

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared this final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the potential environmental effects that may occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed natural gas transmission facilities that would both expand and extend the capacity of the existing Guardian pipeline system within the states of Illinois and Wisconsin (collectively referred to as the Guardian Expansion and Extension Project, G-II Project or Project). A draft EIS was prepared and issued for public comment on April 13, 2007. Comments received in response to the draft EIS are addressed in this final EIS, which will be used by the FERC in its decision-making process to determine whether or not to authorize the Project.

On October 13, 2006, Guardian Pipeline, L.L.C. (hereafter referred to as Guardian)¹ filed an application with the FERC, in Docket No. CP07-8, under Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), as amended, and parts 157 and 284 of the Commission's regulations. The application was noticed in the *Federal Register* (FR) on October 30, 2006. Amendments to the proposed Project were filed on April 25 and July 2, 2007.

In Docket No. CP07-8, Guardian requests Commission authorization to add additional compression along Guardian's existing pipeline system in the states of Illinois and Wisconsin and to extend its existing pipeline facilities from its current terminus in the Town of Ixonia in Jefferson County, Wisconsin northward to a new terminus west of Green Bay in the Town of Oneida in Outagamie County, Wisconsin. The expansion of this system would provide approximately 537.2 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd) of natural gas transportation capacity to both eastern Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois. Of this amount, 100 MMcfd would be delivered to points along Guardian's existing pipeline system with the remaining 437.2 MMcfd to be delivered to new delivery points along Guardian's proposed pipeline route. The proposed G-II Project would consist of:

- 83.9 miles of 30-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline in Jefferson, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Calumet, Brown, and Outagamie Counties, Wisconsin;
- 31.3 miles of 20-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline in Brown and Outagamie Counties, Wisconsin;
- 1.4 miles of 16-inch-diameter natural gas branch line referred to as the Denmark Branch Line in Brown County, Wisconsin;
- two 20-inch-diameter natural gas branch lines including the 1.8-mile Southwest Green Bay Branch Line in Brown County and a 0.8-mile West Green Bay Branch Line in Outagamie County, Wisconsin;
- two new 39,000 horsepower (hp) electric-motor-driven compressor stations, including the Sycamore Compressor Station located in the Sycamore Township in DeKalb County, Illinois and the Bluff Creek Compressor Station located in the Town of La Grange in Walworth County, Wisconsin;

¹ Guardian Pipeline, L.L.C is owned by the limited partnership company, ONEOK Partners, L.P., based in Omaha, Nebraska and operated by the limited liability company, ONEOK Partners GP, L.L.C, headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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- modifications to the existing Ixonia Meter Station in Jefferson County, Wisconsin and the construction of seven new meter stations in Dodge, Fond du Lac, Calumet, Brown, and Outagamie Counties, Wisconsin;
 - new pig launcher/receiver facilities within Guardian's existing Ixonia Meter Station in Jefferson County, Wisconsin; within the proposed Fox Valley Meter Station in Calumet County, Wisconsin; and West Green Bay Meter Station in Outagamie County, Wisconsin; and
 - six new mainline valves (MLVs), four of which would occur along the 30-inch-diameter pipeline in Dodge, Fond du Lac, and Calumet Counties, Wisconsin, and two which would occur along the 20-inch-diameter pipeline in Brown and Outagamie Counties, Wisconsin.

Figure 1.1-1 shows the general location of the proposed facilities.

1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

Guardian states that the G-II Project was conceived in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued on November 17, 2004 by three Wisconsin local distribution companies (LDCs) including We Energies, Wisconsin Power and Light Company, and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS). The RFP was developed by the LDCs for the purpose of establishing the infrastructure necessary to provide additional firm natural gas pipeline capacity that would allow for the delivery of natural gas to various points in Wisconsin by an in-service date of November 1, 2008. On February 3, 2006, negotiations between Guardian and the LDCs resulted in the execution of a Precedent Agreement between Guardian, WPS, and two We Energies entities (Wisconsin Gas, L.L.C. and Wisconsin Electric Power Company), which led to the establishment of the G-II Project. Under this agreement, the specific purpose of the G-II Project is to:

- provide an increase of 537.2 MMcfd of physical pipeline capacity to better serve customers both within the eastern portion of Wisconsin and points along Guardian's existing pipeline route in northeastern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin; and
- contribute to the diversification of the state of Wisconsin's natural gas providers by providing a competitive supply of natural gas to Wisconsin's LDCs and their utility customers.

