

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Midwestern Gas Transmission Company

Docket No. CP05-372-000

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
MGT EASTERN EXTENSION PROJECT

(October 20, 2005)

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Midwestern Gas Transmission Company (MGT) in the above-referenced docket.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the proposed 30.9 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline commencing at the MGT Portland Station in Sumner County, Tennessee and traversing southeasterly to proposed interconnects with Columbia Gulf Transmission Company and East Tennessee Natural Gas Company in Trousdale County, Tennessee. The proposed pipeline would deliver up to 120,000 decatherms per day (Dth/d) to Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., a local distribution company, for long-term transportation. Additional pipeline facilities would consist of a pig launcher and piping modifications to existing reciprocating engines at the MGT Portland Station, mainline valve assemblies and a pig receiver at the terminus of the line, ultrasonic meters with electronic flow measurement, flow control valves, and data acquisition control buildings.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Public Reference Room
888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 502-8371

Copies of the EA have been mailed to federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, Native American tribes, interested individuals, local libraries, 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:

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426;

- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the **Gas Branch 1;**
- Reference Docket No. **CP05-372-000**; and
- **Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before November 21, 2005.**

Please note that 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 on-line.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. 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.

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

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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 website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and 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, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202)502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and 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 www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm.

Magalie R. Salas
Secretary