

order to help the agency regain and maintain contact with former Volunteers and Staff.

Respondents: Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and former staff.

Respondents Obligation To Reply: Voluntary.

Burden on the Public:

a. Annual reporting burden: 3630 hours.

b. Annual record keeping burden: 0 hours.

c. Estimated average burden per response: 3 minutes.

d. Frequency of response: Twice a year.

e. Estimated number of likely respondents: 110,000.

f. Estimated cost to respondent: \$0.60.

This notice is issued in Washington, DC on May 28, 1996.

Bessy Kong,

Acting Associate Director for Management.

[FR Doc. 96-13658 Filed 5-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6051-01-M

Information Collection Requests Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Peace Corps.

ACTION: Notice of public use form review request to the Office of Management and Budget.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) this notice announces that the Peace Corps has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request to approve the continued use of the Peace Corps Volunteer Reference Form. A copy of the information collection may be obtained from Stuart Moran, Office of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection, United States PEACE CORPS, 1990 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526. Mr. Moran may be contacted by telephone at (202) 606-2080. Comments on these forms should be addressed to Victoria Becker Wassmer, Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503.

Information Collection Abstract

Title: Peace Corps Volunteer Application.

Need for and Use of This Information: Peace Corps needs this information in order to process applicants for Volunteer service. The information is used to determine suitability of applicants.

Respondents: Individuals who voluntarily agree to serve as references for Peace Corps applicants.

Respondents Obligation To Reply: Voluntary.

Burden on the Public:

a. Annual reporting burden: 13, 692 hrs.

b. Annual record keeping burden: 0 hrs.

c. Estimated average burden per response: 30 minutes.

d. Frequency of response: One time.

e. Estimated number of likely respondents: 27, 384.

f. Estimated cost to respondents: \$7.62.

This notice is issued in Washington, DC on May 28, 1996.

Bessy Kong,

Acting Associate Director for Management.

[FR Doc. 96-13659 Filed 5-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6051-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-26521]

Filings Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended ("Act")

May 24, 1996.

Notice is hereby given that the following filing(s) has/have been made with the Commission pursuant to provisions of the Act and rules promulgated thereunder. All interested persons are referred to the application(s) and/or declaration(s) for complete statements of the proposed transaction(s) summarized below. The application(s) and/or declaration(s) and any amendments thereto is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Office of Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by June 17, 1996, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC 20549, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es) specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing shall identify specifically the issues of fact or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After said date, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

GPU Generation Corporation, et al. (70-8289)

GPU Generation Corporation, 1001 Broad Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15907 ("GENCO"), a non-utility subsidiary of General Public Utilities Corporation ("GPU"), a registered holding company, and GPU's electric utility subsidiary companies, Jersey Central Power & Light Company, 300 Madison Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey 07962 ("JCP&L"), Metropolitan Edison Company, P.O. Box 16001, Reading, Pennsylvania 19640 ("Met-Ed"), and Pennsylvania Electric Company, P.O. Box 16001, Reading, Pennsylvania 19640 ("Penelec"); (together with JCP&L and Met-Ed, "Operating Companies"), have filed a post-effective amendment to their application under sections 9(a) and 10 of the Act.

By order dated December 15, 1993 (HCAR No. 25948) ("Order"), the Commission, among other things, authorized the Operating Companies to enter into, from time-to-time, operation and maintenance agreements ("O&M Agreements") with nonutility generation facilities ("NUGs"): (1) with which an Operating Company has entered into a power purchase agreement; or (2) which are otherwise located within the service territory of one of the Operating Companies or that of an adjacent utility. The NUGs are "qualifying facilities" under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 and the regulations thereunder of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or, more recently, "exempt wholesale generators", as defined in section 32 of the Act.

The fees and other terms and conditions of each O&M Agreement were to be as negotiated between the Operating Company and the NUG facility owner, and were expected to be market-based. In the Order, the Commission reserved jurisdiction pending completion of the record over the performance by the Operating Companies of the operation and maintenance services ("O&M Services") to be performed under the O&M Agreements for NUGs located: (1) In New Jersey; or (2) within the service territories of the Operating Companies or adjacent service territories, but with which an Operating Company does not have a power purchase agreement.¹

¹ Since GENCO is not subject to the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities or the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission, the reservation of jurisdiction contained in the Order need not be carried forward with respect to any aspects of the proposed transactions insofar as GENCO is concerned.

