

controlled, or proprietary. DOE also committed to make the database available to the public on the Internet through a web-based reporting tool (e.g., web site) that provides the capacity to generate standard reports and perform searches and queries.

As explained above, this notice announces the first national stakeholder forum to discuss the development of the CID. DOE will sponsor at least one additional stakeholder forum; the second forum will be held no sooner than one year after the date on which DOE announces that the database is operational. The subject of the second forum will be the operation of the database, including its structure and linkages to other databases. DOE is required to maintain the database for a minimum of five years following the second national stakeholder forum. Before the expiration of this five-year period, upon request, DOE will hold a third national stakeholder forum to discuss whether the Department should continue operation of the database.

### 3. Draft Forum Agenda

The following is a draft agenda for the forum. Members of the public are invited to review the draft agenda and provide comments on it in the manner described below.

#### June 3

- 8:30—Welcome and Introductions
- 9:30—Overview and Status Reports on the Database by DOE and Stakeholders
- 11:00—Public Comments and General Discussion
- 12:00—Lunch
- 1:00—Sessions on Specific Topics—  
Topics may include the following:
  - Data sources, level of detail, and availability
  - User Interface—Look and feel of interface
  - Database search and query capabilities
  - Database deployment, training, and documentation
  - Updating and maintaining the database
  - Opportunities for ongoing stakeholder involvement with database development and deployment
- 5:45—Adjourn

#### June 4

- 8:30—Agenda Review and Announcements
- 9:00—Reports from Previous Day Sessions
- 10:30—Discussion Regarding Sessions
- 12:00—Lunch
- 1:00—Discussion of Outstanding Issues

- 1:45—Next Steps—Upcoming Activities and Action Items
- 2:15—Closing Comments
- 2:30—Adjourn

Comments on the draft agenda should be sent to James D. Werner at the following address: Office of Strategic Planning and Analysis (EM-24), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20585.

The Department will consider comments received on the draft agenda in reaching its determination on the final agenda. The final agenda will be made available through the Internet Web Site referenced below.

### 4. Ongoing Communication Mechanisms

In order to communicate current information about activities related to the settlement to stakeholders and the public, DOE has established an Internet Web Site at <http://www.em.doe.gov/settlement>. This site includes:

- Text of Settlement Agreement
- Stakeholder Forum Information
- Forum Agenda
- Registration Information
- Background Materials (available 5/22/99)
- Project Plan—provides an overview of the proposed design of the database and the tentative implementation schedule
- Fact Sheets and Updates on Settlement-Related Activities
- Overall Status of Settlement Implementation

### 5. Registration Information

Registration information can be obtained from the Internet Web Site referenced above, or by calling the Center for Environmental Management Information at 1-800-736-3282 (in the Washington, DC area, 202-863-5084). In addition, any member of the public desiring further information concerning the database and forum can contact James D. Werner at the address provided above. The deadline for registration is May 19, 1999.

Pursuant to the settlement agreement, DOE will consider providing funding for reasonable travel expenses (not to exceed \$50,000 per forum) associated with attendance at the forum by members of the plaintiff organizations or other organizations that can demonstrate need and are working on issues related to DOE's environmental management activities. The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) will process and evaluate these applications and determine eligibility. Applications are due no later than May 14, 1999. For

further information about how to apply for funding of travel expenses, please contact ELI as outlined below:

Eric Feldman, Environmental Law Institute, 1616 P Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036, Phone: 202-939-3823, Fax: 202-939-3868, Email: [feldman@eli.org](mailto:feldman@eli.org)

Information on how to apply for travel expense funding can also be obtained from the Internet Web Site referenced above or by calling the Center for Environmental Management Information at 1-800-736-3282 (in the Washington, DC area, 202-863-5084).

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 16, 1999.

**James D. Werner,**

*Director, Office of Strategic Planning and Analysis, Office of Environmental Management.*

[FR Doc. 99-10073 Filed 4-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Fossil Energy; National Coal Council Notice of Open Meeting

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the National Coal Council. That Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Tuesday, May 18, 1999, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

**ADDRESSES:** Embassy Suites, 1900 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, Virginia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Margie D. Biggerstaff, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy, Washington, DC 20585. Phone: 202/586-3867.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Purpose of the Council: To provide advice, information, recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters relating to coal and coal industry issues.

### Tentative Agenda

- Approval of agenda, E. Linn Draper, Jr., Chairman of the National Coal Council.
- Opening remarks, E. Linn Draper, Jr., Chairman of the National Coal Council.
- Remarks of Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson (invited).
- Administrative business.
- Presentation by Steve Miller, Center for Energy and Environmental Development, Coal: Improving Public Perception of the Nation's Largest Domestic Energy Resource.
- Presentation by Ben Yamagata, Van Ness, Feldman, Fuel Diversity Economic

Incentives—Using one to Achieve the Other.

