



File Code: 1950-1/2720-2

Date: May 11, 2009

### Dear Interested Party:

The Marienville Ranger District of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) is evaluating a request from Dominion Transmission, Incorporated (Dominion) to amend their existing special use permit to allow construction of a natural gas measuring and regulating station (M&R) within a cleared area along Dominion's existing pipeline in Spring Creek Township, Elk County, Pennsylvania (see attached map).

### Background

Dominion, formerly Consolidated Gas Supply Corporation, has a special use permit with ANF for a natural gas pipeline and associated facilities. This pipeline across National Forest system lands has been permitted since 1936. A 6' by 6' metering building was constructed on the existing right of way in 1976. The building is located in Warrant 1560, Spring Creek Township, Elk County, Pennsylvania. Dominion is requesting to construct an M&R to measure and regulate natural gas deliveries into Dominion's existing pipeline from Seneca Resources.

### Purpose and Need

A goal in the ANF Land and Resources Management Plan (ANF LRMP) is to "Encourage, facilitate, and administer the orderly exploration, development, and production of mineral resources." (ANF LRMP p.15)

A guideline in the ANF LRMP for administration of Special Uses states that "priority should be placed on using existing rights of way, corridors, or structures, before constructing new structures or clearings." (ANF LRMP p.89)

The proposed action falls within management area (MA) 2.2, adjacent to Spring Creek Road. MA 2.2 is suitable for "new road rights of way, pipelines, and utility lines." (ANF LRMP p.110)

### Proposed Action

Dominion proposes the following:

- Removal of the existing 6' by 6' building
- Construction of an 8' by 10' building
- Construction of a 23'4" by 10'8" building
- Construction of approximately 95 feet of gravel road
- Installation of new pipeline to M&R
- Installation of two yard lights (250 watt high pressure sodium lights at height of 30 feet)
  - Lights would be manually operated, illuminated only during rare night-time access)
  - Lights would be downward cast
  - Illumination would be 1.20 foot-candles at the light,  
decreasing to 0.06 foot-candles at 150 ft. from the light
- Installation of approximately 400 feet of fence
- Harden approximately ¼ acre inside the fence with gravel



## **Type of Analysis**

Preliminary analysis indicates this project may be excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 220.6 and would fall within category 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3). This category allows the "Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land." This falls within the categories of actions for which a project file and decision memo are required. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215 this decision will not be subject to appeal. The analysis will consider whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action warrant further analysis and documentation. Resource conditions that will be considered include: federally listed threatened or endangered species and Forest Service sensitive species; floodplains, wetlands, and municipal watersheds; Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas and national recreation areas; inventoried roadless areas; research natural areas; American Indian and Alaska Native religious and cultural sites; and archaeological sites, and historical properties and areas (36 CFR 220.6(b)). The mere presence of one or more of these conditions does not preclude use of the category. The degree of the potential effect determines whether extraordinary circumstances exist.

## **How to Comment**

If you wish to comment about this proposed Dominion construction project send comments to Robert T. Fallon, Marienville District Ranger, 131 Smokey Lane, Marienville, PA 16239 or by facsimile (814) 927-2285. For those submitting hand-delivered comments, Marienville Ranger District office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. You may submit oral comments during normal business hours via telephone (814) 927-6628 or in person. Electronic comments must be submitted in one of the following formats: e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc) or any software supported by Microsoft applications to [comments-eastern-allegheny-marienville@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-eastern-allegheny-marienville@fs.fed.us). Comments should be postmarked or received by June 12, 2009.

For more information, please contact Kevin Treese, district NEPA coordinator, at (814) 927-5759. Thank you for your interest in the management of your national forest.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Robert T. Fallon*  
ROBERT T. FALLON  
District Ranger

Attachment: map