## **MEMORANDUM**

Memo from: Joanne Wachholder

OEP/DG2E/Gas 2

Date: August 4, 2016

Subject: Clarification regarding format for comment meetings and copy of

handout to be provided at the meetings.

Docket Nos. CP16-22-000 and CP16-23-000

This memo is intended to clarify the meeting format described in the *Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed NEXUS Gas Transmission Project and the Texas Eastern Appalachian Lease Project* (Notice) issued on July 8, 2016.

The Notice states: "There will not be a formal start of the meeting nor a formal presentation by Commission staff, but FERC staff will be available to answer your questions about the environmental review process. You may arrive at any time after 5:00 PM and we will stop taking comments at 10:00 PM Eastern Time Zone. The primary goal is to have your verbal environmental comments on the draft EIS documented in the public record." The attachment to this memorandum further clarifies that individual verbal comments will be taken on a one-on-one basis with one of the court reporters. This format is designed to receive the maximum amount of verbal comments in a convenient way during the timeframe allotted.

The attachment is the overview for providing comments that Commission staff will provide as a handout at the upcoming comment meetings.



# **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Providing Draft EIS Comments Overview**

#### **Comment Meeting Purpose**

The primary purpose of this meeting is to give you the opportunity to provide environmental comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff on the NEXUS Gas Transmission Project (NGT Project) and the Texas Eastern Appalachian Lease Project (TEAL Project). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires an environmental evaluation be completed for federal actions. In the case of the NGT and TEAL Projects, the federal action is the FERC decision whether the proposed Projects are in the public convenience and necessity.

FERC is the lead federal agency responsible for evaluating applications to construct and operate interstate natural gas pipeline facilities under NEPA. Cooperating agencies participating in the development of the EIS include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The FERC and cooperating agencies, therefore, are not advocates for the NGT and TEAL Projects, but advocates for the environmental review process.

Comments on the draft EIS can be provided tonight in a written format or verbally on a one-on-one basis to a court reporter. The goal of this meeting is to allow for the maximum amount of verbal comments within the timeframe allotted. All comments will be made part of the official record for these proceedings. *All comments are considered equally regardless of the format in which they are received.* It will help if your environmental comments are as specific as possible regarding the proposed projects and the draft EIS.

# **General Ground Rules for Verbal Comments with the Court Reporter**

- There will not be a formal presentation by Commission staff, but FERC staff is available to answer your questions about the environmental review process.
- Individual verbal comments will be taken between 5:00 and 10:00 PM on a one-on-one basis with the court reporter. Sign-up for providing verbal comments is at the main table. You will be called individually to record your comments with the court reporter.
- Time limits on verbal comments may be limited to 3 to 5 minutes dependent on the number of people signed up to provide comments to ensure that all those wishing to comment have the opportunity to do so within the designated meeting time.
- Remain quiet in all meeting spaces so the court reporter can hear the individual providing comments.
  Please be mindful of room capacity and allow other interested individuals an opportunity to make comments.
- Individuals or groups may submit written comments in addition to or in lieu of providing verbal comments.

## **Comment Period**

The formal draft EIS comment period is open until August 29, 2016. Written comments can be submitted at the meeting tonight or: 1) Electronically on the FERC website using the eComment or eFiling features on <a href="https://www.ferc.gov">www.ferc.gov</a> or 2) Via U.S. Postal Service to the following address:

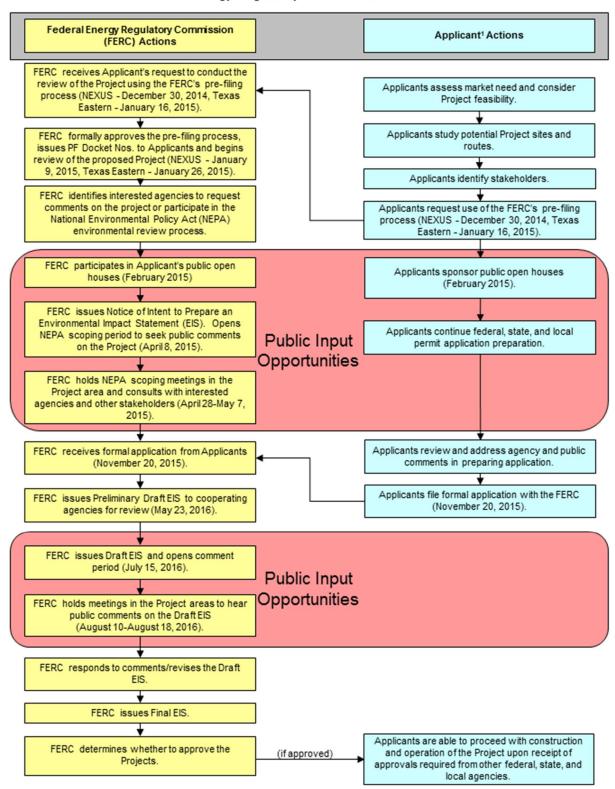
Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street NE, Room 1A Washington, DC 20426

All comments formally submitted will become part of the FERC dockets for the Projects (*Reference FERC Docket No. CP16-22-000 for NGT and CP16-23-000 for TEAL*).



# Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Providing Draft EIS Comments Overview

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Review Process



The project applicants are NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC (NEXUS) and Texas Eastern Transmission, LP (Texas Eastern).