



The South Carolina Environmental Law Project

Lawyers for the Wild Side of South Carolina

June 7, 2016

a 501c3
non-profit organization

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

RE: Comments Regarding the Proposed Natural Gas
Pipelines in South Carolina (CP16-98)

Dear Secretary Bose,

The South Carolina Environmental Law Project, as representative for Upstate Forever, submits the following comments regarding the construction of a new natural gas pipeline by Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission, LLC (DCGT). The project is listed on ferc.gov as the Transco to Charleston project, CP 16-98. Upstate Forever is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of special places throughout the upstate region of South Carolina. Among Upstate Forever's concerns are sustainable development, environmental protection, and cultural preservation. Upon reviewing DCGT's abbreviated application for a Certificate of Public Convenience pursuant to section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, Upstate Forever still has serious concerns regarding the project.

The first concern is DCGT's assertion in its application that the environmental impact of the project will be minimal. We commend FEREC for recognizing several environmental impacts not initially included in the project description or application. Your office recognized impacts such as clear cutting for right of ways, impacts on wetlands, and numerous waterbody crossings. Upstate Forever strongly recommends that FEREC include these findings in their National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") review. A finding of no significant impact, as DCGT seems to suggest, would be completely inappropriate for a project of this scale. A full environmental impact statement should be conducted in order to fully assess the negative effects this project could have on the area.

The second concern is the lack of information regarding the actual need for this new project. The only support DCGT offers for its claim that there is a need is the fact that the new project is fully subscribed. Upstate Forever asserts that FERC can and should look to whether these new customers actually have a need for the new project. This is particularly true of South Carolina Electric and Gas who is already supplied with natural gas from the referenced locations. Where a purchaser of gas from a new pipeline is an investor owned utility in the business of generating electricity, their motivations should be considered in determining whether there is an actual need for the project. A more thorough analysis of the needs of the "fully subscribing" customers will ensure there are no improper motivations such as speculation or market interference, and that this new line is truly "needed."

There are several reasons to be suspicious of the SCE&G subscription. SCE&G supposedly needs the new gas line to run three fossil fuel generation plants, which have recently been converted from coal fired to natural gas. However, these plants have already been converted and according to SCE&G's Integrated Resource Plan for 2016, are already on line and running on natural gas. Furthermore, both DCGT in their alternatives analysis and SCE&G in their IRP ignore the two new nuclear facilities (V.C. Summer 2 & 3) that are about to become operational in South Carolina. DCGT's no action alternative analysis simply dismisses nuclear power as insufficient to serve the needs of South Carolina consumers. However, SCE&G candidly admits that the three gas fired plants are only a tie over until the new nuclear plants come on line, a mere three years from now. After that they would only be intermittently fired to supply peak demand. Neither SCE&G nor DCGT offers any explanation as to why they need the new infrastructure to supply temporary plants which are already fully operational.

Tied in with the concern regarding the subscribed customers' need is the lack of information regarding the terms of the agreement between DCGT and their customers to justify the need for the project. As described above, it is important to know the needs of the subscribed customers, especially when the entire justification for a new project is that these customers are fully subscribed. To that end, in addition to making the comments above, Upstate Forever requests additional information regarding these customers.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, Upstate Forever requests all documents pertaining to the following: (1) any and all contracts between Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission, LLC., its subsidiaries, or parent companies and South Carolina Electric and Gas which contemplate the purchase of services to be offered upon completion of the Transco to Charleston project (CP16-98) used by FERC to make its decision whether or not to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience; (2) any and all contracts between Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission, LLC., its subsidiaries, or parent companies and Flakeboard Company Limited which contemplate the purchase of services to be offered upon completion of the Transco to Charleston project (CP16-98) used by FERC to make its decision whether or not to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience; and (3) any and all contracts between Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission, LLC., its subsidiaries, or parent companies and Wyman-Gordon which contemplate the purchase of services to be offered upon completion of the Transco to Charleston project (CP16-98) used by FERC to make its decision whether or not to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience.

Please submit all documents or claims for exemption to the address below. Electronic or hard copies will be accepted to fulfill this request. Please notify me at the number below if you have any questions, or if the cost of copying the requested documents exceeds \$250.00. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,


Amy Armstrong