

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas 1
Southern Natural Gas Company
Docket No. PF05-7-000

January 5, 2005
R. David Hendrickson
Associate General Counsel
Southern Natural Gas
1900 Fifth Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

RE: Establishment of PF Docket for Southern Natural Gas Company's (Southern) Cypress Pipeline Project

Dear Mr. Hendrickson:

Thank you for your letter dated December 21, 2004, requesting use of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Pre-Filing Process for the Cypress Pipeline Project, which would cross portions of Georgia and Florida. Your intention is to file a certificate application before the summer of 2005. Although this filing date does not meet our guidance to begin the Pre-Filing Process seven to eight months prior to filing, I am granting your request based on the substantial work completed in the previous Cypress Pipeline Project under Docket Number CP01-180-000. I believe that beginning the Commission's NEPA review prior to the receipt of your application will greatly improve the chances of completing the process within a predictable time frame and produce a better result.

I have also determined that the use of a third-party contractor to assist the Commission staff in preparing the NEPA documentation is appropriate. I have considered your request to retain Natural Resource Group, Inc. (NRG) as the third-party contractor to work under the direct supervision and control of the Commission staff. Because NRG was previously selected by the Commission staff to address the environmental issues of the Cypress Pipeline Project, I concur that NRG should be retained as the third-party contractor to help prepare the NEPA document for this project.

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Southern's Cypress Pipeline Project has been assigned Docket No. PF05-7-000. All future "pre-filing" correspondence and submissions to the Commission for this planned project should reference this docket number. If you have any questions, please contact Rich McGuire at (202) 502-6177 or Danny Laffoon at (202) 502-6257.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Robinson
Director
Office of Energy Projects

cc: Public File, Docket No. PF05-7-000