

## The EPA 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 EA 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 Eas. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the Eas. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of these proposed actions and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

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

- Geology and soils.
- Water resources, fisheries.
- Land use
- Cultural resources and wetlands.<sup>3</sup>
- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Public safety.
- Hazardous waste.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed projects or portions of the projects, 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 Eas. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the Eas may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for each proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the Eas are published. We will consider all comments on the Eas before we recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

## Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the

proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Columbia. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list. The list of issues may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis. Issues are:

Coco Transmission Project (Docket No. CP95-170-000):

- The project would cross four perennial streams and five wetlands.
- The project would cross or be near cultural resources/archaeological sites.

Coco Storage Field Project (Docket No. CP95-181-000):

- The project would cross six perennial streams at 13 locations, and 18 wetlands.
- The project would cross or be near cultural resources/archaeological sites.

## Public Participation

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 locations/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:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, D.C. 20426.

- Reference Docket No. CP95-170-000 and/or CP95-181-000;
- Send a copy of your letter to:

For the Coco Transmission Project (Docket No. CP95-170-000): Mr. Jeff Shenot, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street NE., Room 7312, Washington, D.C. 20426; and/or

For the Coco Storage Field Project (Docket No. CP95-181-000): Ms. Medha Kochhar, EA Project Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street NE., Room 7312, Washington, D.C. 20426; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before March 20, 1995.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Shenot or Ms. Kochhar, for Docket Nos. CP95-170-000 and CP95-181-000, respectively, at the above addresses.

## Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA 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) attached as appendix 2.

The dates for filing of timely motions to intervene for the Coco Transmission Project (Docket No. CP95-170-000) and Coco Storage Field Project (Docket No. CP95-181-000) are February 16, 1995 and February 23, 1995, respectively. After these dates, 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.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Jeff Shenot, Coco Transmission Project EA Manager, at (202) 219-0295, or from Medha Kochhar, Coco Field Project EA Manager, at (202) 208-2270.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

Secretary.

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## [Docket No. CP95-75-000]

### Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation; Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed MS-1 Pipeline Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

February 10, 1995.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or the Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of facilities proposed in the MS-1 Pipeline 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

Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (Texas Eastern) wants to

<sup>1</sup> Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

<sup>3</sup> According to the applicant, the project will not affect any waters of the United States. We will report any potential impacts, or their absence, under this heading.