UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Southern Natural Gas Company, LLC Elba Express Company, LLC

Docket No. PF25-1-000

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC

Docket No. PF25-2-000

NOTICE OF SCOPING PERIOD REQUESTING COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FOR THE PLANNED SOUTH SYSTEM EXPANSION 4 PROJECT, MISSISSIPPI CROSSING PROJECT; AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING SESSIONS

(March 3, 2025)

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental document that will discuss the environmental impacts of the South System Expansion 4 Project (SSE4) involving construction and operation of facilities by Southern Natural Gas Company, LLC (SNG) and Elba Express Company, LLC (EEC) in Lauderdale and Clarke counties, Mississippi; Sumter, Marengo, Hale, Perry, Dallas, Autauga, Elmore, Tallapoosa, Macon, and Lee counties, Alabama; and Harris, Talbot, Upson, Crawford, Monroe, Bibb, Jones, Baldwin, Washington, Glascock, Jefferson, Richmond, Henry, Spalding, Effingham, and Chatham counties, Georgia. The environmental document will also discuss the environmental impacts of the Mississippi Crossing Project (MSX) involving construction and operation of facilities by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC (TGP) in Washington, Sunflower, Humphreys, Holmes, Attala, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Lauderdale, and Clarke counties, Mississippi; and Choctaw County, Alabama. The Commission will use this environmental document in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies regarding the project. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, the Commission takes into account concerns the public may have about proposals and the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. The gathering of public input is referred to as "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the environmental document on the important environmental issues. Additional

information about the Commission's NEPA process is described below in the <u>NEPA</u> <u>Process and Environmental Document section of this notice.</u>

By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of issues to address in the environmental document. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before 5:00 pm Eastern Time on March 31, 2025. Comments may be submitted in written or oral form. Further details on how to submit comments are provided in the <u>Public Participation</u> section of this notice.

Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the environmental document. Commission staff will consider all written or oral comments during the preparation of the environmental document.

If you submitted comments on this project to the Commission **before** the opening of this docket on October 31, 2024, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. PF25-1-000 or PF25-2-000 to ensure they are considered.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the planned facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable easement agreement. You are not required to enter into an agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, the Natural Gas Act conveys the right of eminent domain to the company. Therefore, if you and the company do not reach an easement agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in court. In such instances, compensation would be determined by a judge in accordance with state law. The Commission does not subsequently grant, exercise, or oversee the exercise of that eminent domain authority. The courts have exclusive authority to handle eminent domain cases; the Commission has no jurisdiction over these matters.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "<u>An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?</u>" addresses typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. This fact sheet along with other landowner topics of interest are available for viewing on the FERC website (<u>www.ferc.gov</u>) under the Natural Gas, <u>Landowner Topics</u> link.

and PF25-2-000

Public Participation

There are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (866) 208-3676 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

- 1) You can file your comments electronically using the <u>eComment</u> feature, which is located on the Commission's website (<u>www.ferc.gov</u>) under the link to <u>FERC Online</u>. Using eComment is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;
- You can file your comments electronically by using the <u>eFiling</u> feature, which is located on the Commission's website (<u>www.ferc.gov</u>) under the link to <u>FERC Online</u>. 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 "<u>eRegister</u>." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; a comment on a particular project is considered a "Comment on a Filing"; or
- 3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the Commission. Be sure to reference the project docket number (PF25-1-000 for South System Expansion 4 and/or PF25-2-000 for Mississippi Crossing Project) on your letter. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.
- 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 areas, scheduled as follows:

