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2008 MAR 14 P 4: 24

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION
March 14, 2008

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC – East to West HubLine Expansion Project
Docket No. PF07-15-000
Submission of Monthly Pre-Filing Progress Report

Dear Ms. Bose:

Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC (“Algonquin”) hereby submits for filing its Monthly Pre-Filing Progress Report pursuant to Section 157.21(f)(6) of the regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”), 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(f)(6) (2007). On September 10, 2007, the Commission approved Algonquin’s request to initiate the National Environmental Policy Act Pre-Filing Process for the proposed East to West HubLine Expansion Project (“E2W Project”) in the referenced proceeding.¹ Algonquin hereby submits its Monthly Pre-Filing Progress Report for the E2W Project for the period ending March 10, 2008.

Should you have any questions concerning this filing, please contact me at (713) 627-5415.

Sincerely,

Garth Johnson
General Manager, Certificates and
Reporting, Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

cc: Mark Robinson (FERC)
Shannon Jones (FERC)
Larry Brown (NRG, LLC)
Amy Davis (NRG, LLC)

¹ *Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC*, “Letter Order Approval of Pre-Filing Request,” Docket No. PF07-15-000 (Sept. 10, 2007).



**ALGONQUIN GAS TRANSMISSION, LLC
EAST TO WEST HUBLINE EXPANSION PROJECT
DOCKET NO. PF07-15-000**

FERC Pre-Filing Process Monthly Progress Report

Period Ending: March 10, 2008

Report #: 6

Introduction

By letter order dated September 10, 2007, Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC (“Algonquin”) was granted approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC” or the “Commission”) to utilize the Commission’s pre-filing review process for the East to West HubLine Expansion Project (“E2W Project” or “Project”) with facilities proposed in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and New York. The Project has been assigned Docket No. PF07-15-000.

The Project is designed to respond to significant interest from customers needing transportation capacity in order to accommodate increased receipts of natural gas from emerging natural gas supplies, including liquefied natural gas (“LNG”), at the east end of the Algonquin system for redelivery to high growth markets in the Northeast Region. This Monthly Progress Report provides a brief summary of significant Project activities or changes in Project information that have occurred within the previous month.

This Monthly Progress Report is for the reporting period of February 11, 2008 through March 10, 2008. The next progress report will cover the period of March 11, 2008 through April 10, 2008.

Project Facilities Update

Since the filing of Monthly Report #5, Algonquin has reduced the scope of the overall Project and eliminated certain facilities from the E2W Project. These changes reflect the finalization of Algonquin’s negotiations with the shippers who had initially expressed interest in this Project.

Based on the results of the final negotiations with the shippers, Algonquin has determined that the following facilities can be eliminated from the Project:

- ◆ The new compressor station proposed for the Town of Boxford, Essex County, Massachusetts;
- ◆ Approximately 12 miles of pipeline facilities in Norfolk County, starting in Medway, Massachusetts and heading east towards Sharon, Massachusetts;
- ◆ Approximately 3.6 miles of pipeline facilities, in the Town of Cheshire, New Haven County, Connecticut; and
- ◆ Modifications to allow flow reversal at the Chaplin Compressor Station in the Town of Chaplin, Windham County, Connecticut.

Algonquin continues to propose to construct and operate the following facilities:

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Massachusetts

- ◆ I-10 Extension – construct approximately 13.0 miles of new 36-inch-diameter pipeline from milepost (“MP”) 0.0 in the Town of Weymouth to MP 13.0 in the Town of Canton, Norfolk County;
- ◆ Q-1 System – install approximately 6.3 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline that will replace a segment of an existing 24-inch-diameter pipeline from MP 12.2 in the Town of Sharon to MP 18.5 in Canton, Norfolk County; and
- ◆ Construct a compressor station in the Town of Rehoboth, Bristol County.

Connecticut

- ◆ E-3 System – install approximately 11.0 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipeline that will replace a segment of an existing 6- and 4-inch-diameter pipeline from MP 0.0 in the Town of Norwich to MP 11.0 in the Town of North Stonington, New London County.

In addition, Algonquin continues to propose to make modifications to four existing compressor stations in the: Town of Burrillville, Providence County, Rhode Island; Town of Cromwell, Middlesex County, Connecticut; Town of Southeast, Putnam County, New York; and Township of Hanover, Morris County, New Jersey. The Project will also continue to include the installation of twenty-nine (29) chromatographs at existing meter stations in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey.

Environmental Report

Preliminary drafts of Resource Reports 1 – Project Description, and 10 – Alternatives, were filed with the FERC on October 10, 2007. Algonquin filed complete drafts of Resource Reports 1 through 12 on February 22, 2008 that reflect the facilities as noted above.

