

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
103 FERC ¶ 62,132

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company

Docket No. CP03-50-
000

ORDER ISSUING CERTIFICATE

(Issued June 6, 2003)

This order grants, subject to certain conditions, the authority requested on February 11, 2003, by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee) in the above-referenced docket.

PROPOSAL/DISCUSSION:

Tennessee proposes to abandon in place the 800-2 segment of its Yalobusha pipeline. Tennessee states that this segment formerly served as a redundant secondary river crossing of the Yalobusha River in Grenada County, Mississippi. Tennessee further states that since segment 800-2 is idle and not currently being used to meet customer commitments, the abandonment will have no effect on existing services.

Tennessee states that in 1963 it constructed a secondary river crossing of the Yalobusha River in Grenada County, Mississippi, pursuant to authorization granted in Docket No. CP63-48-000. This segment, known as the Yalobusha pipeline segment 800-2, is thirty inches in diameter and is approximately 1,000 feet in length. Tennessee further states that the Yalobusha pipeline segment 800-2 was originally constructed as a temporary backup facility to minimize the possibility of any service interruption while the existing crossing, Line 800-1, was lowered. Tennessee explains that to safely lower Line 800-1, the new crossing was first constructed and then Line 800-1 was temporarily removed from service. Subsequent to lowering Line 800-1, Tennessee redirected the flow of gas from the Yalobusha pipeline segment 800-2 back to Line 800-1.

Although installed primarily to facilitate the lowering of the Line 800-1 crossing, Tennessee left Line 800-2 in place for use as a backup facility. Thus, the facility has never been used as an active operational loop on a day to day basis and in fact, has rarely been used since 1963. Tennessee asserts that the abandonment of the line will not significantly affect its capacity. According to Tennessee, the impact of the abandonment

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of Yalobusha pipeline segment 800-2 will be a 0.060% reduction in capacity. The abandonment is estimated to cost \$262,000.

In conjunction with the proposed abandonment, Tennessee will disconnect the line from the adjacent Line 800-1 at M.P. 846-1+0.735 and M.P. 846-1+.0928. Also, the 24-inch crossover block valves will be removed along with the 24-inch crossover piping between Line 800-1 and the Yalobusha pipeline segment 800-2. Additionally, the weld caps and crossover tees will be cut and removed from both sides of the river. Finally, the Yalobusha pipeline segment 800-2 will be pigged, filled with air and capped before it is abandoned in place.

INTERVENTIONS:

The application was noticed by publication in the Federal Register on March, 3 2003, (68 Fed. Reg. 10,003), with protests or interventions due by March 6, 2003. No protests, interventions, interventions in opposition or adverse comments were filed.

ENVIRONMENT:

Staff prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for Tennessee's proposal. The EA addresses geology, soils, water resources, fisheries, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, federally listed endangered and threatened species, land use, cultural resources, air quality, noise and alternatives.

Based on the discussion in the EA, it is concluded that if Tennessee abandons in accordance with Tennessee's application, supplements filed on April 22, 2003 and April 23, 2003, and conditions included in the appendix attached hereto, approval of this proposal would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

FINDINGS:

At a hearing held on the issue date noted above, there was received and made a part of the record in this proceeding all evidence, including the application and exhibits thereto, submitted in support of the authorization sought herein.

The facilities to be abandoned in place consist of a total of approximately 1,000 feet of 30 in diameter pipe, located in Grenada County, Mississippi. The pipeline has been idle for some time, and upon abandonment will be disconnected from adjacent lines

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and crossover piping between this segment and segment 800-1, pigged, filled with air, capped and abandoned in place.

Since the abandonment of the 800-2 segment of their Yalobusha pipeline will not result in any change in the overall performance of Tennessee's ability to provide transportation services to its customers and would permit Tennessee to avoid unnecessary costs of operation and maintenance of the line due to age, deterioration, infrequent use and redundancy of segment 800-2 of their Yalobusha pipeline, Tennessee's proposal is in the public convenience and necessity.

Pursuant to 18 CFR 375.308, it is ordered that:

- (A) Upon the terms and conditions of this order, permission for and approval of the abandonment of Tennessee's Yalobusha pipeline segment totaling approximately 1,000 feet, as described above and in the application, are granted.
- (B) Tennessee shall notify the Commission of the date of the abandonment within 10 days thereof.
- (C) Tennessee shall notify the Commission's environmental staff by telephone and/or facsimile of any environmental non-compliance identified by other Federal, State, or local agencies on the same day that such agency notifies Tennessee. Tennessee shall file written confirmation of such notification with the Secretary of the Commission within 24 hours.
- (D) This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 CFR 385.713.

Berne L. Mosley
Director
Division of Pipeline Certificates
Office of Energy Projects

APPENDIX

1. Tennessee shall follow the construction procedures and mitigation measures described in its application and supplements (including responses to staff data requests) and as identified in the environmental assessment, unless modified by this Order. Tennessee must:
 - a. request any modification to these procedures, measures, or conditions in a filing with the Secretary of the Commission (Secretary);
 - b. justify each modification relative to site-specific conditions;
 - c. explain how that modification provides an equal or greater level of environmental protection than the original measure; and
 - d. receive approval in writing from the Director of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP) **before using that modification.**

2. The Director of OEP has delegation authority to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the protection of all environmental resources during construction activities associated with abandonment of the project. This authority shall allow:
 - a. the modification of conditions of this Order; and
 - b. the design and implementation of any additional measures deemed necessary (including stop work authority) to assure continued compliance with the intent of the environmental conditions as well as the avoidance or mitigation of adverse environmental impact resulting from project construction.

3. Prior to any construction, Tennessee shall file an affirmative statement with the Secretary, certified by a senior company official, that all company personnel, environmental inspectors, and contractor personnel will be informed of the environmental inspector's authority and have been or will be trained on the implementation of the environmental mitigation measures appropriate to their jobs **before** becoming involved with construction and restoration activities.

4. Tennessee shall employ at least one environmental inspector per construction spread. The environmental inspector(s) shall be:

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- a. responsible for monitoring and ensuring compliance with all mitigative measures required by this Order and other grants, permits, certificates, or other authorizing documents;
 - b. responsible for evaluating the construction contractor's implementation of the environmental mitigation measures required in the contract and any other authorizing document;
 - c. empowered to order correction of acts that violate the environmental conditions of this Order, and any other authorizing document;
 - d. responsible for documenting compliance with the environmental conditions of this Order, as well as any environmental conditions/permit requirements imposed by other Federal, state, or local agencies; and
 - e. responsible for maintaining status reports.
5. Tennessee may use the following variations to the FERC Staff's Procedures:
- Tennessee may locate a 0.1 acre ATW within a wetland boundary (Procedures at section VI.B.1.a).

No other variations to the FERC Staff's Procedures are allowed at this time. Requests for additional project modifications must comply with condition 1, above.

6. Tennessee shall not conduct vegetation maintenance over the full width of the permanent ROW in wetlands or riparian areas. Tennessee shall allow a riparian strip at least 25 feet wide, as measured from the Yalobusha River's mean high water mark, to permanently revegetate with native plant species across the entire ROW. In both riparian and wetland areas, only a corridor centered on the pipeline (Line 800-1) and up to 10 feet wide may be maintained in an herbaceous state to facilitate periodic pipeline corrosion/leak surveys. In addition, trees within 15 feet of the pipeline that are greater than 15 feet in height may be selectively cut and removed from the permanent ROW. Tennessee shall not use herbicides in or within 100 feet of a wetland or waterbody, except as allowed by the appropriate state agency.