under the ''e-Filing'' link.

k. This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. The Kern Canyon Project consists of: (1) An existing 150-foot-long and 23-foot-high dam; (2) an existing 3-acre reservoir having a usable capacity of 27-acre-feet; (3) a 1.58-mile-long horseshoe shaped tunnel; (4) a 520-foot-long steel penstock varying in diameter from 96 inches to 90 inches; (5) a powerhouse containing one generating unit with an installed capacity of 9,540 kilowatts; (6) existing transmission facilities; and (7) appurtenant facilities. The project is estimated to generate an average of 67.6 gigawatt hours annually. The dam and existing project facilities are owned by the applicant.

m. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at *http://www.ferc.gov* using the ''eLibrary'' link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov* or toll-free at 1–866–208–3676, or for TTY, (202) 502–8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

You may also register online at *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp* to be notified via e-mail of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. Scoping Process

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and procedures of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), the Commission staff intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the environmental