- Other business.
- Adjournment.

**Public Participation:** The meeting is open to the public. The Chairperson of the Council will conduct the meeting to facilitate the orderly conduct of business. If you would like to file a written statement with the Council, you may do so either before or after the meeting. If you would like to make oral statements regarding any of the items on the agenda, you should contact Margie D. Biggerstaff at the address or telephone number listed above. You must make your request for an oral statement at least five business days prior to the meeting, and reasonable provisions will be made to include the

presentation on the agenda. Public comment will follow the 10-minute rule.

**Transcripts:** The transcript will be available for public review and copying, within 30 days, at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on April 15, 1999.

**Rachel M. Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-10206 Filed 4-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. SA99-17-000, SA99-18-000, SA99-19-000, SA99-20-000. SA99-21-000 (Not Consolidated)]

### Chevron U.S.A. Inc.; Notice of Petitions for Dispute Resolution or, Alternative, for Adjustment

April 16, 1999.

Take notice that Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (Chevron) filed the above-referenced petitions, requesting the Commission to resolve disputes concerning this Kansas ad valorem tax refund obligation to the pipelines listed below.

Pipeline	Docket No.	Refund claim
ANR Pipeline Company .....	<sup>1</sup> SA99-17-000	\$23,260.20
Northern Natural Gas Company .....	<sup>2</sup> SA99-18-000	494,814.97
Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company .....	<sup>3</sup> SA99-19-000	7,403.85
Colorado Interstate Gas Company .....	<sup>4</sup> SA99-20-000	418,116.56
Williams Gas Pipelines Central, Inc. ....	<sup>5</sup> SA99-21-000	840,470.72

<sup>1</sup> Changed from GP99-2-000, filed March 9, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Changed from GP99-3-000, filed March 11, 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Changed from GP99-4-000, filed March 9, 1999.

<sup>4</sup> Changed from GP99-5-000, filed March 10, 1999.

<sup>5</sup> Changed from GP99-6-000, filed March 10, 1999.

Chevron requests that the Commission resolve its dispute with the pipelines by holding that settlements and/or release agreements resolved all issues, including those associated with Kansas ad valorem tax refund liabilities, between the parties. Chevron contends that by agreeing in the settlement to forego claims it for nonperformance it otherwise could have continued to pursue, Chevron agreed to accept total payments under the contracts that did not exceed the MLP ceilings multiplied by the total volumes represented by each pipeline's nonperformance. In such circumstances, no refund should be required. To order otherwise would prevent Chevron from receiving the very benefits it bargained for in the settlements—settlements that the Commission itself strongly encouraged as a means to resolve the massive take-or-pay and underpayments liabilities of interstate pipelines and make the transition to a more market-responsive and competitive environment.

Chevron maintains that the pipelines and consumers benefitted from agreements and settlements because the settlements allowed the pipelines to avoid the much higher costs that full-performance of the contract would have entailed. By resolving "all claims" relating to, *inter alia*, "contractual price", the settlements resolved the Kansas ad valorem tax reimbursement

issue. The Commission has found that these settlements served the public interest.

Chevron also requests the Commission to establish procedures to verify the refund calculations in all dockets to ensure fairness and equity. Alternatively, Chevron requests that the Commission waive Chevron's refund liability pursuant to Section 501(c) of the NGPA. Chevron asserts that the Commission has equitable discretion to grant adjustment relief from this refund requirement. Since the tax reimbursement payments made by the pipelines were for taxes that Chevron in fact paid the State of Kansas, Chevron maintains it did not retain any revenues in excess of the MLPs. Chevron maintains that the equities in the case require the Commission to waive Chevron's refund obligation. At a minimum, Chevron continues the Commission should waive the royalty portion of the refund. Chevron notes that it sold its Kansas properties since 1988, and thus no longer has ongoing contractual relationships with its former Kansas royalty owners. The response from Chevron's former royalty owners to Chevron's mailing has been negligible. To engage in extensive searches or to pursue legal action against these interests would be a cost-prohibitive exercise in futility. Since Chevron has transferred or otherwise ended the

leases in question here, and thus has no ongoing relationship with the royalty owners, let alone relationships that would permit Chevron to impose a unilateral reduction in future royalty payments as contemplated in Wylee. Chevron asserts that the royalty portion of the refund claim is uncollectible, as a practical matter, due to the passage of time and the Kansas statute of limitations. Chevron's petitions are on file with the Commission, and they are open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said petition should on or before 15 days after the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of this notice, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 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, 385.211, 385.1105, and 385.1106). 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