

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC

Docket No. CP09-17-000

NOTICE OF SCHEDULE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
OF THE PHASE VIII EXPANSION PROJECT

(March 6, 2009)

On October 31, 2008, Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC (FGT) filed an application in Docket No. CP09-17-000 requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act to construct, operate, and maintain certain pipeline facilities. The proposed project is known as the Phase VIII Expansion Project and would increase FGT's certificated capacity by about 820 million cubic feet per day to serve the expanding needs for additional firm transportation service in Florida and the Gulf Coast.

On November 17, 2008, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) issued its Notice of Application for the Project. Among other things, that notice alerted other agencies issuing federal authorizations of the requirement to complete all necessary reviews and to reach a final decision on the request for a federal authorization within 90 days of the date of issuance of the Commission staff's final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Phase VIII Expansion Project. This instant notice identifies the FERC staff's planned schedule for completion of the final EIS for the Project.

Schedule for Environmental Review

Issuance of Notice of Availability of the final EIS
90-day Federal Authorization Decision Deadline

August 7, 2009
November 5, 2009

If a schedule change becomes necessary, an additional notice will be provided so that the relevant agencies are kept informed of the Project's progress.

Project Description

FGT would construct 11 segments of assorted diameter pipelines (20- to 42-inch-diameter) adjacent to its existing pipeline and three new pipelines totaling 483.2 miles and add a total of 213,600 horsepower of compression to one new and eight existing compressor stations in various counties in Alabama and Florida.

Background

On March 18, 2008, the Commission staff granted FGT's request to use the FERC's pre-filing environmental review process and assigned the Phase VIII Expansion Project Docket No. PF08-14-000. The Pre-filing Process for this Project ended on October 31, 2008, with the filing of FGT's application. At that time, this proceeding was assigned Docket No. CP09-17-000.

On May 19, 2008, the Commission issued a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Phase VIII Expansion Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings* (NOI). The NOI was sent to federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; affected landowners; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes and regional organizations; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. In response to the NOI, the Commission received comments from two federal agencies, eight state agencies, four local agencies, four non-governmental organizations, and twenty-one landowners. Major issues raised during scoping included: impacts on threatened and endangered species; impacts on state forest lands, conservation lands, recreation areas, and sensitive habitats; impacts on aquatic and cultural resources; invasive species control measures; construction monitoring by qualified individuals; post-construction restoration measures; alternative alignments or construction methods to avoid impacts on private property; cumulative impacts with other future projects; and pipeline safety.

The U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS.

Additional information about the Project may be obtained by contacting the Environmental Project Manager, Danny Laffoon, by telephone at (202) 502-6257, or by electronic mail at danny.laffoon@ferc.gov.

Lauren O'Donnell, Director
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Engineering