

Dated: December 9, 1997.

Eve M. Bither,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 97-32598 Filed 12-12-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Research; Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 98-06; Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (OFES) of the Office of Energy Research (OER), U.S. Department of Energy hereby announces its interest in receiving grant applications for support under its Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program. Applications should be from tenure-track faculty investigators who are currently involved in experimental or theoretical plasma physics research and should be submitted through a U.S. academic institution. The purpose of this program is to support the development of the individual research programs of exceptionally talented scientists and engineers early in their careers.

DATES: To permit timely consideration for awards in FY 1998, formal applications in response to this notice should be received on or before March 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Completed formal applications referencing Program Notice 98-06 should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, Grants and Contracts Division, ER-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 98-06. The above address must also be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express, and commercial mail delivery service or when hand carried by the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ronald McKnight, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, Science Division, ER-55, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290. Telephone: (301) 903-4597. E-mail: ron.mcknight@oer.doe.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program was started in FY 1997. A principal goal of this program is to identify exceptionally talented plasma faculty members early in their

careers and assist and facilitate the development of their research programs. Eligibility for awards under this notice is, therefore, restricted to tenure-track regular academic faculty investigators who are conducting experimental or theoretical plasma physics research. Emphasis is to be placed on basic plasma science research. For applications to be considered for funding, certification of the status of the applicant as a tenure-track regular academic faculty member by the head of the applicant's academic department or other university/college certifying official will be required before the grant is awarded. Awards made under this program will help to maintain the vitality of university plasma physics research and assure continued excellence in the teaching of plasma physics and related disciplines. Applications from Junior Faculty involved in any areas of plasma physics research, not only magnetic fusion, are welcomed and encouraged.

It is anticipated that annual funding levels up to \$150,000 per award may be made available for grants under this notice during FY 1998, contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Funding for equipment above this level will be considered on a case-by-case basis. DOE may make up to four awards during FY 1998, depending on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds. Multiple year funding of grant awards is expected, with funding provided on an annual basis subject to availability of funds. These grants will not normally be renewed after the project period is completed; grantees may, however, submit new grant applications to continue their research using the usual Departmental grant application process. Applications will be subjected to formal merit review and will be evaluated against the following criteria, which are listed in descending order of importance as set forth in 10 CFR Part 605:

1. Scientific and/or technical merit of the project;
2. Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach;
3. Competency of applicant's personnel and adequacy of proposed resources; and
4. Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget.

General information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluations and selection processes, and other policies and procedures are contained in the Application Guide for the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program and 10 CFR Part 605 which is available on the World Wide

Web at: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>

(The Catalog Of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR Part 605)

Issued in Washington, DC on December 1, 1997.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director for Resource Management, Office of Energy Research.

[FR Doc. 97-32642 Filed 12-12-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-106-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

December 9, 1997.

Take notice that on December 1, 1997, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124-1000, filed in Docket No. CP98-106-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 157.216) for authorization to abandon a small volume measurement station (farm tap) located in Dodge County, Minnesota, under Northern's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-401-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Northern states that it is in the process of replacing its Dodge Center Branchline. Northern states that it has negotiated with the two landowners along the route of the original pipeline regarding service lines to reconnect farm tap facilities. One of the farm tap users elected to reconnect their service line to Northern and will continue to receive service from their local distribution company (LDC). The other farm tap user (City of Dodge Center) elected to disconnect from Northern and has connected their service line directly to the LDC. As a result, Northern is requesting authority to abandon the City of Dodge Center farm tap facility.

Northern states that the proposed activity is not prohibited by its existing tariff and that it has sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed changes without detriment or disadvantage to Northern's other customers.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-32595 Filed 12-12-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-110-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Application for Abandonment by Sale

December 9, 1997.

Take notice that on December 2, 1997, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124-1000, filed in Docket No. CP98-110-000, an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), as amended, and Sections 157.7 and 157.18 of the Commission's Regulations requesting permission and approval to abandon by sale to Samedan Oil Corporation (Samedan), certain non-contiguous pipeline facilities, with appurtenances, which are known as the Grand Isle 83 and the Grand Isle 83 Compressor (GI 83 facilities) and located in the Grand Isle Area, Offshore Louisiana. Northern also requests approval to abandon certain services, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Northern states that its role in the marketplace has changed from a merchant of natural gas to a transporter of natural gas and that the GI 83 facilities are non-contiguous to its traditional transmission pipeline system and are no longer needed by Northern. Northern further states that the GI 83 facilities, which are owned by Northern and operated by Trunkline Gas

Company (Trunkline), were declared non-jurisdictional gathering facilities pursuant to an order issued February 13, 1995 in Trunkline's Docket No. CP92-498-005. Northern proposes to transfer the GI 83 facilities to Samedan who will assume all current and future service obligations, and operational and economic responsibilities for these facilities.

Northern states that it entered into a Transportation and Sales Agreement dated October 30, 1980, as amended, (X-99 Agreement), with Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company (Panhandle) and Trunkline, which provides for the transportation of Northern's Grand Isle Block 83 gas and, as partial consideration of such transport service, Panhandle had the option to purchase up to 20 percent of such gas. The Commission granted a certificate to Northern authorizing the sale of natural gas to Panhandle in a July 31, 1981 order in Docket No. CP81-256. Northern states that it filed the X-99 Agreement as Rate Schedule X-99 in its FERC Gas Tariff, Original Volume No. 2. Northern seeks abandonment, in this instant proceeding, for the X-99 Agreement which was authorized in Docket No. CP81-256. Northern states that it has entered into an Assignment and Bill of Sale Agreement (Agreement) with Samedan dated October 23, 1997 covering the sale of the GI 83 facilities, which will be transferred to Samedan pursuant to the Agreement.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before December 30, 1997, 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 Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the NGA (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 to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the NGA and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is

filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Northern to appear to be represented at the hearing.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary

[FR Doc. 97-32596 Filed 12-12-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2100-067]

California Department of Water Resources; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

December 9, 1997.

A final environmental assessment (FEA) is available for public review. The FEA was prepared for California Department of Water Resources' (licensee) application to expand the Feather River Fish Hatchery.

In summary, the FEA examines the environmental impacts of three alternatives for expanding the hatchery: (1) licensee's proposed action: 600 feet of new raceways with hatching and incubation facilities; (2) proposed alternative: 1,600 feet of raceways; and (3) no-action. These alternatives are described in detail on pages two and three of the FEA.

The FEA recommends the licensee construct 600 feet of new raceways at the Feather River Fish Hatchery in accordance with licensee's proposed action alternative. The FEA concludes that implementation of this alternative would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

This FEA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing (OHL). Copies of the FEA can be obtained by contacting the Commission's Public Reference Room at (202) 208-1371.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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