

responsible for an initial or final denial on appeal of a request for declassification of a record.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

E.O. 12958, Classified National Security Information, or other applicable Executive Order(s) governing classified National Security Information.

PURPOSE(S):

To manage requests and/or appeals from individuals for the mandatory review of classified documents for the purposes of releasing declassified material to the public; and to provide a research resource of historical data on release of records so as to facilitate conformity in subsequent actions.

Data developed from this system is used for the annual report required by the applicable Executive Order(s) governing classified National Security Information. This data also serves management needs, by providing information about the number of requests; the type or category of records requested; and the average processing time.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

In addition to those disclosures generally permitted under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) of the Privacy Act, these records or information contained therein may specifically be disclosed outside the DoD as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) as follows:

The DoD 'Blanket Routine Uses' set forth at the beginning of OSD's compilation of systems of records notices apply to this system.

Policies and practices for storing, retrieving, accessing, retaining, and disposing of records in the system:

STORAGE:

Magnetic media storage, computer database, paper computer printouts, and paper records in file folders.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Retrieved by name of requester and other pertinent information, such as organization or address, subject material describing the MDR item (including date), MDR request number using computer indices, referring agency, or any combination of fields.

SAFEGUARDS:

Paper records are maintained in security containers with access limited to officials having a need-to-know based on their assigned duties. Computer systems require user passwords and users are limited according to their assigned duties to appropriate access on a need-to-know basis.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Files that grant access to records are held in current status for two years after the end of the calendar year in which created, then destroyed. Files pertaining to denials of requests are destroyed 5 years after final determination. Appeals are retained for 3 years after final determination.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Chief, Declassification and Historical Research Branch, Suite 501, Crystal Gateway North, 1111 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202-4306.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Individuals seeking to determine whether information about themselves is contained in this system of records should address written inquiries to the Chief, Declassification and Historical Research Branch, Suite 501, Crystal Gateway North, 1111 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202-4306.

Written requests for information should include the full name and organizational affiliation of the individual at the time the record would have been created.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Individuals seeking access to information about themselves contained in this system should address written inquiries to the Chief, Declassification and Historical Research Branch, Suite 501, Crystal Gateway North, 1111 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202-4306.

Written requests for information should include the full name and organizational affiliation of the individual at the time the record would have been created.

For personal visits to examine records, the individual should provide identification such as a driver's license or other form of picture identification.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

The OSD rules for accessing records, for contesting contents and appealing initial agency determinations are published in OSD Administrative Instruction 81; 32 CFR part 311; or may be obtained from the system manager.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Requests from individuals for Mandatory Declassification Review and subsequent release of records and information provided by form and memorandum by officials who hold the requested records, act upon the request, or who are involved in legal action stemming from the action taken.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

[FR Doc. 03-31924 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Postsecondary Education; Overview Information; Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Special Focus Competition: European Community-United States of America Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training: Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.116J.

DATES: *Applications Available:* January 16, 2004.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 16, 2004.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 16, 2004.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education and vocational education and training or combinations of these institutions and other public and private nonprofit educational institutions and agencies.

Estimated Available Funds: The Administration has requested \$700,000 under this program for FY 2004. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$25,000–\$200,000 total for up to three years.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$25,000 for one-year preparatory projects; \$75,000 for two-year complementary activities projects; \$50,000 for year one of a three-year consortia implementation project with a \$200,000 three-year total.

Estimated Number of Awards: 12.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: To provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to improve postsecondary education opportunities by focusing on problem areas or improvement approaches in postsecondary education. This program is a Special Focus Competition under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary

Education (Title VII, Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended) to support projects addressing a particular problem area or improvement approach in postsecondary education.

Priority: Under this program we are particularly interested in applications that meet the following priority.

Invitational Priority: For FY 2004 this priority is an invitational priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets this invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

This priority is to encourage proposals designed to support the formation of educational consortia of institutions and organizations in the United States and the European Union to encourage cooperation in the coordination of curricula, the exchange of students and the opening of educational opportunities between the United States and the European Union. This includes the new member States scheduled to join the European Union in Summer 2004. The invitational priority is issued in cooperation with the European Union. European institutions participating in any consortium proposal responding to the invitational priority may apply to the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture for additional funding under a separate European competition.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1138–1138d.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants or cooperative agreements.