The Project is approximately 93 percent subscribed by the three LDCs with a primary term of 15 years to meet the projected demands within their service territories.

1.1.1 Projected Domestic Demand for Natural Gas

Energy demand in the United States has been growing and continues to increase steadily. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) of the Department of Energy (DOE) Annual Energy Outlook 2006 Overview estimates that total energy consumption in the United States will increase from 99.7 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu) per year in 2004 to 127.0 quadrillion Btu per year in 2025, representing an annualized increase of 1.2 percent (EIA, 2006a). Although this energy will be obtained from a variety of sources (e.g., coal, petroleum, hydropower, and other renewable sources), natural gas usage is expected to represent about 22 percent of all energy consumption in the United States by 2025. To maintain pace with growing energy demands, the EIA anticipates that consumption of natural gas in the United States will grow from



**Figure 1.1-1
Guardian Expansion and Extension Project
General Project Location Map**

22.4 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) per year in 2004 to 27.0 Tcf by 2025, an increase of more than 20 percent. The growth in natural gas demand is being driven primarily by increased use of natural gas for electricity generation and industrial applications, which together account for 62 percent of the projected demand growth from 2004 to 2025 (EIA, 2006a).

The United States natural gas supply currently comes from three main sources: domestic production, pipeline imports from Canada and Mexico, and imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Net pipeline imports of natural gas from Canada and Mexico are expected to decline in coming years, and although LNG represents an increasingly important source of natural gas, LNG imports are only expected to account for about 15 percent of total United States natural gas consumption by 2025. Domestic production of natural gas will continue to account for the majority of total United States consumption, with onshore production expected to account for the bulk of that supply, growing to 14.7 Tcf by 2025 (EIA, 2006a). Onshore production of natural gas from unconventional sources (e.g., shale, tight sands, and coal bed methane) is expected to be a major contributor to that growth. The EIA (2006a) projects that unconventional natural gas production in the lower 48 states will account for about 45 percent of total domestic production by 2030.

1.1.2 Projected Regional and Local Demand for Natural Gas

Within the East-North Central Region of the United States (including the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan) the EIA estimates that energy consumption is on the rise. Total energy consumption in this region is estimated to increase from 16.268 quadrillion Btu in 2003 to about 20.238 quadrillion Btu in 2025 (EIA 2006b). During this same time period, the total consumption of natural gas in this region is also expected to rise from 3.730 quadrillion Btu in 2005 to 5.047 quadrillion Btu in 2025, representing a 1.4 percent per year increase over the next 22 years (EIA, 2006b).

Within the state of Wisconsin, 23 percent of the state's energy consumption is supported by natural gas, which is lower than the use of coal and petroleum at 30 and 29 percent, respectively (WDOE, 2006). Renewable energy is also being used throughout the state but accounts for only a small percentage of the energy consumed. In 2004, renewable energy (the majority coming from wood heating) only accounted for 7 percent of residential energy use (UW Extension, 2006).

Total residential energy use in the state of Wisconsin constitutes the single biggest energy cost for most Wisconsin homes, consisting of 42 percent of the total energy cost for the average home (UW Extension, 2006). Energy use by this sector is also on the rise, tracking closely with the state's increase in population. Between 1970 and 2004, both energy consumption and population increased by about 27 percent (UW Extension, 2006).

Natural gas is used in the state primarily for residential heating and cooking, commercial and industrial applications, and electricity generation. Over the last 15 years, the state-wide consumption of natural gas has increased by more than 25 percent and now totals nearly 400 billion cubic feet (Bcf) annually (WDOE, 2005, 2006). During this same time period, the number of residential and commercial/industrial gas customers in Wisconsin has grown by approximately 40 and 43 percent, respectively (WDOE, 2005). Currently, over two-thirds of all Wisconsin households use natural gas, as well as more than 151,000 businesses (WDOE, 2006). In 2005 alone, gas utilities in Wisconsin added about 28,746 new customers due to new

construction and conversion to natural gas from other fuels such as oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) (WDOE, 2006).