Subsequently, by order dated January 26, 1996 (HCAR No. 26463), the Commission, among other things, authorized GPU to organize and acquire all of the capital stock of GENCO. GENCO has been organized to operate, maintain and rehabilitate the non-nuclear generation facilities owned and/or operated by the Operating Companies pursuant to service contracts and/or an operating agreement. GENCO will also design, construct, start up and test any new non-nuclear generation facilities that the Operating Companies may require in the future, and will be responsible for budgeting, accounting, and other data collection, and for customary generation support activities, such as procurement of materials, supplies, outside services, fuel and fuel supplies as requested.

Inasmuch as the operating and maintenance functions for the nonnuclear generation facilities of the GPU System have now been consolidated in GENCO, the O&M Services to be performed under the O&M Agreements contemplated in the Order must now be performed by or through GENCO. Various management and other non-bargaining unit employees formerly employed by the Operating Companies who are now employees of GENCO have expertise regarding the performance of particular O&M Services contemplated by the Order, such as pre-start-up service, operation staff development and long-term operation, maintenance and administration.

The O&M Services to be provided to NUGs will consist of one or more of the following: (1) pre-start-up service; (2) operation staff development; and (3) long-term operation, maintenance and administration. GENCO expects that O&M Services for NUGs would be undertaken by available personnel and would involve the use of only a limited amount of such resources. Thus, there will be no diversion of GENCO personnel or resources that will adversely affect any Operating Subsidiary's domestic customers or GPU's shareholders.

GENCO will not enter into an O&M Agreement for a NUG facility at market based prices where such facility has a power purchase agreement with an Operating Company providing for adjustment in the rate to be paid for energy or capacity sold thereunder based directly upon the cost of O&M Services. GENCO will separately account for all revenues received and expenses incurred; including allocable overheads, in providing O&M Services.

All applicable conditions set forth in rule 53(a) are, and, assuming the

consummation of the transactions proposed hereby, will be, satisfied and none of the conditions set forth in rule 53(b) exist or will exist as a result of the transactions proposed hereby.

Public Service Company of Oklahoma (70-8341)

Public Service Company of Oklahoma ("PSCO"), 212 East 6th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74119-1212, an electric public-utility subsidiary of Central and South West Corporation, a registered holding company, has filed a post-effective amendment to an application previously filed under sections 9(a) and 10 of the Act and rule 54 thereunder.

PSCO requests authorization to increase its investment in Excel Technologies, Ltd. ("Excel") to \$2,718,764.91, from \$2.35 million, and to consummate certain related purchases and exchanges of securities issued by Excel. Excel is engaged in research, development, and installation of energy-control technology.

By order dated March 31, 1994 (HCAR No. 26016) ("994 Order"), PSCO was authorized to invest up to \$2.0 million, through capital stock purchases, in Excel pursuant to an October 14, 1993 Debenture, Common Stock and Preferred Stock Purchase Agreement ("Purchase Agreement") among Excel, PSCO, and ML Oklahoma Venture Partners, L.P. ("Partnership"), an unaffiliated Oklahoma limited partnership.² The 1994 Order reserved jurisdiction over an additional investment by PSCO of \$500,000 through capital stock purchases.

By order dated March 17, 1995 (HCAR No. 26252) ("1995 Order"), PSCO was authorized to invest \$350,000 in Excel pursuant to a December 8, 1994 Debenture and Warrant Purchase Agreement ("Investment Agreement") among Excel, the Partnership, the John

and Donnie Brock Foundation ("Brock Foundation"), Spavinaw Partners, L.P., and PSCO. Under the Investment Agreement, PSCO received \$350,000 in principal amount of 9% Subordinated Debentures with a one-year maturity ("New Debentures") and a warrant ("New Warrant") to purchase 5,706 shares of Class B Common Stock. The 1995 Order reserved jurisdiction over the acquisition by PSCO of \$150,000 in Excel capital stock pending completion of the record.