Docket Nos. PF25-1-000 and PF25-2-000

SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS FOR THE SSE4 AND MSX PROJECTS PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Project	Date and Time	Location	
MSX (PF25-2-000)	Monday, March 24, 2025, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. CST	American Legion Hut, 14051 Hwy 15 S., Decatur, MS 39327	
SSE4 (PF25-1-000) and MSX (PF25-2-000)	Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. CST	The Warehouse Industrial Venue, 212 N. Academy Ave., Butler, AL 36904	
SSE4 (PF25-1-000)	Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. CST	YMCA of Selma- Dallas County 1 YMCA Dr, Selma, AL 36701	
SSE4 (PF25-1-000)	Thursday, March 27, 2025, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. CST	Davis Event Center 2903 W. MLK Hwy, Tuskegee, AL 35083	
MSX (PF25-2-000)	Monday, March 31, 2025, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. CST	Wister Gardens 1440 Hwy 7 South, Belzoni, MS 39083	
SSE4 (PF25-1-000)	Monday, March 31, 2025, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. EST	Harris County Community Center 7509 GA-116, Hamilton, GA 31811	
MSX (PF25-2-000)	Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. CST	The Carousel House 117 W. Jefferson St., Koscuisko, MS 39090	
SSE4 (PF25-1-000)	Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. EST	Hampton Inn & Suites Macon1-75 North 3954 River Place Dr., Macon, GA 31210	
SSE4 (PF25-1-000) and MSX (PF25-2-000)	Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. CST	Copeland Center 2501 4 th St., Meridian, MS 39301	
SSE4 (PF25-1-000)	Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. EST	The Pringle Building 114 East Haynes St., Sandersville, GA 31082	
SSE4 (PF25-1-000)	Thursday, April 3, 2025, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. EST	Holiday Inn Express 1361 N. Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223	

The primary goal of these scoping sessions is to have you identify the specific environmental issues and concerns that should be considered in the environmental document. Individual oral comments will be taken on a one-on-one basis with a court reporter. This format is designed to receive the maximum amount of oral comments in a convenient way during the timeframe allotted.

Each scoping session is scheduled from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the appropriate local time zone. You may arrive at any time after 5:00 pm. There will not be a formal presentation by Commission staff when the session opens. If you wish to speak, the Commission staff will hand out numbers in the order of your arrival. Comments will be taken until 7:00 pm. However, if no additional numbers have been handed out and all individuals who wish to provide comments have had an opportunity to do so, staff may

conclude the session at 6:30 pm. Please see appendix 1 for additional information on the session format and conduct.¹

Your scoping comments will be recorded by a court reporter (with FERC staff or representative present) and become part of the public record for this proceeding. Transcripts will be publicly available on FERC's eLibrary system (see the last page of this notice for instructions on using eLibrary). If a significant number of people are interested in providing oral comments in the one-on-one settings, a time limit of 5 minutes may be implemented for each commentor.

It is important to note that the Commission provides equal consideration to all comments received, whether filed in written form or provided orally at a scoping session. Although there will not be a formal presentation, Commission staff will be available throughout the scoping session to answer your questions about the environmental review process. Representatives from SNG, EEC, and TGP will also be present to answer project-specific questions.

Additionally, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription, which makes it easy to stay informed of all issuances and submittals regarding the dockets/projects to which you subscribe. These instant email notifications are the fastest way to receive notification and provide a link to the document files which can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings. Go to https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview to register for eSubscription.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, community organizations, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

Summary of the Planned Projects

For the SSE4 Project, SNG and EEC plan to construct and operate 14 new natural gas pipeline loops ranging between 20 and 42 inches in diameter and totaling approximately 279 miles, primarily along SNG's existing South Main Line in Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia; modifications and/or horsepower expansions that would add compression at 13 existing compressor stations; four new meter stations; and

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". For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice. For assistance, contact FERC at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll free, (886) 208-3676 or TTY (202) 502-8659.

modifications to nine existing meter stations. The general location of the SSE4 facilities is shown in appendix 2.² SSE4 would create up to approximately 1.3 million dekatherms per day of additional capacity to SNG's pipeline system.

For the MSX Project, TGP plans to construct and operate approximately 206 miles of new pipeline ranging from 36 to 42 inches in diameter, and associated facilities in Mississippi and Alabama; three new compressor stations, four new meter stations, three overpressure protection facilities, and other appurtenant facilities such as mainline valves, pig launchers and receivers, and access roads along the pipeline route. The general location of the MSX facilities is shown in appendix 3.3 MSX would provide approximately 1.5 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) of natural gas capacity.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the planned SSE4 facilities would disturb about 4,646.23 acres of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline. Following construction, SNG and EEC would maintain about 1,639.73 acres for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses. About 93 percent of the planned pipeline would be collocated with SNG's existing pipeline right-of-way.