In the eastern portion of Wisconsin, the ability to meet the growing demand for natural gas is currently constrained due to the lack of existing pipeline capacity. In addition, the eastern Wisconsin market, north of Milwaukee, is currently served by a single interstate natural gas pipeline company. As a result, consumers have not been able to benefit from competition and expanded choices of supply. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) in their Draft 2005 Strategic Energy Assessment Report indicates that the lack of sufficient natural gas supplies in the state is one of the key factors contributing to the recent and significant increases in the price of natural gas within Wisconsin (PSC, 2006).

The Port Washington Generation Station, a 1,090-megawatt (MW) natural-gas-fueled power generator facility located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, would replace a former coal-fueled station. The Port Washington Generator Station is located in the G-II Project area.

1.2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The FERC is the federal agency responsible for authorizing applications to construct and operate interstate natural gas transmission facilities. The FERC is also the lead federal agency responsible for the preparation of this EIS in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and the FERC's regulations for implementing NEPA (18 CFR 380). The FERC will use this EIS in its review of Guardian's application to determine whether to authorize the G-II Project. The Commission will consider the environmental issues, including our² recommended mitigation measures, as well as non-environmental issues. Final authorization will be granted only if the Commission finds that the proposed G-II Project is in the public interest. The environmental impacts and mitigation measures discussed in this EIS are important factors in this final determination.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) are the cooperating federal and state agencies for the development of this EIS. A cooperating federal or state agency has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to environmental impacts involved with the proposal and is involved in the NEPA analysis.

This final EIS was prepared to respond to comments received on the draft EIS. The distribution list for this EIS is provided in appendix A. Our principal purposes in preparing this EIS are to:

- identify and assess potential impacts on the human environment that would result from the implementation of the proposed action;
- identify and assess reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that would avoid or minimize adverse effects on the human environment;
- identify and recommend specific mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts; and

² "We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the FERC's Office of Energy Projects.

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- facilitate public involvement in identifying significant environmental impacts.

Our analysis in this EIS focuses on facilities that are under the FERC’s jurisdiction (i.e., the 115.2 miles of pipeline and associated aboveground facilities proposed by Guardian). Nine nonjurisdictional facility projects would also be constructed in association with the G-II Project, which are discussed further in sections 1.5 and 2.9.

The topics addressed in this EIS include alternatives; geology; soils and sediments; water use and quality; wetlands; vegetation; wildlife and aquatic resources; threatened, endangered, and special status species; land use, recreation, and visual resources; socioeconomics; transportation and traffic; cultural resources; air quality and noise; reliability and safety; and cumulative impacts. This EIS describes the affected environment as it currently exists, discusses the environmental consequences of the proposed G-II Project, and compares the Project’s potential impacts to those of other alternatives. This EIS also presents our conclusions and recommended mitigation measures.

1.3 PERMITS, APPROVALS, AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

As the lead federal agency for the G-II Project, the FERC is required to comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). Each of these statutes has been taken into account in the preparation of this document.

1.3.1 Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Section 7 of the ESA, as amended, states that any project authorized, funded, or conducted by any federal agency (e.g., FERC) should not “...jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which is determined...to be critical...” (16 United States Code Section 1536(a)(2)(1988)). The FERC, or Guardian as a non-federal party, is required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to determine whether any federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat occur in the vicinity of the proposed Project. If, upon review of existing data or data provided by the Applicant, the FERC determines that these species or habitats may be affected by the proposed Project, the FERC is required to prepare a biological assessment (BA) to identify the nature and extent of adverse impact, and to recommend measures that would avoid the habitat and/or species, or that would reduce potential impacts on acceptable levels. If, however, the FERC determines that no federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat would be affected by the proposed Project, no further action is necessary under the ESA. See section 4.6 of this EIS for the status of this review.