Field Surveys

- ◆ *Wetland delineation* – In Massachusetts, wetland delineation surveys were completed along three major Project alternatives, including the Cranberry Brook 1 and 2 Alternative and the Q-System Cross Country Alternative (formerly referred to as the I-2 Cross Country Alternative). In addition, wetland delineation continued along the Q-1 System and the proposed I-10 Extension for minor deviations, additional temporary workspaces, and access roads.

Wetland delineation activities also occurred during this period along a proposed reroute associated with the Shetucket River on the E-3 System in Connecticut.

- ◆ *Rare, threatened and endangered species* – During the previous reporting period, Algonquin submitted consultation letters to the appropriate Federal and state agencies requesting information on the presence of Federal or state-listed threatened and endangered species in the vicinity of new staging areas, access roads, and contractor yards that were not covered by the initial consultation

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letters. During this period, Algonquin received agency responses and continued to work on addressing agency concerns.

- ◆ *Cultural resources* – In Connecticut, site evaluation studies are complete at five of the eight potentially significant archaeological sites identified along the E-3 System. Analysis of the cultural material recovered during the site evaluation studies and preparation of the combined identification/site evaluations technical report is ongoing.

In Massachusetts, cultural resources work along the Q-1 System and proposed I-10 Extension is complete for archaeological resources and historic architectural structures. Two potentially significant archaeological sites were identified along the I-10 Extension. No potentially significant archaeological sites were identified along the Q-1 System. Site evaluation will need to be conducted at both sites on the I-10 Extension. Site evaluation work on these sites is on hold due to inclement winter weather and frozen ground.

Additionally, archaeological identification work has begun at three of the major route alternatives in Massachusetts including the Cranberry Brook 1 Alternative, the Cranberry Brook 2 Alternative and the Q-System Cross Country Alternative. Identification work at the alternative locations has been put on hold due to inclement winter weather and frozen ground. Work will resume in the spring once the ground thaws.

As noted last month, cultural resources identification work at the Rehoboth Compressor Station site is complete for both archaeological and architectural resources. No significant archaeological sites were identified, and therefore no archaeological site evaluation work will be required.

Alignment drawings

- ◆ A draft set of 1”-100’ aerial photo-based alignment drawings has been completed for all pipeline segments and the Rehoboth Compressor Station. These alignment drawings were included in the draft Resource Report filing submitted on February 22.

ROW/Survey/Construction/Facilities Progress Update

- ◆ To date, Algonquin has obtained survey permission from the majority of the landowners along the facilities.

Routing/Facilities Update

Algonquin continues to remain engaged in extensive public outreach activities. Algonquin has continued to spend considerable effort in evaluating alternate routes in the Canton/Stoughton area and in evaluating alternate routes associated with the Cranberry Brook Area of Critical Environmental Concern (“ACEC”) in Holbrook and Braintree.



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On March 24, 2008 Algonquin is hosting an additional informational Open House in Stoughton to provide landowners, public officials and other interested parties with information that presents the results of its efforts since last fall to evaluate the various alternatives. In addition, Algonquin expects to be able to solicit input from these stakeholders that it can incorporate into its ongoing evaluation.

Algonquin understands that as the Project moves forward through the public permitting process and the routing is examined more closely by affected parties, some additional concerns and issues are likely to be raised and additional alignment changes may be proposed. Algonquin remains open to the consideration of such alternatives and will continue to investigate and evaluate viable alternatives.

Summary of Significant New Issues or Concerns Raised by Stakeholders

No new concerns have been raised by stakeholders. Refer to Algonquin's December 7th filing for a summary of issues raised during the comment period and Algonquin's responses to those comments.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Source</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| NA | | |

New Stakeholders Identified

Algonquin provided updated line lists of the affected landowners under separate cover on March 13, 2008.

| <i>Agency</i> | <i>Contact Person</i> | <i>Contact information</i> |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| NA | NA | NA |

Other Pre-Filing Activities/Meetings

The following meetings were attended by Algonquin during this reporting period:

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Agency</i> | <i>Purpose</i> |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| 3/5 & 6/2008 | Canton & Stoughton Congressional and Legislative Delegation | Discussion of alternatives |
| 3/6/2008 | Town of Stoughton – Municipal Officials | Discussion of alternatives |



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| <i>Date</i> | <i>Agency</i> | <i>Purpose</i> |
|-------------|----------------------|---|
| 3/7/2008 | Inter-Agency meeting | Discussion of Cross-Country and Cranberry Brook ACEC alternatives |

Project Filings and Schedule Update

No new information was filed with the Commission during this reporting period.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Provided by</i> | <i>Content</i> |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| NA | | |

Schedule

Algonquin is planning to file the formal application in May of 2008. All other agency applications will be filed in a similar time frame. Algonquin proposes to place the Project facilities into service by the fall of 2009.