

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Tarpon Whitetail Gas Storage, LLC

Docket No. CP08-46-000

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED  
**WHITETAIL NATURAL GAS STORAGE PROJECT** AND  
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

(January 23, 2008)

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the proposed Whitetail Natural Gas Storage Project involving construction and operation of natural gas facilities by Tarpon Whitetail Gas Storage, LLC (Whitetail) in Monroe County, Mississippi. The EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the project. Your input will help determine which issues need to be evaluated in the EA. **Please note that the scoping period will close on February 25, 2008.** Details on how to submit comments are provided in the Public Participation section of this notice.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. Whitetail would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, Whitetail could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with Mississippi state law.

This notice is being sent to affected landowners; federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; Native American tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. State and local government representatives are asked to notify their constituents of this proposed project and to encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is available for viewing on the FERC Internet website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)).

### **Summary of the Proposed Project**

Whitetail proposes to construct, own, operate, and maintain a high-deliverability, multi-cycle depleted reservoir natural gas storage facility, known as the Aberdeen Gas Storage Field, in Monroe County. The Whitetail Natural Gas Storage Project would accommodate the injection, storage, and subsequent withdrawal of natural gas for redelivery in interstate commerce. Upon completion of the project, the reservoir would have a total working gas storage capacity of 8.6 billion standard cubic feet.

The primary facilities associated with the proposed project are as follows:

- up to 20 injection/withdrawal wells and 2 saltwater disposal wells in two general locations (the "West Well Pad Site" and the "East Well Pad Site");
- an interconnection (the "TETCO Interconnect") with Texas Eastern's existing interstate natural gas pipeline that includes a meter station, pig launcher/receiver, interconnect piping, and associated facilities;
- about 4.9 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline (the "West Header Right-of-way pipeline") and 1.0 mile of 16-inch-diameter pipeline (the "Field Line Corridor pipeline"); and
- 14,200 horsepower (hp) of compression (four 3,550 hp natural gas-driven compressors and ancillary facilities) at a new compressor station (the "Whitetail Compressor Station").

The general location of the proposed storage field project is shown in Appendix 1<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies are available on the Commission's Internet website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) at the "eLibrary" link or from the Commission's Public Reference Room at (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the "Additional Information" section at the end of this notice. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail. Requests for detailed maps of the proposed facilities should be made directly to Whitetail.

### **Land Requirements for Construction**

The construction and development of the Aberdeen Gas Storage Field itself would encompass about 2,850 acres. An additional buffer zone, defined by the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board as necessary to ensure reservoir integrity, would bring the total storage area to 4,840 acres.

The West Header Right-of-way and the Field Line Corridor pipelines would together require about 79 acres of temporary disturbance for the construction rights-of-way, including extra work spaces. Of this total, about 36 acres would be retained for Whitetail's permanent rights-of-way.

The proposed TETCO Interconnect site is a 1-acre tract at the northwest terminus of the proposed West Header Right-of-way pipeline. This site would be fenced and permanently converted to natural gas operation.

Most of the remaining facilities associated with the proposed project would be constructed within the "Plant Site," a 24.3-acre tract owned by Whitetail. Within this site, the Whitetail Compressor Station would encompass about 11.1 acres and the West Well Pad Site (for construction of injection/withdrawal and saltwater disposal wells and ancillary facilities) would encompass about 6.1 acres. About 4.3 acres would be used as temporary work space, pipe storage, construction offices, and similar use. The remaining 2.8 acres of the Plant Site consists of an existing facilities area which would not be disturbed by Whitetail's proposed construction, though it could be used for operational purposes. Once the project is completed, Whitetail would construct a permanent security fence around the Plant Site.

The proposed East Well Pad Site is about 1 mile southeast of the Plant Site and at the eastern terminus of the proposed Field Line Corridor pipeline. This site would encompass about 5 acres for construction of injection/withdrawal and saltwater disposal wells, a pig launcher/receiver, and ancillary facilities related to the wells and pipeline.

### **The EA Process**

We<sup>2</sup> are preparing this EA to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impact that could result if it authorizes Whitetail's proposal. By this notice, we are also asking federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to

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<sup>2</sup>"We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the FERC's Office of Energy Projects.

environmental issues to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA. Agencies that would like to request cooperating status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided below.

NEPA also requires the FERC to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as “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, we are requesting public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. All comments received will be considered during the preparation of the EA.

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

- geology and soils
- water resources and wetlands
- land use
- socioeconomics
- cultural resources
- vegetation and wildlife (including sensitive species)
- air quality and noise

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA 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 this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section below.