1.3.2 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended in 1992, requires the FERC to take into account the effects of its undertakings on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), including prehistoric or historic sites, and districts, buildings, structures, objects, or properties of traditional religious or cultural importance. The NHPA also requires the FERC to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment. In accordance with the ACHP’s regulations for implementing Section 106, found at 36 CFR 800, the FERC is using the services of the applicant, Guardian, and its consultants to

prepare information, analyses, and recommendations to assist in meeting our obligations to comply with the NHPA. As the lead federal agency for this Project, the FERC will address compliance with the NHPA jointly for all federal cooperating agencies in this EIS. See section 4.10 for the status of this review.

1.3.3 Other Permits, Approvals, and Consultations

At the federal level, required permits and approval authority outside of FERC’s jurisdiction include compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Rivers and Harbor Act, and the Clean Air Act (CAA). Several Wisconsin and Illinois state agencies have delegated responsibilities under the CWA and the CAA.

Major permits, approvals, and consultations for the G-II Project are identified in table 1.3-1. The FERC encourages cooperation between applicants and state and local authorities, but this does not mean that state and local agencies, through applications of state and local laws, may prohibit or unreasonably delay the construction or operation of facilities approved by the FERC. Any state or local permits, such as those that would be issued for the crossing of roads and railroads, by jurisdictional facilities must be consistent with the conditions of any authorization issued by the FERC.³

TABLE 1.3-1 Major Permits, Approvals, and Consultations for the G-II Project		
Agency	Permits/Approvals/Consultations	Anticipated Application Filing/Consultation Date
FEDERAL		
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity	Guardian filed an application on October 13, 2006.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Endangered Species section 7 Consultation	Rock Island, Illinois Office consultation completed on April 2, 2007. Green Bay, Wisconsin Office consultation completed on June 13, 2007.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (Wisconsin)	Section 404 Permit, Section 10 Permit	Guardian filed an application on April 30, 2007 with an amendment to the Application on June 18, 2007.
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Section 106 NHPA	Pending—opportunity to comment if any historic property would be adversely affected.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Section 401 Permit	Guardian filed an application on April 30, 2007 with an amendment to the Application on June 18, 2007.
STATE – ILLINOIS		
Illinois EPA, Division of Water Pollution Control	Storm Water Discharge – General NPDES Permit	Anticipate filing application in 4th quarter 2007 or 1st quarter 2008.
	Hydrostatic Test Water Withdrawal – General	Anticipate filing application in 4th quarter 2007 or 1st quarter 2008.
Illinois EPA, Division of Water Pollution Control	Hydrostatic Discharge – General NPDES Permit	Anticipate filing application in 4th quarter 2007 or 1st quarter 2008.

³ See, e.g., *Schneidewind v. ANR Pipeline Co.*, 485 U.S. 293 (1988); *National Fuel Gas Supply v. Public Service Commission*, 894 F.2d 571 (2d Cir. 1990); and *Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P., et al.*, 52 FERC 61,091 (1990) and 59 FERC 61,094 (1992).

TABLE 1.3-1

Major Permits, Approvals, and Consultations for the G-II Project

Agency	Permits/Approvals/Consultations	Anticipated Application Filing/Consultation Date
Illinois DNR, Division of Natural Resources Review and Coordination	Natural Heritage Inventory	Consultations were completed in August 2006.
Illinois Department of Natural Resources	State Endangered Species Consultation	Consultation completed on May 24, 2007.
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Section 106 NHPA	Guardian initiated consultations with the Illinois SHPO on March 3, 2006. SHPO provided comments on September 5, 2006.
STATE – WISCONSIN		
Wisconsin Coastal Management Program	Coastal Zone Consistency Review	Guardian filed an application on May 11, 2007 with a revision to the application on June 20, 2007.
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Chapter 30 permit for grading near and dredging and placing structures in and across public waters; Joint application with COE 404 Permit	Guardian filed an application on April 30, 2007 with an amendment to the Application on June 20, 2007.
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Section 401 Water Quality Certification – Joint Application with COE	Guardian filed an application on April 30, 2007 with an amendment to the Application on June 20, 2007.
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Endangered Species Review	Consultations have been initiated and are ongoing.
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Construction site erosion control and stormwater runoff, trench dewatering, and hydrostatic discharge – General Permit to Discharge under Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES)	Anticipate filing application in 4th quarter 2007 or 1st quarter 2008.
Wisconsin SHPO	Section 106 NHPA	Guardian provided first draft of a cultural resources survey report to the Wisconsin SHPO on October 9, 2006. SHPO commented on November 9, 2006. Consultation is ongoing.

