

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 28, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Karen Lee, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address *Karen—F. Lee@omb.eop.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: November 21, 2001.

John Tressler,

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management,
Office of the Chief Information, Officer*

**Office of Elementary and Secondary
Education**

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Criteria for Distribution of the \$225 Million FY 2001 Appropriation For School Improvement.

Frequency: One time.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 52.

Burden Hours: 832.

Abstract: To receive funds provided for school improvement in the FY 2001 appropriation, a State must submit information on the use of FY 2000 school improvement funds including (1) the names of the districts and schools that received FY 2000 funds and the allocation they received, (2) a description of the interventions that districts and schools have used to increase student achievement, (3) the number of students who transferred out of low-performing schools in districts receiving the FY 2000 school improvement funds as a result of the transfer requirement in the statute, and (4) the number of school districts receiving school improvement funds that subsequently met the State's adequate yearly progress targets.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from *http://edicsweb.ed.gov*, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address *OCIO.RIMG@ed.gov* or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request. Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at (540) 776-7742 or via her internet address *Kathy.Axt@ed.gov*. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Oakland Operations Office; Financial Assistance Solicitation No. DE-PS03-02SF22467 and Program Announcement LAB-NE-2002-1, Nuclear Energy Research Initiative

AGENCY: Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE), Oakland Operations Office, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for financial assistance.

SUMMARY: The U. S. Department of Energy, Oakland Operations Office intends to issue a Solicitation and a Program Announcement on or about November 20, 2001, seeking applications/proposals for innovative scientific and engineering research and development in the field of nuclear energy as part of the Nuclear Energy Research Initiative (NERI). NERI is designed to support promising research to address the principal technical and scientific obstacles to future use of nuclear power in the U.S.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise Berry, Contract Specialist, Financial Assistance Center, U. S. Department of Energy, 1301 Clay Street, 700N, Oakland, California 94612-5208; telephone (510) 637-1873.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Solicitation is intended for applications from U.S. universities or other institutions of higher learning, industry, non-profit and R&D organizations and collaborations among organizations, including those in which DOE national laboratories are participating, but not as the lead organization. A separate Program Announcement is being issued simultaneously for proposals in which a DOE national laboratory participates as the sole or performing lead organization.

The fields of research include: (1) Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems; (2) Fuel Recycling Technologies; (3) Advanced Nuclear Fuel and (4) Fundamental Science.

Up to a total of \$10 million of Government Fiscal Year 2002 Federal funds are expected to be available for awards under this Solicitation and the complementary Program Announcement to DOE national laboratories. Typical funding of individual awards is expected to be in the range of \$200,000 to \$450,000 per year. Collaborative research projects involving two or more organizations may receive larger awards, where merited. The period of performance for individual projects is expected to be one to three years.

The Nuclear Energy Research Initiative will be conducted under the authority of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2002, Public Law 107-66; the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number 81.121; and the applicable DOE Financial Assistance Regulations at 10 CFR part 600.

There have been changes made to the submittal procedures for applications/proposals responding to the NERI Solicitation and Program Announcement for Fiscal Year 2002.

These solicitations were formerly posted on the NERI website. The NERI Solicitation and Program Announcement for Fiscal Year 2002 will be available on the Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS), which can be accessed at IIPS homepage at: <http://e-center.doe.gov>.

Completed applications and field work proposals are required to be submitted as an Adobe PDF file via IIPS in accordance with the IIPS User Guide. The Guide can be obtained by going to the IIPS Homepage at: <http://e-center.doe.gov> and then clicking on the "Help" button. Individuals who have the authority to enter their institution into a legally binding contract/agreement and intend to submit proposals/applications via the IIPS system must register and receive confirmation that they are registered prior to being able to submit an application/proposal on the IIPS system. Once an applicant is registered with IIPS, a signature on the IIPS is the typed name of the applicant in Block 18 of the SF 424. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be submitted via e-mail to the IIPS Help Desk at IIPS_HelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov or via phone at (800) 683-0751. *The only acceptable mode of application transmission is through IIPS.* Applications submitted through the U.S. Postal Service, facsimile, telegraphically, courier companies, or hand-delivered hard copies will be considered non-responsive.

Issued in Oakland, California, on November 20, 2001.

R. Arlene Coleman,
Contracting Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-29580 Filed 11-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP02-23-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Application

November 21, 2001.

Take notice that on November 13, 2001, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 1700 MacCorkle Avenue, S.E., Charleston, West Virginia 25314, filed in Docket No. CP02-23-000 a request pursuant to section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), for permission and approval to abandon by sale to Columbia Natural Resources, Inc. (CNR) certain natural gas facilities located in Upshur and

Randolph Counties, West Virginia, and the service provided through such facilities. In addition, Columbia requests that the Commission find the abandoned facilities to be gathering and therefore exempt from the Commission's jurisdiction, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" and follow the instructions (call (202)208-2222 for assistance).

Columbia states that as a result of Order Nos. 436 and 636, it has experienced a shift from primarily a merchant function to that of transporter. As a result, Columbia states that it is taking steps to redefine its pipeline system. Columbia further states that the facilities to be sold to CNR are not an integral part of its transmission system and that the long-term needs of its customers are best served through a divestiture of the non-core facilities.

Columbia states that on October 1, 2001, Columbia and CNR signed a letter of intent and acceptance of proposal to purchase. Columbia further states that such letter provides for the sale of the Alexander system which consists of 10.08 miles of 3-inch-diameter to 26-inch-diameter pipelines, and the Alexander and Sugar Run Compressor Stations which consist of two 540 horsepower units and one 600 horsepower unit, respectively. It is stated that the price of the facilities to be sold to CNR will be at net depreciated book cost at the time of the sale.

Columbia states that it does not propose the abandonment of service to customers other than those currently served directly from the facilities. Also, Columbia states that CNR has agreed to assume Columbia's service obligations to those customers. Columbia further states that although the Commission requires pipeline companies to make a tariff filing, pursuant to NGA section 4, within 30 days prior to the effective date of the transfer of gathering facilities to another party, Columbia requests waiver of this requirement. Instead, in the interest of efficiency and expediency, Columbia requests that the Commission accept the information provided within the application and in Exhibit Z-2 (List of Contracts to be Terminated) as its notice to terminate service pursuant to section 4 of the NGA.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Fredric J. George, Senior Attorney, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation, P.O. Box 127, Charleston,

West Virginia 22030-0146 at (304) 357-2359.

There are two ways to become involved in the Commission's review of this abandonment. First, any person wishing to obtain legal status by becoming a party to the proceedings for this abandonment should, on or before December 12, 2001, 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 abandonment. 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 abandonment 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 abandonment 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.