

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**  
**Office of Energy Projects, Division of Gas-Environment & Engineering**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**Name of Applicant:** Texas Gas Transmission, LLC (Texas Gas)

**Date Filed:** 4/26/17

**Docket No:** CP17-256-000

**Type:** Section 7(b) Abandonment

**Cost:** Not Given

**Facilities:** No new facilities or ground disturbance is proposed in this application. Texas Gas requests authorization to abandon in-place certain compression facilities, and about 349 thousand cubic feet per day of firm design capacity on the Southeast supply lateral located in Louisiana. Specifically, Texas Gas proposes to abandon in-place the Morgan City Compressor Station consisting of one 9,100 horsepower (hp) gas-fired turbine compressor unit, a compressor building, yard and station piping, and appurtenant auxiliary facilities located in Assumption Parish, Louisiana. Also, Texas Gas proposes to abandon in-place one 9,100 hp gas-fired turbine compressor unit and its compressor building at the Lafayette (Youngsville) Compressor Station located in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. In addition, Texas Gas seeks to relinquish the firm design capacity associated with the facilities. Texas Gas states that the facilities have been inactive since the mid-1970s, are now unreliable, and are no longer integral to its system or necessary to provide Texas Gas' firm supply capacity obligations. In addition, the proposed abandonment of the facilities would have no effect on the Southeast supply lateral and the system would continue to operate as it does today. There would be no impact on any of Texas Gas' customers as a result of this proposed abandonment.

**Categorical Exclusion**

**Deficiency Letter Required**

**Environment Not Involved**

**EA/EIS Required**

**Environment Complete**

**No NOI Required**

**NOI Required**

**Environmental Considerations or Comments:**

Environmental Assessment is attached.

**Prepared by:**

/s/ Theresa Gibson

**Date:**

9/25/17

**Approved by Branch Chief:**

/s/ Shannon Jones

**Date:**

9/25/17

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**Texas Gas Transmission, LLC**  
**Morgan City and Youngsville Compressor Station Abandonment**  
**Project**  
**Docket No. CP17-256-000**

**A. PROPOSED ACTION**

**1. Description of Facilities**

On August 26, 2017, Texas Gas Transmission, LLC (Texas Gas) requested authorization pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act, to abandon in-place certain facilities at the Morgan City Compressor Station in Assumption Parish, Louisiana, and the Lafayette (referred to as “Youngsville”) Compressor Station in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. In addition, Texas Gas seeks to relinquish the firm design capacity associated with the project facilities. Specifically, Texas Gas proposes to abandon in-place one 9,100 horsepower (hp) GE Frame 3 compressor unit, one compressor building, associated suction, discharge piping, and other appurtenant auxiliary facilities at the Morgan City Compressor Station. The abandonment of the Lafayette (Youngsville) Compressor Station would involve the abandonment in-place of one 9,100 hp GE Frame 3 compressor unit and its compressor building, while leaving the remaining seven compressor units, yard and station piping, and all other facilities operational. See figure 1 for project locations.

The project would occur entirely on land owned by Texas Gas. The facilities occupy about 48.13 acres (18.18 acres for the Morgan City Compressor Station and approximately 29.95 acres for the Lafayette (Youngsville) Compressor Station). All work associated with the abandonment activities would occur within the existing compressor station buildings without the necessity for any ground disturbance; therefore no new permanent right-of-way, additional temporary workspaces, or storage areas would be required for project activities. In addition, no new access roads or expansions of existing access roads are required for the project. All of the existing buildings and piping associated with both compressor stations would be left intact and in-place.

Texas Gas would continue to operate and maintain its currently active natural gas transmission pipeline on the property, and Texas Gas would continue to preserve and maintain the premises of the Morgan City Compressor Station as it has in the past. Eventually, Texas Gas plans to utilize the compressor building as a warehouse for equipment storage. All other existing facilities and structures would remain. The Lafayette (Youngsville) Compressor Station would continue to operate and has existing operating plans which address the maintenance of equipment, compliance with permit requirements, handling of hazardous waste, disposal of waste, and contingency

procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency. If approved, Texas Gas proposes to complete abandonment in-place of the facilities by the first quarter of 2019.

The project activities would be completed by three Texas Gas employees over a 30 to 60 day period. No additional land would be required as part of the abandonment in-place. Further, there are no current plans for expansion of this facility that would necessitate additional land requirements.

## **2. Purpose and Need**

Texas Gas indicated that its purpose and need is to relinquish the firm design capacity associated with the project facilities. Texas Gas no longer relies on these two compressor stations to meet its firm supply commitments and does not anticipate future service obligations requiring the use of the compressor stations. At the Youngsville facility a total of seven reciprocating compressor units remain.

Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act specifies that no natural gas company shall abandon any portion of its facilities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction without the Commission first finding that the abandonment would not negatively affect the present or future public convenience and necessity.

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

Review of the proposed project indicates it would neither affect nor have conflict with:

- geology;
- wetlands;
- groundwater resources;
- fisheries;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- residential areas (there are no residences within 50 feet of the project work area. The nearest residence is located 496 feet northwest from the Lafayette (Youngsville) Compressor Station. The closest residence to the Morgan City Compressor Station is located about 0.4 mile northeast from the property);
- hazardous waste sites;
- visual resources;
- land use;
- National Wildlife Refuges, state or federal parks, significant or sensitive habitats, scenic streams, privately owned management areas, coastal zone management areas, or Native American religious sites and reservations; or
- air quality and noise.

In addition, due to the limited extent of the abandonment-related activities, all work associated with the project would occur within the existing compressor station facilities; therefore, no direct soil disturbance would occur as a result of the project and abandonment activities.

Contamination from accidental spills or leaks of fuels, lubricants, and coolant from vehicles could adversely impact soils. The effects of contamination are typically minor because of the low frequency and volumes of spills and leaks.

In addition, Texas Gas would implement its *Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan* that specifies cleanup procedures in the event of soil contamination from spills or leaks of fuel, lubricants, coolants, or solvents. Texas Gas would implement the SPCC Plan to prevent and contain accidental spills of any material that may contaminate soils, and to ensure that inadvertent spills of fuels, lubricants, or coolants are contained, cleaned up, and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

## **1. Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB)**

In the event PCB-contaminated liquid, soil, or pipeline facilities are encountered unexpectedly, these materials would be managed in accordance with the EPA's Toxic Substances Control Act regulations found at 40 CFR 761, as well as any applicable state regulations. Additionally, Texas Gas would implement its *Plan for the Unanticipated Discovery of Contaminated Environmental Media* and adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The plan would identify the steps to be followed in the event that contaminated materials are encountered. Therefore, we conclude that PCB contamination would not be expected.

## **2. Waterbodies**

The nearest named waterbody to the Morgan City Compressor Station is Bayou L'Ourse, which is located approximately 0.30 mile northwest of the site. A single drainage is located within the Morgan City Compressor Station site; however, as a result of site development the drainage is no longer present. There are two manmade ponds located west (approximately 0.10 mile) and another pond southeast (approximately 0.20 mile) of the Lafayette (Youngsville) Compressor Station. No surface waterbodies at either compressor station would be impacted by project activities, as no ground disturbance would occur. All work associated with the abandonment activities would occur within the existing compressor station buildings, and no mitigation would be required. Since the project does not impact any surface waterbodies; we conclude that no impacts on contaminated or sensitive waterbodies or water protections areas would occur.

### **3. Threatened and Endangered Species**

Texas Gas' review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information, Planning, and Conservation System did not identify any federally-listed threatened or endangered species in the project area. The alligator snapping turtle was identified on the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries species list as occurring in Lafayette Parish; however, no impacts on the turtle would occur, as work would be restricted to existing industrial facilities outside of turtle habitat. Therefore, we conclude that the project would have no effect on any state or federally-listed threatened or endangered species.

### **4. Cultural Resources**

Texas Gas provided a "Blanket Environmental Clearance" agreement with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) covering the proposed project activities and indicating that "no known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking." We agree with the SHPO and have determined that the project would not affect historic properties.

Since all project activities would be limited to work inside the existing compressor station buildings and no ground disturbance would occur, no Native American tribal consultation or plan for unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources was required.

### **5. Cumulative Impacts**

Due to the scope of the project and absence of environmental resource impacts, the proposed project would not contribute to cumulative impacts associated with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future major projects.

## **C. ALTERNATIVES**

Since the proposed abandonment activities would occur in previously disturbed areas and would not require ground disturbance, we did not identify any environmental concerns associated with the proposal that necessitate the development of alternatives other than the demolition of the Morgan City Compressor Station and removal of the 9,100 hp compressor unit from the Lafayette (Youngsville) Compressor Station. These alternatives would require minor and localized ground disturbance, and temporary impacts on environmental resources. The surrounding area would experience a temporary increase in impacts on noise and air quality due to the construction activities. Because Texas Gas intends to maintain and utilize the Morgan City compressor building as a warehouse for equipment storage and some of the appurtenant facilities and various buildings located on site at each compressor station, the abandonment by removal alternative would not meet Texas Gas' needs and would result in environmental resource impacts which are currently avoided in the proposed Project.