1.4 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

On May 19, 2006, the FERC issued a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Guardian Expansion/Extension Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings* (NOI). The NOI was sent to about 600 interested parties including federal, state, and local officials; agency representatives; conservation organizations; local libraries and newspapers; and property owners within 0.5 mile of the compressor stations, within 50 feet of the proposed construction rights-of-way or crossed by the proposed pipeline. Issuance of the NOI opened the public comment period and established a closing date of June 23, 2006, for receiving written comments. In total, 80 letters were received in response to the NOI.

On June 12, 13, and 14, 2006, the FERC and WDNR conducted a series of joint public scoping meetings in Green Bay, Fond du Lac, and Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, respectively, to provide an opportunity for the general public to learn more about the proposed G-II Project and to provide comments on environmental issues to be addressed in this EIS. A total of 27 people spoke at the meetings (including 18 at the Green Bay, 5 at the Fond du Lac, and 4 at the Oconomowoc meetings) and their comments were recorded both in support of and against the Project.

The transcripts of all scoping meetings, as well as all written comments received before and after the scoping meetings are part of the public record for the proposed Project and are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.gov). During the pre-filing and scoping periods for the proposed Project, we received a total of 124 comment letters from federal and state resource agencies and the general public, including members of local unions, businesses, colleges, and hospitals. Issues identified during scoping include impacts on land uses (e.g., farming and organic farming), wetlands, and waterbodies; water quality; vegetation and wildlife; threatened and endangered species; air and noise quality; future development; property values; tribal lands and cultural resources; the overall Project purpose and need; environmental justice; safety; and potential alternatives to the proposed route and planned facilities. These issues and concerns identified by commenters during the public scoping process for the proposed Project are summarized in table 1.4-1, which also identifies the EIS section in which these issues are discussed.

In addition to the public notice and scoping process discussed above, the FERC staff conducted agency consultations and participated in interagency meetings to identify issues that should be addressed in this EIS. This included an interagency meeting in Madison, Wisconsin on June 13, 2006 to discuss the Project and the environmental review process with other key federal and state agencies. These agencies included the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), WDNR, PSC, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

The FERC issued a draft EIS on April 13, 2007. The document was mailed to approximately 1,065 individuals and organizations on the environmental mailing list prepared for the Project. In accordance with CEQ regulations implementing NEPA, the public had the opportunity to comment on the draft EIS in the form of written comments up through May 29, 2007. We received three comment letters from federal agencies; one from state agencies; one from Guardian; one from a company/organization; and 23 from individuals. Three public meetings were held in Oconomowoc, Fond du Lac, and Green Bay, Wisconsin on May 15, 16, and 17, 2007, respectively. The location and times of the meetings were announced in the Notice of Availability (NOA), with an amendment to the meeting locations provided to members of the mailing list for the Project on May 1, 2007. The WDNR also participated in the meetings. Statements were made by 19 people at the public meetings. Transcripts of the public meetings have been entered into the public record for the Project. All timely submitted comments received on the draft EIS are addressed in this final EIS, either as revisions to the text as appropriate, and/or as direct responses to each comment (see appendix P). In addition, the issues and concerns identified by commenters during the public meetings for the draft EIS are summarized in table 1.4-1, which also identifies the EIS section in which these issues are discussed.

