

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), and Title 41, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subpart 101-6, Final Rule on Federal Advisory Committee Management, I hereby certify the Advisory Committee on Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department of Energy by law. This notice of intent follows consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat of the General Services Administration, pursuant to 41 CFR Subpart 101-6.10.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide the Secretary of Energy with advice, information, and recommendations on the appliance energy efficiency standards rulemaking process. The Committee will provide an organized forum for a diverse set of interested stakeholders and technically adept individuals to conduct an in-depth assessment of the Appliance Standards rulemaking process.

Committee members will be chosen to ensure an appropriately balanced membership to bring into account a diversity of viewpoints, including representatives from manufacturer trade associations, energy conservation advocates, utilities, state energy offices, and others who may significantly contribute to the deliberations of the committee. All meetings of this Committee will be noticed ahead of time in the Federal Register.

Further information regarding this Advisory Committee may be obtained from Michael McCabe, Director, Office of Codes and Standards, EE-43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (telephone: 202-586-9155).

Issued in Washington, DC on November 12, 1996.

JoAnne Whitman,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-29382 Filed 11-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Secretary of Energy Advisory Board Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Consistent with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), notice is hereby given of the following advisory committee meeting:

Name: Secretary of Energy Advisory Board—Openness Advisory Panel.

Dates and Times: Tuesday, December 3, 1996, 1:30 pm–5:30 pm; Wednesday, December 4, 1996, 8:30 am–5:00 pm.

Place: Covington and Burling Law Firm, Conference Center (11th Floor), 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20044.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Cheney, Acting Executive Director, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-7092.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Purpose of the Committee: The purpose of the Openness Advisory Panel is to provide advice to the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board regarding the current status and strategic direction for the Department's classification and declassification policies and programs, as well as other aspects of the Department's ongoing Openness Initiative. The Panel's work will help institutionalize the Department's Openness Initiative.

Tentative Agenda

Tuesday, December 3, 1996

1:30 pm–2:00 pm—Opening Remarks

2:00 pm–3:00 pm—Overviews of the

DOD and CIA Openness Programs

3:00 pm–5:00 pm—Subgroup Reports and Discussion: Priorities in Declassification, Accessibility, Declassification Productivity, Legal Issues

5:00 pm–5:30 pm—Public Comment

5:30 pm—Adjourn.

Wednesday, December 4, 1996

8:30 am–5:00 pm—Working Session.

A final agenda will be available at the meeting.

Public Participation: The Chairman of the Panel is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will, in the Chairman's judgment, facilitate the orderly conduct of business. During its meeting in Washington, D.C. the Panel welcomes public comment. Members of the public will be heard in the order in which they sign up at the beginning of the meeting. The Panel will make every effort to hear the views of all interested parties. Written comments may be submitted to David Cheney, Acting Executive Director, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, AB-1, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585.

Minutes: Minutes and a transcript of the meeting will be available for public review and copying approximately 30 days following the meeting at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190 Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, between 9:00 am and

4:00 pm, Monday through Friday except Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, DC, on November 12, 1996.

Rachel Samuel,

Acting Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-29383 Filed 11-14-96; 8:45 am]

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[RP96-129-000]

Trunkline Gas Company; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

November 8, 1996.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in these proceedings on November 14, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC, 20426, for the purpose of exploring the possible settlement of the issues in this proceeding.

Any party, as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(c), or any participant as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(b), is invited to attend. Persons wishing to become a party must move to intervene and receive intervenor status pursuant to the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 385.214).

For additional information, contact Marc G. Denkinger (202) 208-2215 or Lorna J. Hadlock (202) 208-0737.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-29274 Filed 11-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket Nos. CP96-213-000, CP96-213-001, CP96-559-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Market Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

November 8, 1996.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed by Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) and Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (TETCO) in the Market

Expansion Project.¹ In total, the Market Expansion Project involves about 99 miles of new, loop, and replacement pipeline, 2 new compressor stations totaling 18,500 hp, work at 15 existing compressor stations (including constructing, relocating, or uprating of 53,299 hp and abandoning 5,700 hp), 38 new storage field wells and well enhancement work at about 277 existing wells (divided among 14 existing storage fields), 2 new meter stations, and modifications at 12 existing meter stations.

The facilities are spread over the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Columbia wants to expand the capacity of its pipeline and storage systems in order to serve its customers' requests for new or increased firm services. In total, Columbia proposes to provide 506,795 decatherms per day (Dth/d) of additional daily firm storage and transportation services to be phased over a 3-year period beginning in 1997. Columbia seeks authority to:

- Construct 50 miles of new, loop, and replacement pipeline and uprate the MAOP of about 282 miles of pipeline.
- Construct, relocate, and/or uprate about 23,650 horsepower (hp) of compression at 11 existing compressor stations, construct 18,500 total hp at two new compressor stations, raise the certificated hp level of five units at four existing compressor stations by 3,549 hp, and abandon about 5,700 hp of compression.
- Increase the performance capability of 14 existing storage fields, including construction of 38 new storage wells, construction of about 23 miles of 4- to 24-inch-diameter storage field pipeline, abandonment of about 7 miles of 2- to 10-inch-diameter storage field pipeline, construction of 4,700 hp of compression at 1 existing storage field compressor station, and "well enhancement" work at about 277 existing storage wells.
- Upgrade or replace facilities at 12 existing meter stations and construct 2 new meter stations.

