

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Opportunity for Leadership Entity:
Beijing Energy-Efficiency and
Renewable Energy Demonstration
Building**

AGENCY: Office of Policy and International Affairs, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Identification of entity.

SUMMARY: The Department published a notice of opportunity on December 16, 1998 (63 FR 69267), to identify an entity to lead future activities for the Beijing Energy-Efficiency and Renewable Energy Demonstration Building, assuming the Department decides to proceed with this demonstration project. This notice announces the identification of that entity.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: O. Cleveland Laird, Jr., Phone (202) 586-0979, FAX (202) 586-4447, E-mail: Cleveland.Laird@hq.doe.gov; or Mary Beth Zimmerman, Phone (202) 586-7249, FAX (202) 586-4447, E-mail: MaryBeth.Zimmerman@hq.doe.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department carefully reviewed all responses to the notice of opportunity and has identified the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) as the entity to lead and make the necessary decisions for phases two and three of the China Energy Efficiency Demonstration Building Project, assuming the Department and China decide to proceed with this demonstration project.

The NRDC response accepts full responsibility for the project including all requirements for funding. The NRDC was found to have a sound approach, related capability and relevant experience. The Department and the NRDC have agreed to proceed with developing the formal agreement covering the responsibilities of both the Department and the NRDC under this project. This agreement will be consummated and signed as quickly as possible.

The NRDC has identified Mr. Robert Watson, Director, International Energy Project, as their project leader for this effort. Mr. Watson may be reached by telephone (212) 727-4489, by fax (212) 727-1773 or by e-mail: rwatson@nrdc.org. His mailing address is: Mr. Robert Watson, Director, International Energy Project, Natural Resources Defense Council, 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011.

The Department thanks the other responders for their interest and hopes they will contact the NRDC regarding their potential contribution to this effort

under the NRDC leadership, if they are interested. Further, the Department invites any organization having a continuing interest under this project to contact the NRDC to express such interest. The NRDC has assured the Department they welcome any such responses.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 4, 1999.

Abraham E. Haspel,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy,
Environmental and Economic Policy
Analysis.*

[FR Doc. 99-6063 Filed 3-10-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Notice of Availability; Draft DOE
Manual Requirement on Use of Non-
DOE Facilities for Low-Level Waste
and Mixed Low-Level Waste Disposal**

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of its draft requirement for the use of commercial facilities for treatment, storage, and disposal of radioactive waste. This draft requirement is consistent with the decision by DOE to continue its current policy of relying on DOE waste disposal facilities and of using commercial (non-DOE) facilities by exemption when DOE disposal is not practical. This decision is based on the results of DOE's policy analysis on the use of commercial facilities for Low-Level Waste (LLW) and Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) disposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Martin Letourneau, U.S. Department of Energy, EM-35, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874, by telephone at 301-903-7656, or by e-mail at: martin.letourneau@em.doe.gov. For additional information on the policy analysis, please contact: Jay Rhoderick, at the above address, or by telephone at 301-903-7174. Electronic copies of the draft Order and Manual are available on the Internet at: <http://www.explorer.doe.gov:1776/htmls/draft.html> under the title "Series 400 Work Process." Copies of the policy analysis are available through the Center for Environmental Management Information at 1-800-736-3282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE announced in its March 19, 1998, Notice of Intent (63 FR 13396) that it would conduct an analysis of its use of commercial disposal facilities for LLW and MLLW and solicited comments from the public and interested

organizations. DOE's current policy is to rely on its own facilities for the disposal of its wastes, and by exemption where necessary, make limited use of commercial facilities that have licenses from either the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or an Agreement State.

The policy analysis concluded that DOE should continue its preference for use of DOE disposal facilities for DOE wastes and to use commercial facilities under an exemption process when DOE disposal is not practical. Where on-site DOE disposal is not practical, use of both off-site DOE facilities and commercial facilities may be necessary, and this provides DOE with greater flexibility to ensure cost efficiency. DOE has delegated the exemption authority for determining when commercial facilities should be used to the DOE Field Office Managers to facilitate the exemption process when use of commercial facilities is necessary and in DOE's best interest. The DOE Field Office Managers are required to consult with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environment Safety and Health prior to granting the exemption.

Therefore, DOE will continue its policy of disposing its LLW and MLLW at the site at which it is generated, if practical, or if on-site disposal capability is not available, at another DOE disposal facility. DOE may approve exemptions from this policy. However, where an exemption is sought, the policy requires that the commercial disposal facility under consideration be in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local requirements, and that it have all of the necessary permits, licenses and approvals for disposal of the specific wastes involved.

