

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas 1
CenterPoint Energy Gas
Transmission, LLC
Central Arkansas Pipeline
Enhancement Project
Docket No. PF13-10-000

March 28, 2013
Erik Dilts
Manager, Environmental Projects
CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission, LLC
525 Milam Street
Shreveport, LA 71101

Re: Approval of Pre-Filing Request

Dear Mr. Dilts:

Thank you for your letter, filed March 18, 2013, requesting use of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) pre-filing review process for CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission, LLC's (CEGT) planned Central Arkansas Pipeline Enhancement Project. We believe that beginning the Commission's review of this proposal prior to the receipt of your application will greatly improve our ability to identify issues early and address them in our environmental document.

As stated in your letter, CEGT plans to construct approximately 28 miles of 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline and ancillary facilities in Pulaski and Faulkner Counties, Arkansas. The proposed pipeline would provide replacement transmission service for a portion of two existing CEGT natural gas pipelines.

Your letter also stated that CEGT intends to file an application in September, 2013. When CEGT files its application with the Commission, we will evaluate the progress made during the pre-filing process, based in part on our success in resolving the issues raised during scoping. Once we determine that your application is ready for processing, we will establish a schedule for completion of the environmental document and for the issuance of all other federal authorizations.

As outlined in your request, CEGT intends to file an applicant-prepared draft environmental assessment (EA) with its certificate application. The objective of the applicant-prepared draft EA is to accelerate staff review after filing an application;

however, close coordination with my staff is necessary to assure the draft EA is adequately crafted to realize the benefits of this process. Your request also describes CEGT's commitment to provide a third-party contractor to assist our staff in the preparation of the environmental document should we determine it necessary. At this time, I believe that my staff can proceed with the pre-filing process without a third-party contractor. We will notify you should we determine contractor assistance is necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Energy Projects' Environmental Project Manager for your project, Kareem Monib at (202) 502-6265.

Sincerely,

Jeff C. Wright
Director
Office of Energy Projects

cc: Public File, Docket No. PF13-10-000