

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC

Docket No. PF16-1-000

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PLANNED
ACCESS NORTHEAST PROJECT,
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES,
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

(April 29, 2016)

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the planned Access Northeast Project (ANE Project). This EIS will discuss the potential impacts on the environment resulting from Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC's (Algonquin) construction and operation of interstate natural gas transmission and storage facilities in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The Commission will use this EIS in its decision-making process to determine whether the Project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice, which is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list describes the process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the ANE Project. The Review Process flow chart in Appendix 1 also illustrates public input opportunities.¹ State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this planned Project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

Comments on the ANE Project may be submitted in written form or verbally. The Public Participation section of this notice describes how to submit written comments. To ensure that written comments are properly recorded and that staff has sufficient time to consider them, please send these comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before **May 30, 2016**. The Commission's staff will also consider comments received after this date, but we encourage you to file your comments within the identified comment period. Verbal comments can be given at the public scoping meetings described in the Public Participation section below.

¹ The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the Federal Register. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at www.ferc.gov using the link called "eLibrary" or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

Filings. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on “eRegister.” If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select “Comment on a Filing” as the filing type; or

- (3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 888 First Street NE, Room 1A
 Washington, DC 20426

- (4) In lieu of sending written or electronic comments, the Commission invites you to attend one of the public scoping meetings its staff will conduct in the project area, scheduled as follows.

Date and Time	Location
Monday, May 16, 2016 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time	Southbury Fire Department 461 Main Street South Southbury, CT 06488
Monday, May 16, 2016 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time	Mansfield Middle School 205 Spring Hill Road Storrs, CT 06268
Tuesday, May 17, 2016 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time	Sleepy Hollow High School 210 North Broadway Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591
Wednesday, May 18, 2016 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time*	Stacey Middle School 66 School Street Milford, MA 01757
Wednesday, May 18, 2016 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time	Ford Middle School 708 Middle Road Acushnet, MA 02743
Thursday, May 19, 2016 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time	Abigail Adams Middle School 89 Weymouth Street East Weymouth, MA 02189
* Due to venue availability, the Stacy Middle School in Milford, Massachusetts will not be accessible until 6:00 p.m. Please plan accordingly. Meeting attendees will be asked to wait outside.	

The purpose of these meetings is to provide the public an opportunity to learn more about the Commission’s environmental review process and to verbally comment on the ANE Project. Affected landowners and other interested parties concerned about the ANE Project are encouraged to attend these meetings and to give their comments on the

- 17.6 miles in Fairfield and New Haven Counties, Connecticut (Southeast Take-up and Relay); and
- 13.5 miles in New Haven and Hartford Counties, Connecticut (Oxford Take-up and Relay).
- Extensions of existing pipeline loops⁴; approximately 22.7 miles of additional 36-inch-diameter pipeline and 25.9 miles of additional 30-inch-diameter pipeline as follows:
 - 13.3 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in Hartford, Middlesex, and Tolland Counties, Connecticut (Cromwell Loop);
 - 9.4 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in Windham County, Connecticut (Chaplin Loop);
 - 21.7 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline in Norfolk County, Massachusetts (Q-1 Loop); and
 - 4.2 miles of 30-inch-pipeline in Norfolk County, Massachusetts (I-8 Loop).
- Installation of approximately 26.8 miles of new 16-inch-diameter lateral pipeline in Norfolk and Worcester Counties, Massachusetts.
- Installation of approximately 2.9 miles of new 24-inch-diameter lateral pipeline in Bristol County, Massachusetts.

Algonquin would also need to construct pig⁵ launcher and receiver facilities and new mainline valves.

Compressor Stations and other pipeline-related aboveground facilities

Algonquin plans to modify six existing compressor stations, expand one currently proposed compressor station, construct one new compressor station, modify seven existing metering and regulating (M&R) stations, and construct two new M&R stations. The modifications to the six existing compressor stations would be located in Rockland and Putnam Counties, New York, New Haven, Middlesex, and Windham Counties Connecticut, and Providence County, Rhode Island. The expansion of the currently proposed compressor station would be located in Norfolk County, Massachusetts and the new compressor station would be located in Bristol County, Massachusetts. These eight compressor stations would add a total of 165,560 horsepower to Algonquin's pipeline system.

⁴ A pipeline loop is a segment of pipe constructed parallel to an existing pipeline to increase capacity.

⁵ A "pig" is a tool that the pipeline company inserts into and pushed through the pipeline for cleaning the pipeline, conducting internal inspections, or other purposes.

concerns the public may have about proposals. This discovery process is commonly referred to as "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EIS on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EIS. All comments received will be considered during the preparation of the EIS, and addressed as appropriate.