Construction of the planned MSX facilities would disturb about 2,462.9 acres of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline. Following construction, TGP would maintain about 1,555.6 acres for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses. Approximately 25 percent of the proposed pipeline route would be collocated with or parallel to existing pipeline and electric transmission line rights-of-way.

The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the <u>Federal Register</u>. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at <u>www.ferc.gov</u> 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.

The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the <u>Federal Register</u>. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at <u>www.ferc.gov</u> 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.

The NEPA Process and the Environmental Document

Any environmental document issued by Commission staff will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the planned projects under the relevant general resource areas:

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

Commission staff will also evaluate reasonable alternatives to the planned projects or portions of the projects and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas. Your comments will help Commission staff identify and focus on the issues that might have an effect on the human environment and potentially eliminate others from further study and discussion in the environmental document.

Although no formal applications have been filed, we have already initiated our NEPA review under the Commission's pre-filing process for both SSE4 and MSX projects. 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 will contact federal and state agencies to discuss their involvement in the scoping process and the preparation of the environmental document.

If a formal application(s) is filed, Commission staff will then determine whether to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EA or the EIS will present our independent analysis of the environmental issues. If Commission staff prepares an EA, a *Notice of Schedule for the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment* will be issued. The EA may be issued for an allotted public comment period. The Commission would consider timely comments on the EA before making its determination on the proposed project. If Commission staff prepares an EIS, a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS/Notice of Schedule* will be issued once an application(s) is filed, which will open an additional public comment period. Staff will then prepare a draft EIS that will be issued for public comment. Commission staff will consider all timely comments received during the comment period on the draft EIS, and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS. Any EA or draft and final EIS will be available in electronic format in the public record through eLibrary⁴ and the

⁴ For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

Commission's natural gas environmental documents webpage https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environment/environmental-documents) If eSubscribed, you will receive instant email notification when the environmental document is issued.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues related to these projects to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the environmental document.⁵ Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the <u>Public Participation</u> section of this notice. Currently, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have expressed its intention to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the environmental document to satisfy its NEPA responsibilities related to this project.

Consultations Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Commission is using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Office(s), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the projects' potential effects on historic properties. The environmental document for these projects will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

Environmental Mailing List

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; local community groups, schools, churches, and businesses; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the project (and includes a mailing address with their comment). Commission staff will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that we send the information related to this environmental review to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the planned project.

⁵ The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.8.

⁶ The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

and PF25-2-000

If you need to make changes to your name/address, or if you would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please complete one of the following steps:

(1) Send an email to <u>GasProjectAddressChange@ferc.gov</u> stating your request. You must include the docket numbers PF25-1-000 and PF25-2-000 in your request. If you are requesting a change to your address, please be sure to include your name and updated address. If you are requesting to delete your address from the mailing list, please include your name and address as it appeared on this notice. **This e-mail address is unable to accept comments.**

OR

(2) Return the attached "Mailing List Update Form" (appendix 4).