On April 25, 2007 and July 2, 2007 Guardian filed with the FERC two amendments to the proposed pipeline route, which resulted in significant modifications to the proposed pipeline route in Brown and Outagamie Counties, Wisconsin as well as modifications to proposed aboveground facilities in Outagamie, Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Dodge County, Wisconsin and DeKalb County, Illinois. The proposed amendments to the Project were the result of Guardian's inability to reach a reasonable and equitable agreement with the Sovereign Oneida Nation of Wisconsin (Oneida Nation) for the construction of Project facilities across tribal lands as well as additional negotiations with landowners and/or stakeholders that took

place subsequent to the issuance of the draft EIS. The Project modifications that took place as a result of the proposed amendments are discussed in section 3.0. As a result of these two Project amendments, we issued an amended NOI on July 20, 2007 to affected landowners; stakeholders; and federal, state, and local agencies. Four comments were received in response to this NOI, including three from affected landowners and one from DeKalb County, Illinois. These comments provided in response to the amended NOI have been entered into the public record for the proposed Project and are addressed in this final EIS, either as revisions to the text as appropriate, and/or as direct responses to each comment. Issues and concerns identified by these commenters are summarized in table 1.4-1, along with the EIS section in which these issues are discussed.

FERC submitted the final EIS to the EPA for publication in the Federal Register on November 2, 2007, and the final EIS was mailed to the agencies, individuals, and organizations on the Project mailing list. In accordance with CEQ regulations implementing NEPA, no agency decision on a proposed action may be made until 30 days after the EPA publishes a NOA of the final EIS. However, the CEQ regulations provide an exception to the rule when an agency decision is subject to a formal internal process that allows other agencies or the public to make their views known. In such cases, the agency decision may be made at the same time the NOA- for the final EIS is published, allowing both periods to run concurrently. Should the FERC authorize Guardian’s proposed action, it would be subject to a 30-day rehearing period. Therefore, the FERC could issue its decision concurrently with publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

TABLE 1.4-1	
Issues Identified and Comments Received During the Public Scoping Process for the Proposed G-II Project	
Issues/Specific Comments	EIS Section Addressing Comment
General	
Project purpose and need	1.1, 2.0,
Maintenance procedures to be implemented during operation, including vegetation management and inspections	2.6
Potential damage to existing utilities, including water lines and irrigation systems	2.3
Geology and Soils	
Impacts on soils, including compaction, drainage, possible contamination, soil layer mixing and erosion potential following construction, and associated mitigation such as topsoil segregation	4.1, 4.2
Impacts on prime farmland soils	4.1, 4.2
Water Resources	
Use of HDD at major water crossings	4.3
Impacts on groundwater quality	4.3
Impacts on waterbodies (rivers and streams), particularly those which are associated with crossings of major or state-designated scenic rivers, including sedimentation and spills and contamination	4.3
Vegetation and Wetlands	
Impacts on native vegetation and forested habitats, including forest fragmentation, and rare plant communities	4.4
Avoidance and minimization of impacts on sensitive habitats, including wetlands, bottomland, hardwoods, riparian habitats, native prairies and rangelands during construction and maintenance activities; mitigation for Project-related effects	4.4
Wetland information including delineation, inventory, hydrological, ecological, soils, topographical and biological information	4.4
Impacts of invasive plant species	4.4
Fish and Wildlife Resources	
Impacts on fish and wildlife habitat, including water temperature due to loss of riparian shading and impacts on spawning habitat	4.3, 4.5, 4.6
Potential impacts on colonial, nesting waterbirds or migratory bird species	4.5, 4.6
Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species	
Potential impacts on state and federally protected species	4.6

