cash-outs. WNG proposes to make the refund upon Commission approval of its calculation method as set out in this report.

WNG states that on October 1, 1993, in Docket No. RS92-12, it implemented a new methodology for handling transportation imbalances. Included in this methodology was a cash-out mechanism. Pursuant to Article 9.7(a)(iv), Shippers were given the option of resolving their imbalances by the end of the calendar month following the month in which the imbalance occurred by cashing-out such imbalances at 100% of the spot market price applicable to WNG as published in the first issue of Inside FERC's Gas Market Report for the month in which the imbalance occurred.

Net monthly imbalances which were not resolved by the end of the second month following the month in which the imbalance occurred and which exceeded the tolerance specified in Article 9.7(b) were cashed-out at a premium or discount from the spot price according to the schedules set forth in Article 9.7(c). Article 9.7(d) provides that during each twelve month period beginning on the effective date of Article 9, WNG shall refund any net revenue (sales less purchase cost) received from the operation of paragraphs (a)(iv) and (c) to all Shippers on a pro-rata basis based on quantity delivered under rate schedules applicable to Article 9.7 to each Shipper during such twelve month period. It further provides that carrying costs shall be calculated on the net balance each month (either net revenue or net cost).

WNG states that a copy of its filing was served on all jurisdictional customers and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests should be filed on or before February 1, 1995. 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 in the Public Reference Room.

Lois D. Cashell.

Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP94-575-000]

El Paso Natural Gas Co.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed San Juan Triangle Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

January 25, 1995.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or the Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed by El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso) for its San Juan Triangle Expansion Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether or not to approve the project.

Summary of the Proposed Project

El Paso seeks Commission authorization to:

• Construct and operate approximately 29.7 miles of 34-inch-diameter pipeline loop ² between El Paso's existing Blanco Plant and its Gallup Compressor Station, in San Juan County, New Mexico; and

• Install a replacement compressor unit on one of the turbines at El Paso's existing Gallup Compressor Station, in McKinley County, New Mexico.

The proposed San Juan Triangle Expansion Project would allow El Paso to receive additional volumes of natural gas from the San Juan Basin area and transport up to 300,000 thousand cubic feet per day through the new loop to its customers. The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.3

Land Requirements for Construction

The proposed loop would be constructed parallel to an existing pipeline corridor which already contains five other pipelines for approximately 16.7 miles and two other pipelines for about 13 miles. The new loop would be installed 30 feet west of the existing El Paso Blanco Plant to Gallup Station Loop Line, except at locations where terrain or other factors dictate a wider spacing. The construction right-of-way would be 100 feet wide, beginning 10 feet west of the existing loop.

El Paso would acquire an additional 10 to 30 feet of new permanent right-of-way for the proposed loop, and 50 feet of temporary work space would be needed west of the new permanent right-of-way. Other temporary work space would be required adjacent to the planned construction right-of-way at road and stream crossings. Following construction, the temporary work space would be allowed to revert to its former land use.

The EA 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 on important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues we will address in the EA. All comments received are taken into account during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage the to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
 - Vegetation and wildlife
 - Endangered and threatened species
 - Land use
 - Cultural resources
 - Air quality and noise

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 resources.

¹ El Paso's application was filed with the Commission under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations on June 1, 1994.

² A loop is a segment of pipeline installed adjacent to an existing pipeline and connected to it on both ends. The loop allows more gas to be moved through that segment of the pipeline system.

³The 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, Room 3104, 941 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208–1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.