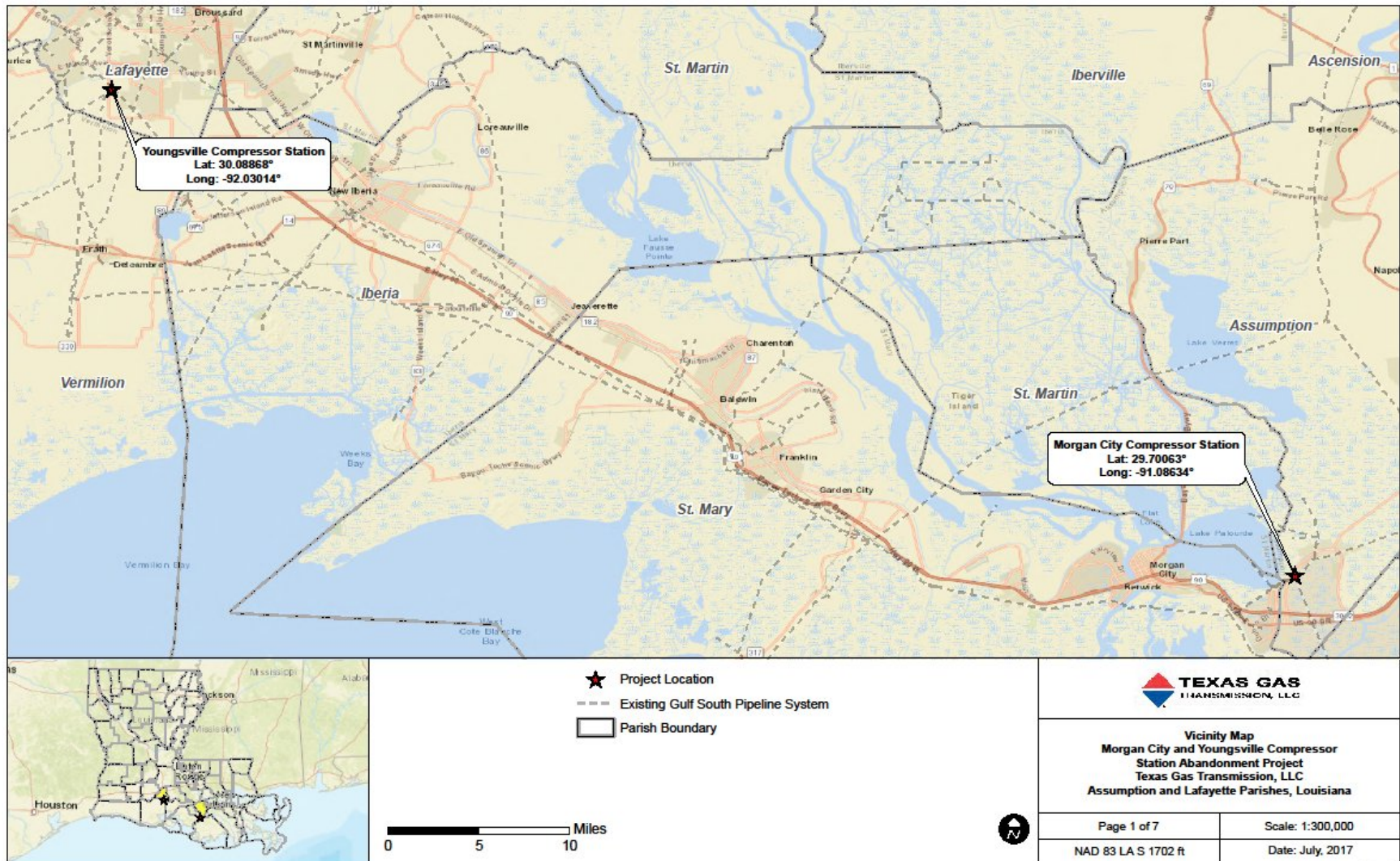
In summary, we have determined that Texas Gas' proposed project is the preferred alternative that can meet the project objectives.

#### **D. STAFF'S CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the above environmental analysis, we conclude that approval of this proposal would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. We recommend the Commission order contain a finding of no significant impact and include the mitigation measures listed below as conditions to any authorization the Commission may issue.

1. Texas Gas shall follow the 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. Texas Gas 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, or the Director's designee, has delegated authority to address any requests for approvals or authorizations necessary to carry out the conditions of the Order, and take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the protection of all environmental resources with activities associated with abandonment of the project, which shall include:
  - a. the authority to modify conditions of this Order;
  - b. stop-work authority; and
  - c. the imposition of any additional measures deemed necessary to ensure continued compliance with the intent of the environmental conditions as well as the avoidance or mitigation of unforeseen adverse impact resulting from project abandonment.

# Appendix 1. Project Location



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Author: PW