TABLE 1.4-1

Issues Identified and Comments Received During the Public Scoping Process for the Proposed G-II Project	
Issues/Specific Comments	EIS Section Addressing Comment
Land Use, Recreation and Special Interest Areas and Visual Resources	
Impacts on affected property including agriculture (drainage tiles), silviculture activities, gardening, and property access	4.7, 5.1
Proximity of pipeline to occupied structures	4.7, 5.1
Reduced property access during construction activities	4.7, 5.1
Compatibility/potential conflicts with designated special use areas, including organic farming	4.7, 5.1
Impacts of aboveground facilities on visual resources	3.0, 4.7
Impacts of vegetation removal on visual resources	4.7, 5.1
Allowable uses/restrictions associated with future development along the permanent right-of-way	4.7, 5.1
Use of eminent domain	2.3
Air Quality and Noise	
Potential air emission impacts from compressor stations during operation	4.11
Potential noise impacts from compressor stations during operation	4.11
Cultural Resources	
Identification, evaluation, and protection of potentially affected cultural resources	4.1
Socioeconomics	
Loss of timber production values for affected silvicultural operations	4.8
Potential effect on property values	4.8
Employment and economics (local and regional)	4.8
Impacts on development potential of property, including plans in progress and intents to develop	4.8
General economic effects to agricultural operations and livestock	4.8
Reliability and Safety	
Public safety; risk of leak, explosion or catastrophic event	4.12
Cumulative Impacts	
Cumulative impacts of similar proposed project pipelines	4.13
Alternatives	
Analysis of alternative pipeline routes and aboveground facility locations, including alternative compressor station sites	3.0
Use of existing utility rights-of-way, section lines, property lines, existing roadways or abandoned railroad/recreation trails for the proposed pipeline route	3.0

1.5 NONJURISDICTIONAL FACILITIES

1.5.1 Background

Under Section 7 of the NGA, the FERC considers all relevant factors bearing on the public convenience and necessity as part of a decision to approve jurisdictional facilities. The jurisdictional facilities for the G-II Project include the proposed new natural gas pipeline and its associated aboveground facilities. Occasionally, proposed projects have associated facilities that do not come under the jurisdiction of the Commission. However, as part of FERC’s decision to certificate jurisdictional facilities, all factors bearing on the public convenience and necessity must be considered. As such, the FERC may need to consider the environmental impact of related “nonjurisdictional” facilities that would be constructed for the purpose of delivering, receiving, or using the proposed gas volumes. Integrally related nonjurisdictional facilities could include major power facilities, such as cogeneration plants, as well as less significant facilities, such as lateral pipeline connections and electrical transmission lines to compressor stations and associated substations.

There are nonjurisdictional facility projects related to the proposed G-II Project, including six intrastate natural gas pipeline laterals (pipeline laterals) and associated facilities that would interconnect with the new G-II Pipeline at various locations in Wisconsin, one new electric power tie-in transmission line, and two transformer/substations to supply power to Guardian’s existing and new compressor stations in Sycamore, Illinois and LaGrange, Wisconsin

(table 1.5-1). The pipeline laterals would be constructed and operated by the WPS and We Energies. The electrical power tie-in transmission line would be constructed, owned, and operated by the Commonwealth Edison Power Company (ComEd) and We Energies. These facilities are discussed in further detail in section 2.9.