In the EIS we will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the planned Project under these general headings:

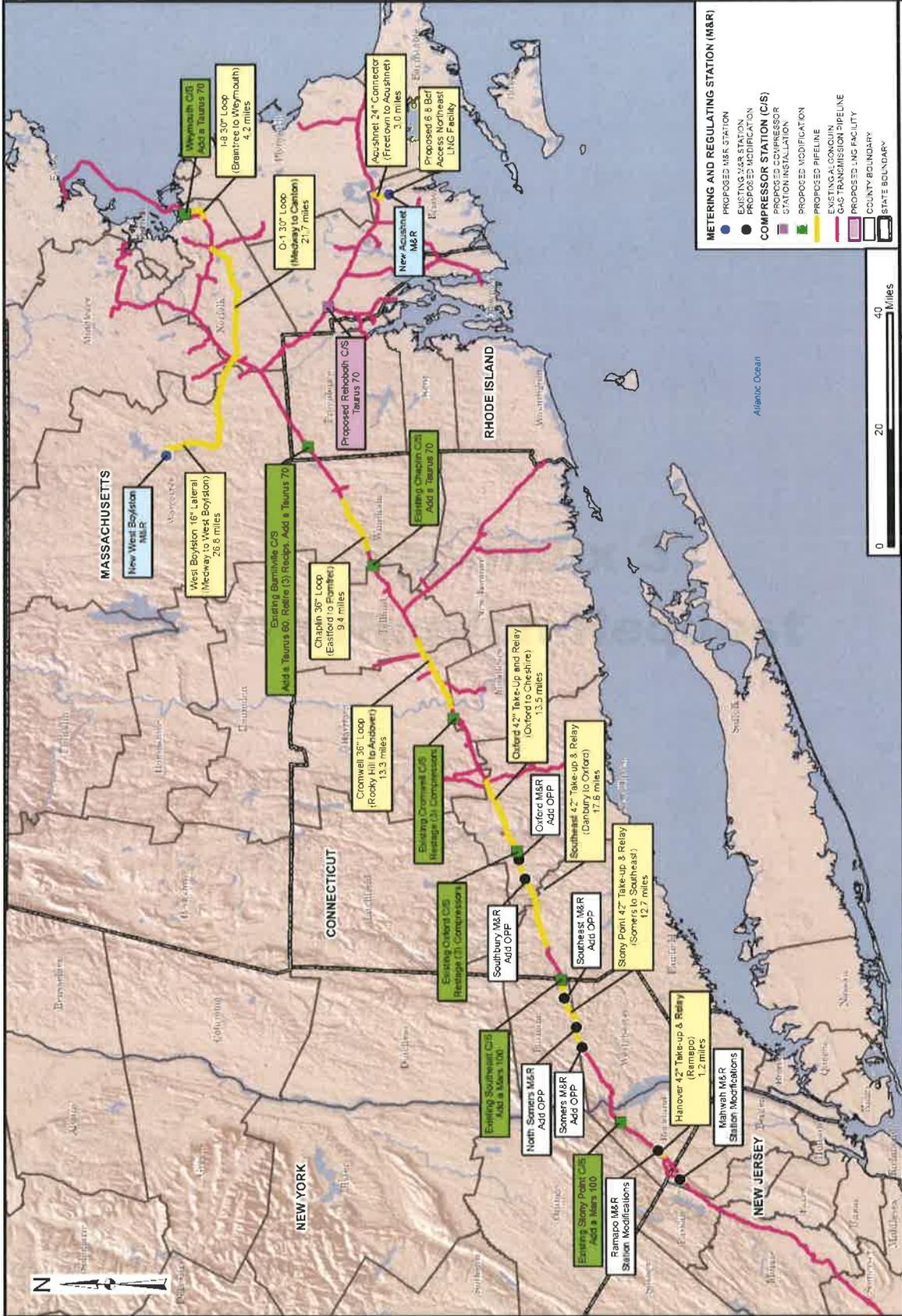
- geology and soils;
- land use;
- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- cultural resources;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- air quality and noise;
- threatened and endangered species;
- public safety and reliability; and
- cumulative impacts.

Staff, in cooperation with other federal agencies, has already begun an evaluation of alternatives to the ANE Project, including pipeline route alternatives, compressor station equipment and locations, and LNG Storage Facility sites. This alternatives analysis will be included in the EIS along with any recommendations we may have on how to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate impacts on the various resource areas.

Although no formal application has been filed, we have already initiated our NEPA review under the Commission's pre-filing process. The purpose of the pre-filing process is to encourage early involvement of interested stakeholders and to identify and resolve issues before the FERC receives an application. As part of our pre-filing review, we have contacted federal and state agencies to discuss their involvement in the scoping process and the preparation of the EIS.

The EIS will present our independent analysis of the issues. We will publish and distribute the draft EIS for public comment. After the comment period, we will consider all timely comments and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section of this notice.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues related to this Project to formally



**ACCESS NORTHEAST PROJECT
OVERVIEW MAP**

access northeast

LOC.: NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS, AND RHODE ISLAND	REV. DATE.: 12/11/2015	REV.: 8
CKD BY: HMMHOL	ENG:	W.O.:
DRN. BY: HMMHOL	SCALE: GRAPHIC SCALE	PAGE: 1 OF 1