### **Public Participation**

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they

will be. 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 letter to:

Kimberley D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First St. NE; Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas Branch 1.
- Reference Docket No. CP08-46-000.
- **Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before February 25, 2008.**

**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 website 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.”

We may mail the EA for comment. If you are interested in receiving it, please return the Information Request (Appendix 3). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

### **Becoming an Intervenor**

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an “intervenor.” Intervenors play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must send one electronic copy (using the Commission’s eFiling system) or 14 paper copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. 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) (see Appendix 2)<sup>3</sup>. 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 environmental comments considered.**

### **Additional Information**

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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm).

Finally, public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx> along with other related information. You can also request additional information by calling Whitetail at 713-337-2743.

Kimberley D. Bose,  
Secretary.

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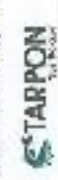
<sup>3</sup>Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

# **Appendix 1**



Figure 1-1  
 LOCATION MAP  
 WHITE OAK GAS STORAGE PROJECT, MONROE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
 Tamara White Oak Gas Storage, LLC, Houston, Texas

© 2007 Starpon LLC. All rights reserved.  
 Date: 01/23/2008 10:00 AM  
 Project: White Oak Gas Storage, LLC, Houston, Texas



281-463-1000 (TX) 281-463-1000 (TX)

## How to Intervene in Commission Proceeding

There are two alternatives available to those wishing to participate in FERC proceedings involving the interstate sale and transportation of natural gas, hydroelectric dams, wholesale transactions of electric transmissions, and rates for the interstate transportation of petroleum products.

One approach is simply to file a protest or letter of support with the Commission. Such informal comments are made known to the Commission and its staff and are considered by the Commission in determining further appropriate actions. But, protests and letters of support are filed without becoming part of the official record if the case is set for hearing. **The Commission's rules direct protesters to provide copies of their protests to the party or parties against whom their complaints are directed.**

The second approach is to file as an intervenor. An intervenor is an official party to a proceeding and enjoys distinct advantages and responsibilities over those who only file informal comments of protest or support. Intervenors have the right to participate in hearings before an administrative law judge as well as other proceedings in the case. They may file briefs. Intervenors will be placed on a service list to receive copies of case-related Commission documents as well as filings by other intervenors in the proceeding. And they will have the legal standing to be heard by the Court of Appeals if they choose to pursue their opposition to the final order by the Commission in their case.

Filing for intervenor status is not complicated. There is no form to complete. Interested parties must file a motion requesting permission to intervene. The motion must identify the case by name and docket number and must clearly state your position and interest in the case.

For example, intervenors may demonstrate they are directly affected consumers, or they are elected representatives of affected parties, or that they own land near a proposed hydroelectric or pipeline site.

A motion to intervene must be served on the applicant and any other parties on the service list in the proceeding. An original and 14 copies are required to be filed with the Commission.

The Commission's Secretary maintains the service list. The service list may be accessed on the FERC Internet website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)). Service lists can be found under the "Documents & Filing" link.

Alternatively, if you are within the city of Washington, D.C. requests for service lists may be directed to the Public Reference Room, (202) 502-8371. If you are outside the city of Washington, D.C. requests should be directed to the Office of the Secretary, (202) 502-6088.

Notices of proposed rate changes, applications for hydro development and proposed natural gas pipelines, and other filings submitted to the Commission are

printed daily in the *Federal Register*.

The notices are also available on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) using the eLibrary link. eLibrary, the Federal Energy Regulatory Records Information System, is a database containing the indexes and images of documents submitted to and issued by the FERC. Applications and subsequent filings may be viewed in eLibrary.

Each notice includes a deadline for filing requests for intervention. If the request to intervene is filed on time and there is no opposition to the request within 15 days of filing, intervenor status is granted automatically.

Disputed requests for intervenor status must be resolved by the Commission.

Anyone filing a motion to intervene out-of-time must show good cause why the motion should be accepted late.

If the intervention is filed after the matter has been set for hearing and is pending before an administrative law judge, the presiding judge has the authority to rule on contested motions to intervene.

Interventions, protests, or comments should be mailed to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, 888 First St. NE, Washington, DC 20426. As noted, these filings must cite the case name and docket number.



**INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Docket No. CP08-46-000**

**Please keep my name on the mailing list for the Whitetail Natural Gas Storage Project**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agency** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ATTN: OEP - Gas 1, PJ - 11.1  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20426**

Docket No. CP08-46-000

**Staple or Tape Here**