Estimated Available Funds: The Administration has requested \$700,000 under this program for FY 2004. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$25,000–\$200,000 total for up to three years.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$25,000 for one-year preparatory projects; \$75,000 for two-year complementary activities projects; \$50,000 for year one of a three-year

consortia implementation project with a \$200,000 three-year total.

Estimated Number of Awards: 12.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* Institutions of higher education and vocational education and training or combinations of these institutions and other public and private nonprofit educational institutions and agencies.

2. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* This program does not involve cost sharing or matching.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. *Address to Request Application Package:* Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794–1398. Telephone (toll free): 1–877–433–7827. FAX: (301) 470–1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1–877–576–7734.

You may also contact ED Pubs at its Web site: www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.116J.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the program office at FIPSE, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 6th floor, Washington, DC 20006–8544. Telephone: 202–502–7500 or via the Internet at www.ed.gov/FIPSE. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

2. *Content and Form of Application Submission:* Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this program.

You may also request application forms by calling 732–544–2504 (fax on demand), or application guidelines by calling 202–358–3041 (voice mail), or submitting the name of the competition and your name and postal address to FIPSE@ed.gov (e-mail). Applications also are available on the FIPSE Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/FIPSE>.

3. *Submission Dates and Times:*
Applications Available: January 16, 2004.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 16, 2004.

The dates and times for the transmittal of applications by mail or by hand (including a courier service or commercial carrier) are in the application package for this program. The application package also specifies the hours of operation of the e-Application Web site.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 16, 2004.

4. *Intergovernmental Review:* This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this program.

5. *Funding Restrictions:* We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

6. *Other Submission Requirements:* Instructions and requirements for the transmittal of applications by mail or by hand (including a courier service or commercial carrier) are in the application package for this program.

Application Procedures:

Note: Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) (34 CFR 75.102). Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, these amendments make procedural changes only and do not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), the Secretary has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required.

Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications: We are continuing to expand our pilot project for electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The European Community-United States of America Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training—CFDA Number 84.116J is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the EC–US Cooperation Program you may submit your application to us in either electronic or paper format.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application). If you use e-Application, you will be entering data online while completing your

application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us. If you participate in this voluntary pilot project by submitting an application electronically, the data you enter online will be saved into a database. We request your participation in e-Application. We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for its improvement.

If you participate in e-Application, please note the following:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation. We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to initiate an e-Application package.
- You will not receive additional point value because you submit a grant application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit an application in paper format.
- You may submit all documents electronically, including the application for the EC-US Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training, the EC-US Program Budget, the US and EC partner identification forms, and all necessary assurances and certifications.
- Your e-Application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.
- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).
- Within three working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the application for the EC-US Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training to the Application Control Center after following these steps:
 1. Print the application for the EC-US Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training from e-Application.
 2. The institution's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.
 3. Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard copy signature page of the application for the EC-US Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training.
 4. Fax the signed application for the EC-US Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training to the Application Control Center at (202) 260-1349.
- We may request that you give us original signatures on other forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability: If you elect to participate in the e-Application pilot for the EC-US Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training and you are prevented from submitting your application on the application deadline date because the e-Application system is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one business day in order to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. We will grant this extension if—

1. You are a registered user of e-Application, and you have initiated an e-Application for this competition; and
2. (a) The e-Application system is unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date; or
(b) The e-Application system is unavailable for any period of time during the last hour of operation (that is, for any period of time between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time) on the application deadline date.

We must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension or to confirm our acknowledgement of any system unavailability, you may contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** (see VII. Agency Contact) or (2) the e-GRANTS help desk at 1-888-336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for the EC-US Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

V. Application Review Information

1. *Selection Criteria:* The selection criteria for this program are in 34 CFR 75.210.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notice (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of

this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Reporting:* At the end of your project, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.118.