Becoming an Intervenor

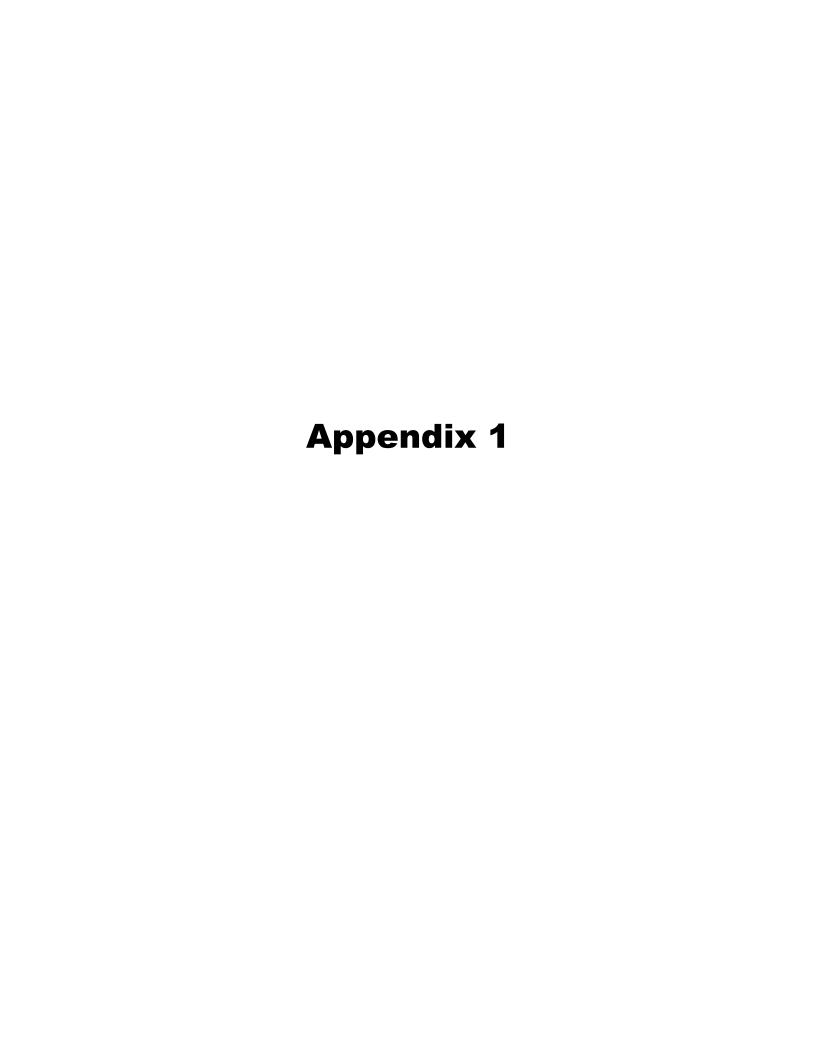
Once SNG, EEC, and/or TGP files its applications with the Commission, you may want to become an "intervenor," which is an official party to the Commission's proceeding. Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission's final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214). Motions to intervene are more fully described at https://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/how-to.asp. Please note that the Commission will not accept requests for intervenor status at this time. You must wait until the Commission receives a formal application for the project, after which the Commission will issue a public notice that establishes an intervention deadline.

Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number(s), excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., PF25-1 or PF25-2). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

Public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/events along with other related information.

Secretary.



A ROUL TO LO

FERC SESSION FORMAT AND CONDUCT

Session Format

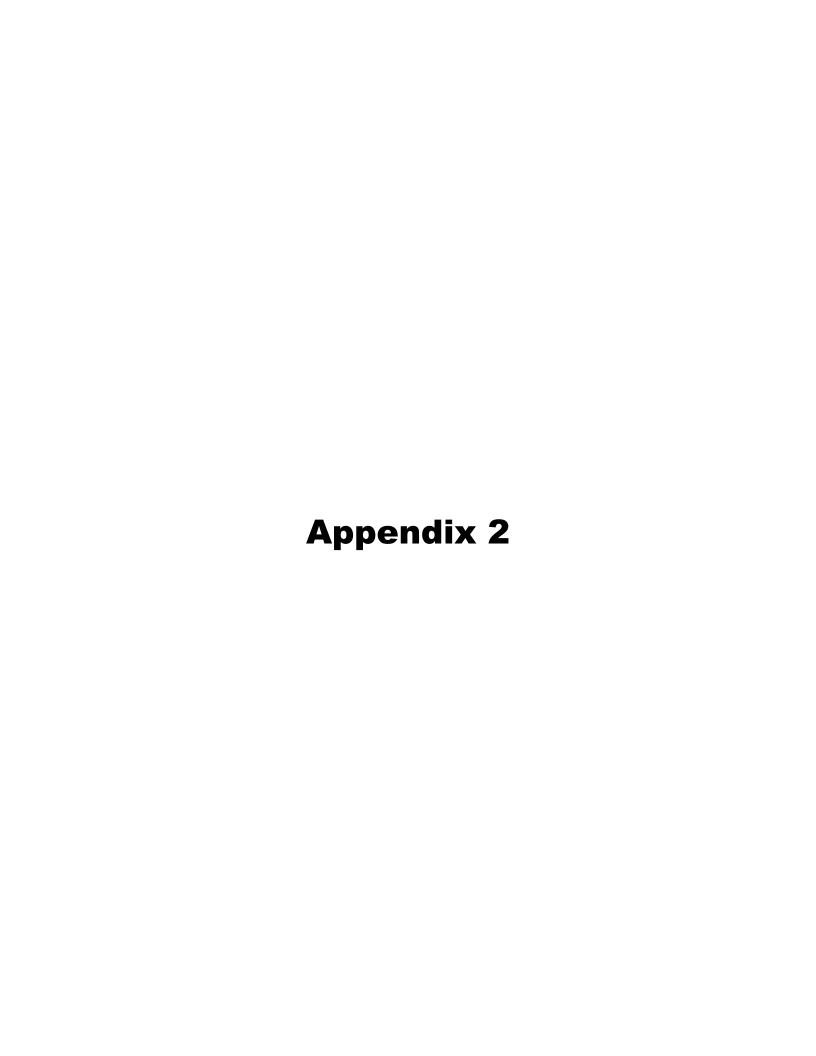
FERC is conducting the session to solicit your scoping comments. There will not be a formal presentation by Commission staff; however, FERC staff is available to answer questions about the environmental review process. The session format is as follows:

- Tickets are handed out on a "first come, first serve" basis starting at the time listed in the Notice.
- Individuals are called in ticket number order to provide oral comments to be transcribed by a court reporter for the public record.
- Time limits on oral comments may be enforced to ensure that all those wishing to comment have the opportunity to do so within the designated session time.
- Written comments may be submitted in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments.
- Additional materials about FERC and the environmental review process are available at information stations at the session.

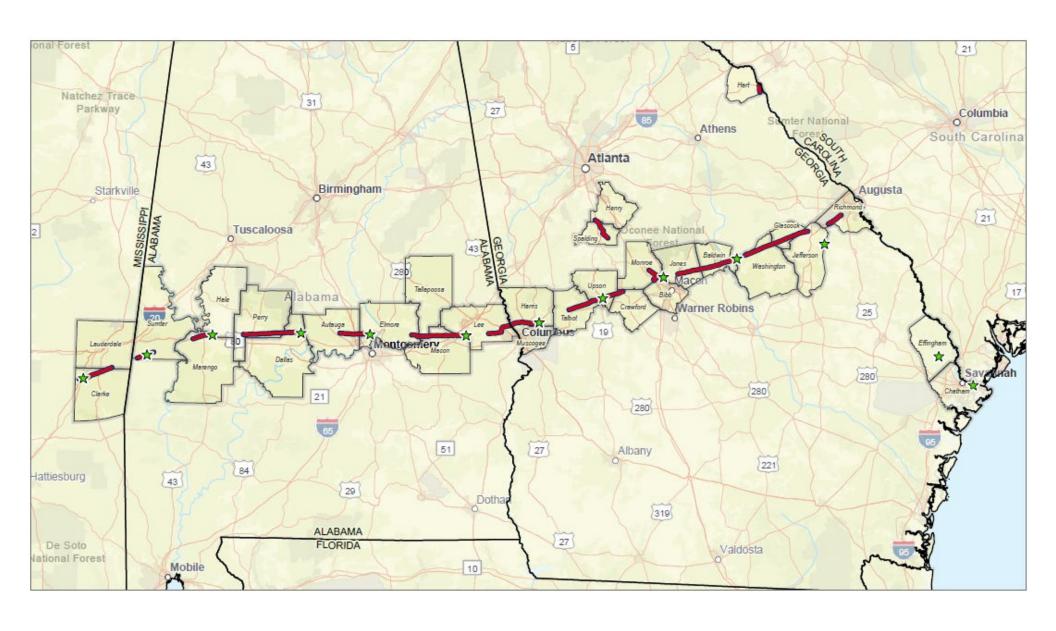
Session Conduct

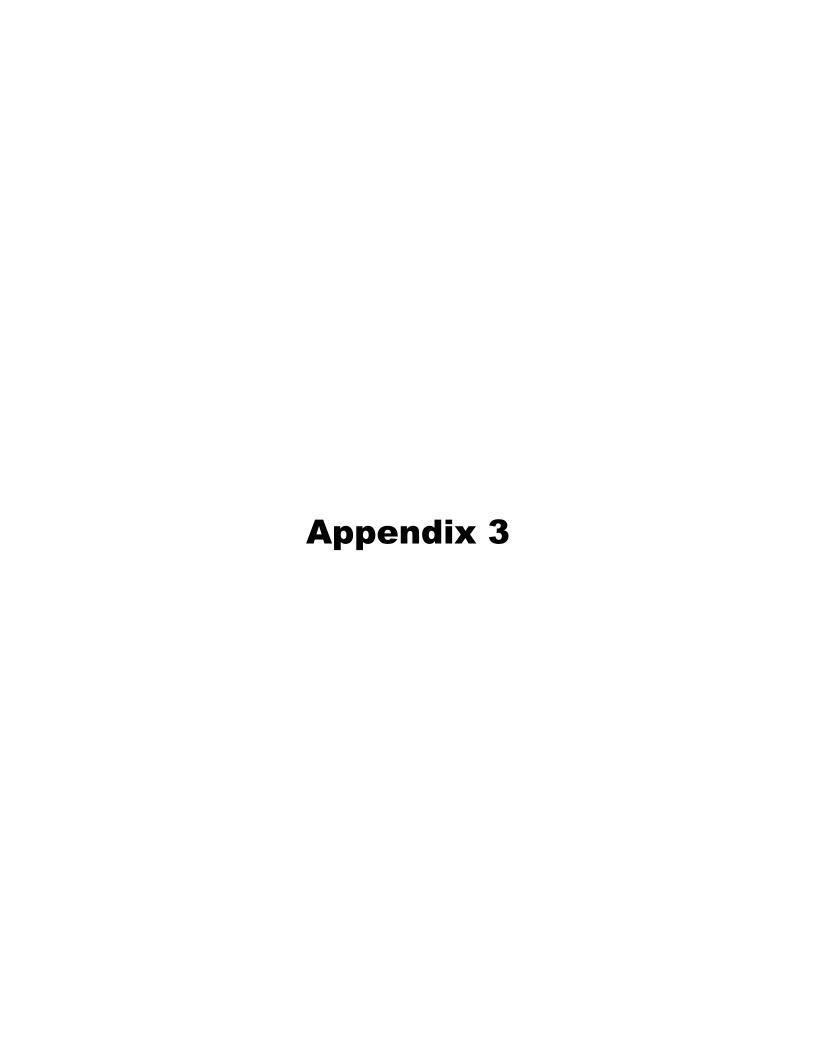
Proper conduct will help the sessions maintain a respectful atmosphere for attendees to learn about the FERC Environmental Review Process and to be able to provide comments effectively.

- Loudspeakers, lighting, oversized visual aids, or other visual or audible disturbances are not permitted.
- Disruptive video and photographic equipment may not be used.
- Conversations should be kept to a reasonable volume. Attendees should be respectful of those providing oral comments to the court reporters.
- Recorded interviews are not permitted within the session space.
- FERC reserves the right to end the session if disruptions interfere with the opportunity for individuals to provide oral comments or if there is a safety or security risk.

