

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:  
OEP/DG2E/Gas 3  
DTE Midstream Appalachia, LLC  
Birdsboro Pipeline Project  
Docket No. PF17-1-000

October 28, 2016  
Jane E. Rueuger  
White & Case LLP  
701 13th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

**Re: Approval of Pre-Filing Request**

Dear Ms. Rueuger:

Thank you for your letter, filed October 17, 2106, requesting use of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) pre-filing review process for DTE Midstream Appalachia, LLC's (DTE) planned Birdsboro Pipeline Project. We believe that beginning the Commission's review of this proposal prior to the receipt of your application will greatly improve our ability to identify issues early and address them in our environmental document.

As stated in your letter, DTE plans to construct approximately 14 miles of up to 16-inch-diameter pipeline in Berks County, Pennsylvania. The pipeline would connect Texas Eastern Transmission, LP's mainline interstate pipeline to the site of a new natural gas electric generating facility (the Birdsboro Facility). The project would provide the transportation of approximately 79,000 dekatherms per day of natural gas to the Birdsboro Facility.

Your letter also stated that DTE intends to file an application no later than early May 2017. When DTE files its application with the Commission, we will evaluate the progress made during the pre-filing process, based in part on your success in resolving the issues raised during scoping. Once we determine that your application is ready for processing, we will establish a schedule for completion of the environmental document and for the issuance of all other federal authorizations.

My staff has reviewed the proposals submitted for the selection of a third-party contractor to assist us in preparing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. We have selected Edge Engineering and Science, LLC (Edge) as the third-party contractor to work solely under the direction of the Commission staff. Factors

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considered in this selection included technical approach, personnel qualifications, past work history, and clearance of any organizational conflict of interest. I request that you proceed with executing a contract with Edge and provide a signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DTE, and Edge (MOU).

As specified in the MOU, Commission staff must have complete control over the scope, content, and quality of the contractor's work; sole ownership of all documents (other than those related to financial aspects) produced under the contract; and complete control over the schedule for completion of the third-party contractor's work. Commission staff will independently evaluate the results of the third-party contractor's work and the Commission, through its staff, will bear ultimate responsibility for full compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Energy Projects' Environmental Project Manager for your project, Jennifer Zielinski at (202) 502-6259.

Sincerely,

Ann F. Miles  
Director  
Office of Energy Projects

cc: Public File, Docket No. PF17-1-000

Document Content(s)

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