TABLE 1.5-1	
Summary of Nonjurisdictional Facility Projects for the G-II Project	
Facility Projects	Description
We Energies – Hartford/West Bend Project	A 14-mile two-segment (Hartford Segment 1 and West Bend Segment 2) 12-inch-diameter pipeline lateral to be constructed and operated within the counties of Dodge and Washington, Wisconsin. The pipeline lateral would interconnect with the G-II Pipeline at the proposed Rubicon Meter Station. Additional facilities would include the construction and operation of the Hartford/West Bend Gate Station, two 12-inch valves, and a new regulator station.
We Energies – Fox Valley Project	A 14-mile four-segment pipeline lateral comprised of 20-inch-diameter (Segment 1), 8-inch-diameter (Segment 2), 16-inch-diameter (Segment 3), and 12-inch-diameter (Segment 4) pipe to be constructed and operated within the counties of Brown and Outagamie, Wisconsin. The pipeline lateral would interconnect with the G-II Pipeline at the proposed Fox Valley Meter Station. Additional facilities would include the construction and operation of the Fox Valley Gate Station, Kaukauna Regulator Station, Kimberly Regulator Station, WPPI Delivery Point Customer Metering Facility, Appleton Regulator/Metering Station, and the Kaukauna and Little Chute Valve Assembly.
WPS Sheboygan Project	A 31.0-mile 14- and 12-inch-diameter pipeline lateral to be constructed and operated within the counties of Fond du Lac and Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The pipeline lateral would interconnect with the G-II Pipeline at the proposed Sheboygan Meter Station. A 2.07-mile 16-inch-diameter distribution pipeline would also be constructed and operated in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Additional facilities would include the construction and operation of odorization and pigging facilities, the new West Sheboygan Regulator Station, and the new Plymouth Regulator Station. Modifications would also be made to the existing Sheboygan ANR Meter/WPS Regulator Station and the Plymouth ANR Meter/WPS Regulator Station.
WPS Chilton Project	A 1.75-mile 4-inch-diameter pipeline lateral to be constructed and operated in Calumet County, Wisconsin. The pipeline lateral would interconnect with the G-II Pipeline at the proposed Chilton Meter Station. Additional facilities would include the construction and operation of odorization, pigging, and valve facilities and the New Chilton Regulator Station. Modifications would also be made to the existing Chilton ANR Meter/WPS Regulator Station and distribution system connection facilities.
WPS Denmark Project	A 14.25-mile 12-inch-diameter pipeline lateral to be constructed and operated in Brown County, Wisconsin. The pipeline lateral would interconnect with the G-II Pipeline at the proposed Denmark Meter Station via the G-II Denmark Branch Line. Additional facilities would include the construction and operation of odorization and pigging facilities and modifications would be made to the existing Denmark ANR Meter/WPS Regulator Station.
WPS Southwest Green Bay Project	A 8.25-mile 12- and 20-inch-diameter pipeline lateral that would be constructed and operated in Brown County, Wisconsin. The pipeline lateral would interconnect with the G-II Pipeline at the proposed Southwest Green Bay Meter Station via the proposed G-II Southwest Green Bay Branch line. Additional facilities would include the construction and operation of odorization, pigging, and valve facilities and the Southwest Green Bay Regulator Station. Modification would also be made to the existing ANR Green Bay Meter/WPS Broadway Regulator Station.
WPS West Green Bay Project	Facilities and modifications would include the construction and operation of flow control and odorization facilities, and modifications to the existing ANR West Green Bay Meter Station. The G-II Pipeline would interconnect to this facility via the proposed G-II West Green Bay Branch Line.
ATC Project	Facilities would consist of the construction and operation of the Bluff Creek Transformer/Substation in Walworth County, Wisconsin. The transformer/substation would be constructed and operated wholly within the boundaries of the proposed Bluff Creek Compressor Station.
ComEd Project	Facilities would include the construction and operation of 2.7 miles of the new Sycamore Compressor Station Powerline and the Sycamore Transformer/Substation in DeKalb County, Illinois. The powerline would be constructed with an existing ComEd easement and the transformer/substation would be constructed and operated wholly within the boundaries of the proposed Sycamore Compressor Station.

The FERC has adopted a four-factor procedure to determine the appropriate scope of its environmental review when project-related nonjurisdictional facilities are involved. These factors are:

- whether the regulated activity comprises “merely a link” in a corridor type project (e.g., a transportation or utility transmission project);
- whether there are aspects of the nonjurisdictional facilities in the immediate vicinity of the regulated activity that affect the location and configuration of the regulated activity;
- the extent to which the entire project would be within FERC jurisdiction; and
- the extent of cumulative federal control and responsibility.

1.5.2 Conclusions

After applying the four-factor test, we conclude that:

- the FERC’s control and responsibility is not sufficient to extend its environmental review to include the associated nonjurisdictional pipeline laterals by We Energies and WPS; and
- environmental review of the nonjurisdictional pipeline laterals are already being conducted by the Wisconsin PSC and WDNR and it would be duplicative to include an environmental review of those facilities in this EIS.

Because the powerlines that would be constructed by American Transmission Company, LLC (ATC) and ComEd to Guardian’s compressor stations are directly associated with the G-II Project these facilities are addressed in this EIS.

These conclusions notwithstanding, the environmental effects of the nonjurisdictional facilities associated with the proposed G-II Project are addressed in the cumulative impacts analysis section 4.13.2.