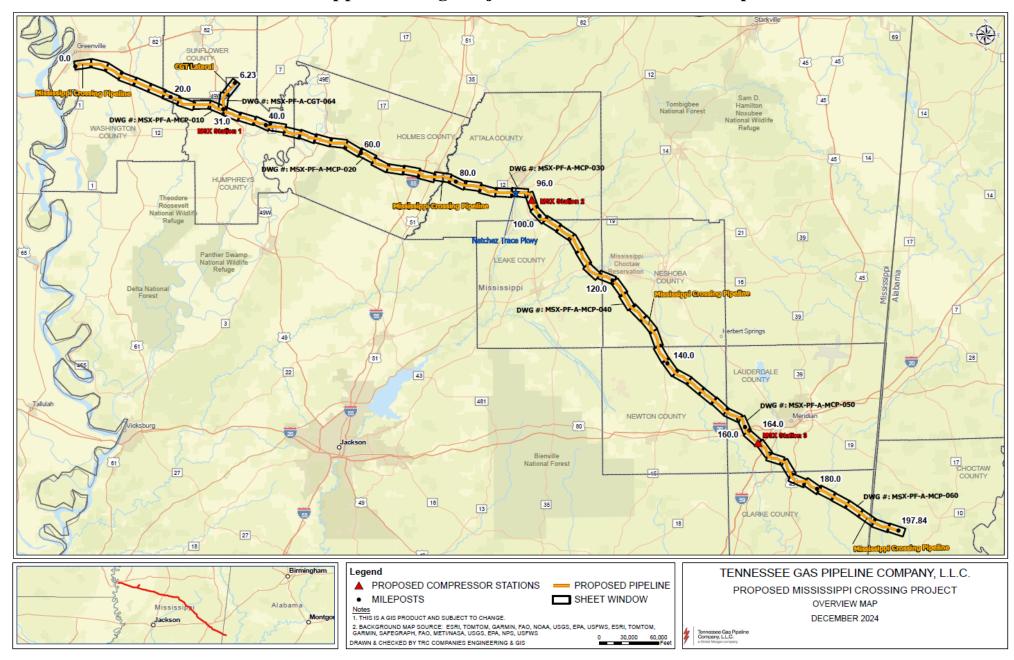


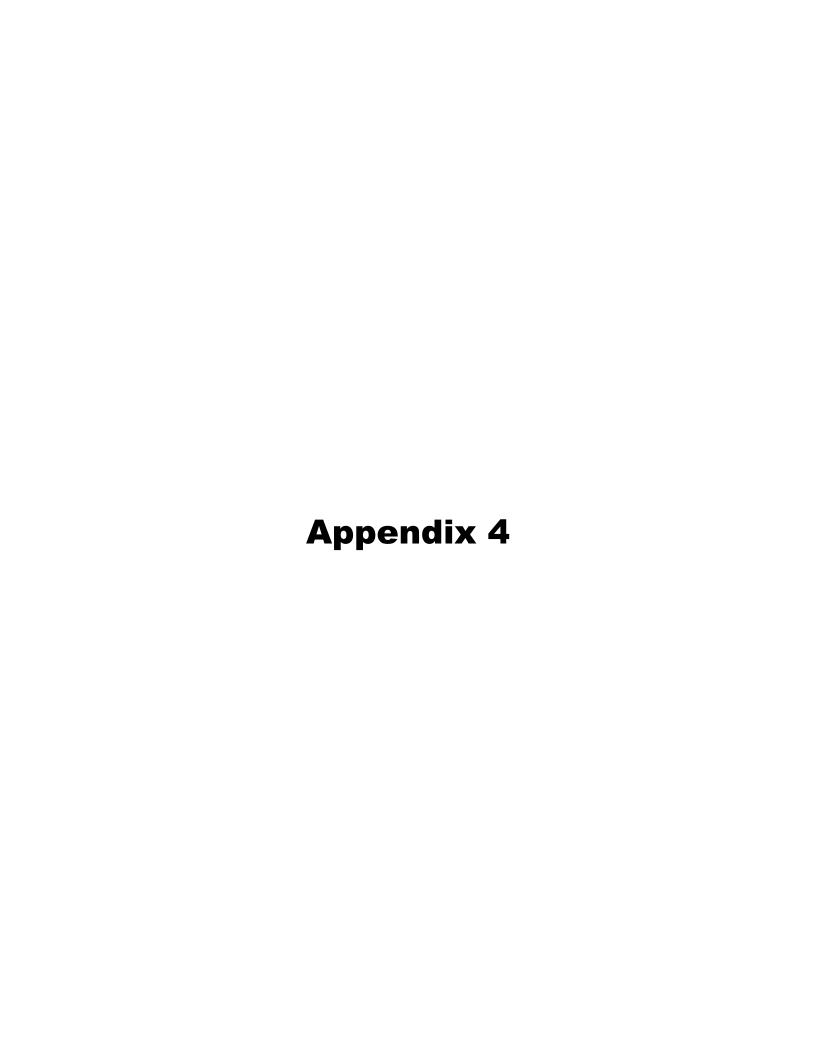
South System Expansion 4 Project – General Overview Map





Mississippi Crossing Project - General Overview Map





MAILING LIST UPDATE FORM

South System Expansion 4 Project Mississippi Crossing Project

cy
ess
State Zip Code
Please update the mailing list
Please remove my name from the mailing list

FROM		

ATTN: OEP - Gas 4, PJ - 11.4
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Staple or Tape Here