The policy analysis was not completed on August 6, 1998, when DOE made available a revised draft of its Order and Manual on radioactive waste management (63 FR 42012). These draft documents set forth the requirements that DOE programs and contractors must follow in managing DOE radioactive waste to provide for radiological protection from DOE facilities, operations, and activities. The draft Order and Manual will replace the existing DOE Order on radioactive waste management, DOE 5820.2A.

The section of the draft Manual pertaining to the use of non-DOE facilities for treatment, storage, and disposal of radioactive waste was reserved pending the outcome of the policy analysis. The draft requirement is consistent with the results of the policy analysis and will be included in the section of the draft Manual that is reserved (DOE M 435.1, Chapter I, General Requirements and

Responsibilities, Section 2.E(4), Approval of Exemptions for Use of Non-DOE Facilities). The requirement would state:

DOE Field Element Managers are responsible for the Approval of Exemptions for Use of Non-DOE Facilities. DOE radioactive waste shall be treated, stored, and in the case of LLW, disposed of at the site where the waste is generated, if practical; or at another DOE facility. If DOE capabilities are not practical, exemptions may be approved to allow use of non-DOE facilities for the storage, treatment, and disposal of DOE radioactive waste based on the following minimum requirements:

(a) Such non-DOE facilities shall:

1. Comply with applicable Federal, state, and local requirements;
2. Have the necessary permit(s), license(s), and approval(s) for the specific waste(s); and
3. Be determined by the Field Element Manager to be acceptable based on a review conducted annually by DOE.

(b) Exemptions for the use of non-DOE facilities shall be documented to be cost effective and in the best interest of DOE, including consideration of alternatives for on-site disposal, an alternative DOE site, and available non-DOE facilities; consideration of life-cycle cost and potential liability; and be protective of public health and the environment.

(c) DOE waste shall be sufficiently characterized and certified to meet the facility's waste acceptance criteria.

(d) Appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review must be completed. For actions taken under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), it is DOE's policy to incorporate NEPA values into the CERCLA documentation (reference: Secretarial Policy Statement on NEPA, June 1994).

(e) Headquarters shall be notified of the exemption to use a non-DOE facility and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health (EH-1) shall be consulted prior to the exemption being executed.

(f) Host States and State Compacts where non-DOE facilities are located shall be consulted prior to approval of an exemption to use such facilities and notified prior to shipments being made.

Issued in Washington, DC March 4, 1999.

James M. Owendoff,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management.

[FR Doc. 99-6016 Filed 3-10-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. TM99-1-20-002]

Algonquin Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Compliance Filing

March 5, 1999.

Take notice that on March 3, 1999, Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin) refiled its Annual FRQ filing to provide for an approximate \$1.1 million refund to customers as required by the Commission in its Order on Compliance Filing issued on February 16, 1999 in Docket Nos. TM99-1-20-001 and TM99-1-20-000.

Algonquin states that the FRQ deferred balance for the period August 1, 1997 through July 31, 1998, results in an approximate \$1.1 million net credit balance which includes carrying charges through November 30, 1998 that will be refunded to Algonquin's customers. Algonquin also states that pursuant to Section 32.5(c) of the General Terms and Conditions of its FERC Gas Tariff, Fourth Revised Volume No. 1, Algonquin will make the FRQ refund to the customers within 60 days of the acceptance of this filing by the Commission. Algonquin states that additional carrying charges will be reflected in the refund amount to include the period from November 30, 1998 through the payment date.

Algonquin states that copies of the filing were mailed to all affected customers of Algonquin and interested state commissions, as well as all parties in Docket No. TM99-1-20-000.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed as provided in Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-6001 Filed 3-10-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-229-000]

Florida Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Application for Abandonment

March 5, 1999.

Take notice that on February 26, 1999, Florida Gas Transmission Company (Florida Gas), P.O. Box 1188, Houston, Texas 77251-1188, filed an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157.18 of the Commission's Regulations requesting permission and approval to abandon pipeline facilities located in Dade County, Florida, all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Specifically, Florida Gas proposes to abandon 1.9 miles of 18-inch pipeline and approximately 327 feet of 2½-inch lateral connected to the Hialeah NW meter station located in Dade County, Florida. Florida Gas seeks this abandonment authority due to road construction in the immediate area by the Florida Department of Transportation. Florida Gas states that abandoning the facilities instead of relocating them will save approximately \$2 to \$3 million. Florida Gas also states that the abandonment of the 1.9 miles of 18-inch pipeline will not affect its ability to deliver firm volumes to its customers and will result in only a minimal reduction in its ability to deliver interruptible volumes. Further, Florida Gas states that abandonment of the 2½-inch lateral will not affect deliveries since Florida Gas can deliver all of the contractual volumes through an existing 6-inch lateral.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before March 26, 1999, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rule of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) and the regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party in any proceeding herein must file a motion to intervene