4. *Performance Measures:* Under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), FIPSE performance is focused on (1) the extent to which funded projects are being replicated—*i.e.*, adopted or adapted—by others; and (2) the manner in which projects are being institutionalized and continued after grant funding. These two results constitute FIPSE's indicators of the success of our program. Consequently, applicants for FIPSE grants are advised to give careful consideration to these two outcomes in conceptualizing the design, implementation, and evaluation of the proposed project. If funded, you will be asked to collect and report data in your project's annual performance report on steps taken toward these goals.

VII. Agency Contact

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Baker, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., suite 6140, Washington, DC 20006-8544. Telephone: (202) 502-7503 or by e-mail: Beverly.Baker@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (*e.g.*, Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed in this section.

For additional program information call the FIPSE office (202-502-7500) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

VIII. Other Information

Electronic Access to This Document: You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: www.ed.gov/news/fedregister.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html.

Dated: December 23, 2003.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 03-32063 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP04-34-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Application

December 19, 2003.

Take notice that Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 12801 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-0146, filed in Docket No. CP04-34-000 on December 16, 2003, an application pursuant to sections 7(b) and 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), as amended, to abandon and construct and operate pipeline facilities in Pennsylvania, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be also viewed on the Web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, call (202) 502-8222 or TTY, (202) 208-1659.

Any questions regarding this application should be directed to counsel for Columbia, Fredric J. George, at (304) 357-2359, fax (304) 357-3206.

There are two ways to become involved in the Commission's review of this project. First, any person wishing to obtain legal status by becoming a party to the proceedings for this project should, on or before January 9, 2004, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR

385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.10). A person obtaining party status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by all other parties. A party must submit 14 copies of filings made with the Commission and must mail a copy to the applicant and to every other party in the proceeding. Only parties to the proceeding can ask for court review of Commission orders in the proceeding.

However, a person does not have to intervene in order to have comments considered. The second way to participate is by filing with the Secretary of the Commission, as soon as possible, an original and two copies of comments in support of or in opposition to this project. The Commission will consider these comments in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but the filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that persons filing comments in opposition to the project provide copies of their protests only to the party or parties directly involved in the protest.

Persons who wish to comment only on the environmental review of this project should submit an original and two copies of their comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Environmental commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of the environmental documents, and will be notified of meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Environmental commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, the non-party commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission (except for the mailing of environmental documents issued by the Commission) and will not have the right to seek court review of the Commission's final order.

The Commission may issue a preliminary determination on non-environmental issues prior to the completion of its review of the environmental aspects of the project. This preliminary determination typically considers such issues as the need for the project and its economic effect on existing customers of the applicant, on other pipelines in the area, and on landowners and communities. For example, the Commission considers the extent to which the applicant may need to exercise eminent domain to

obtain rights-of-way for the proposed project and balances that against the non-environmental benefits to be provided by the project. Therefore, if a person has comments on community and landowner impacts from this proposal, it is important either to file comments or to intervene as early in the process as possible.

Comments, protests and interventions may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site under the "e-Filing" link.

Comment Date: January 9, 2003.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E3-00659 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2493-006]

Puget Sound Energy, Inc.; Notice of Technical Meeting To Discuss Additional Information Filed With Regards to the Pending License Application

December 19, 2003.

a. *Date and Time of Meeting:* Tuesday, January 20, 2004, at 11 a.m. eastern standard time.

b. *Place:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC. To participate by phone, see item (f).

c. *FERC Contact:* Nicholas Jayjack, 202-502-6073 or Nicholas.Jayjack@ferc.gov.

d. *Purpose of Meeting:* Puget Sound Energy (Puget) has requested a meeting with Commission staff to discuss Puget's "Summary of Proposed License Elements" filed with the Commission on December 9, 2003, for the Snoqualmie Falls Hydroelectric Project. The project is located on the Snoqualmie River in Snoqualmie, Washington.

e. *Proposed Agenda:* (1) Introduction of participants; (2) Puget Sound Energy's presentation on the purpose of the meeting; (3) Discussion; and (4) Meeting Wrap-up.

f. All local, State, and Federal agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested parties and individuals are invited to participate either in person or by telephone. Please RSVP Nicholas Jayjack at Nicholas.Jayjack@ferc.gov by no later than January 14, 2004, and indicate how you will participate