Also, in order to provide the proposed firm entitlements to its customers, Columbia proposes to lease 141,500

Dth/d of firm capacity from Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (TETCO). In order to provide the required capacity, TETCO proposes to:

- Replace about 26 miles of idled 20- and 24-inch-diameter pipeline in 3 sections.
- Upgrade 2 existing compressor stations by a total of 8,000 hp, and construct 13,400 hp of compression at 1 existing compressor station.
- Upgrade an existing interconnection with Columbia.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.² Tables 1-A through D, also in appendix 1, list the pipeline, horsepower, meter station, or storage field activity occurring at each location shown on the maps. If you are interested in obtaining detailed maps of a specific portion of the project or what specific work is occurring at the various storage fields, contact Howard Wheeler at the address below.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require the disturbance of about 1,900 acres of land. Following construction, about 500 acres would be maintained as new pipeline right-of-way, or new aboveground facility sites. The remaining 1,400 acres of land would be restored and allowed to revert to their former use or are already dedicated to use as pipeline right-of-way, or storage field use.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues.

By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed

action and encourage them to comment on these areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils.
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands.
- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Public safety.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Air quality and noise.
- Hazardous waste.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we recommend that the Commission approved or not approved the project.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Columbia and TETCO. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- The proposed work at Columbia's Crawford Storage Field in Ohio may potentially affect two Federally listed endangered species, the Indiana bat and the American burying beetle. The work proposed at Columbia's Line V-243, Line V-50, and Line L System uprate (all in Ohio) may also affect the Indiana bat.
- Columbia's proposed Line SM123 in West Virginia may potentially affect three Federal species of concern, the Butternut tree, Grays saxifrage, and the Cerulean warbler.
- Erosion and slope stability may be a problem along Columbia's proposed Line SM123 and Line KA, Flat Top Discharge Loop (both in West Virginia).
- There are a total of 15 high quality cold water fisheries and 6 high quality

¹ Columbia's and TETCO's applications were filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

warm water fisheries and 3 trout stocking fisheries crossed by the proposed facilities.

- Columbia plans to open cut the New River (a high quality warm water fishery) for a crossing width of 1,660 feet.
- A portion of Texas Eastern's Big-Inch and Little Big-Inch pipelines, which are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, will be affected by the project.
- 145 historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, 79 historic structures, 1 historic district and 3 cemeteries may be affected by the project.
- Two new compressor stations will be constructed, one in Shenandoah County, Virginia and one in Lincoln County, West Virginia.

Public Participation

We have mailed this notice to individuals whose property is affected by construction proposed in the project, to Federal, state, and local governments, soil conservation districts, environmental agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, various local environmental groups, and libraries and newspapers in the project area.³

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations/routes, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket Nos. CP96-213-000, CP96-213-001, and CP96-559-000;
- Send a copy of your letter to: Mr. Howard Wheeler, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., PR-11.2, Washington, DC, 20426; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before December 9, 1996.

If you do not want to sent comments at this time but still want to receive a copy of the EA, please return the Information Request (appendix 2). If you do not return the Information Request you will be taken off the mailing list.

Become an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an "intervenor". Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide copies of its filings to all other parties. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 3).

You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project, including more detailed maps of specific areas, is available from Mr. Howard Wheeler, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-2299. Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-29275 Filed 11-14-96; 8:45 am]

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Office of Hearings and Appeals

Determination of Excess Petroleum Violation Escrow Funds for Fiscal Year 1997

AGENCY: Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of determination of excess monies pursuant to the Petroleum Overcharge Distribution and Restitution Act of 1986.

SUMMARY: The Petroleum Overcharge Distribution and Restitution Act of 1986 requires the Secretary of Energy to determine annually the amount of oil overcharge funds held in escrow that is in excess of the amount needed to make restitution to injured parties. Notice is hereby given that \$29,996,617 of the amounts currently in escrow is determined to be excess funds for fiscal year 1997. Pursuant to the statutory directive, these funds will be made available to state governments for use in specified energy conservation programs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas O. Mann, Deputy Director, Roger Klurfeld, Assistant Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0107, (202) 426-1492 [Mann]; (202) 426-1449 [Klurfeld].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Petroleum Overcharge Distribution and Restitution Act of 1986 (hereinafter PODRA), contained in Title III of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, Public Law 99-509, establishes certain procedures for the disbursement of funds collected by the Department of Energy (hereinafter DOE) pursuant to the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973 (hereinafter EPAA) or the Economic Stabilization Act of 1970 (hereinafter ESA). These funds, commonly referred to as oil overcharge funds, are monies obtained through enforcement actions instituted to remedy actual or alleged violations of those Acts.

PODRA requires the DOE, through the Office of Hearings and Appeals (hereinafter OHA), to conduct proceedings under 10 CFR Part 205, Subpart V, to accept claims for restitution from the public and to refund oil overcharge monies to persons injured by violations of the EPAA or the ESA. In addition, PODRA requires the Secretary of Energy to determine annually the amount of oil overcharge funds that will not be required for restitution to injured parties in these refund proceedings and to make this excess available to state governments for use in four energy conservation programs. This determination must be published in the Federal Register within 45 days after the beginning of each fiscal year. The Secretary has delegated this responsibility to the OHA Director.

Notice is hereby given that based on the best currently available information, \$29,996,617 is in excess of the amount that is needed to make restitution to injured parties.

To arrive at that figure, the OHA has reviewed all accounts in which monies covered by PODRA are deposited. PODRA generally covers all funds now in DOE escrow which are derived from alleged violations of the EPAA or the ESA, with certain exclusions. Excluded are funds which (1) have been identified for indirect restitution in orders issued prior to enactment of PODRA; (2) have been identified for direct restitution in a judicial or administrative order; or (3) are attributable to alleged violations of regulations governing the pricing of crude oil and subject to the settlement agreement in *In re The Department of*

³ Certain individuals whose property would be affected by the well enhancement work at some of the 277 existing wells have not been notified. Only those wells where well enhancement work is planned for 1997 are known by Columbia at this time. The individual wells where well enhancement work will be planned for 1998 and 1999 are not known at this time and therefore, those individuals have not been notified.