PSCO now requests Commission authorization for the transactions described below.

Pursuant to a December 20, 1995 Stock Purchase and Exchange Agreement ("Exchange Agreement") among Excel, PSCO, the Partnership, the Brock Foundation and NorthStar Energy Group, a Texas general partnership, the New Debentures held by PSCO, plus accrued interest thereon of \$21,316.77, will be converted into 1,971 shares of Series E Preferred Stock.

The Exchange Agreement also provides for the exchange of the shares of Series A and B Preferred Stock currently owned by PSCO for shares of Series E Preferred Stock. The Series E Preferred Stock shall have rights, powers, qualifications, restrictions and preferences almost identical to those of the Series A and B Preferred Stock.

In addition, the Exchange Agreement provides that PSCO shall invest an additional \$346,587.08 in Excel in exchange for 590 shares of Series C Preferred Stock, 1,749 shares of Series E Preferred Stock and 648 shares of Class B Common Stock ("New Shares"). PSCO shall acquire the New Shares through cancellation of \$346,587.08 owed by Excel to PSCO pursuant to the Consulting Agreement.

PSCO requests that the Commission release jurisdiction over the remaining \$150,000 investment by PSCO in Excel and that the Commission authorize PSCO to invest an additional \$218,764.91 in Excel.

PSCO also requests authorization for (i) the conversion of the \$21,316.77 of accrued interest on the New Debentures held by PSCO into shares of Series E Preferred Stock, (ii) the exchange of the shares of Series A and B Preferred Stock currently owed by PSCO for shares of Series E Preferred Stock and (iii) the acquisition of the New Shares.

After consummation of all these transactions, PSCO will hold 590 shares of Series C Preferred Stock, 14,208 shares of Series E Preferred Stock, 4 shares of Class A Common Stock, 648 shares of Class B Common Stock and a warrant to purchase 5 additional shares of Class B Common Stock. Its aggregate

² Under the Purchase Agreement, PSCO acquired from Excel 3,882 shares of Series A Preferred Stock, 61,336 shares of Series B Preferred Stock, and 4,334 shares of Class A Common Stock. Under a Certificate of Designations, Voting Powers and Rights of Series A and Series B Convertible Participating Preferred Stock of Excel, the Series A Preferred Stock is convertible into Class A Common Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock is convertible into Class B Common Stock. However, upon conversion of the Series A Preferred Stock into Class A Common Stock, PSCO would own 4.99% of the outstanding shares of Class A Common Stock, which are the only voting securities of Excel. Therefore, Excel will not be a subsidiary company under section 2(a)(8)(A) of the Act nor an affiliate under section 2(a)(11)(A) of the Act. Under an April 9, 1993 Consulting and Research and Development Agreement ("Consulting Agreement"), Excel was to provide PSCO with product research and development expertise, and sales experience and is to otherwise consult on demand-side management issues. In return, PSCO was to pay Excel up to \$1.35 million.

investment in Excel shall equal \$2,718,764.91.

Columbia Gas System, Inc., et al. (70-8849)

Columbia Gas System, Inc. ("Columbia"), 20 Montchanin Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19807, a registered holding company, and three of its wholly-owned non-utility subsidiaries, Columbia Energy Services Corporation ("CES"), 121 Hill Pointe Drive, Suite 100, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317, Columbia Natural Resources, Inc. ("CNR"), 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Charleston, West Virginia 25362, and Columbia Coal Gasification Corporation ("CGC"), 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Charleston, West Virginia 25362, have filed an application-declaration under sections 6(a), 7, 9(a), 10, and 12(f) of the Act and rules 43 and 45 thereunder.

Applicants request authorization to reorganize their existing corporate structure by (1) reincorporating CES in Delaware via a merger into a newly-formed successor corporation for the sole purpose of converting CES from a Kentucky to a Delaware corporation and (2) merging CGC with and into CNR with CNR being the surviving corporation.

The reincorporation of CES in Delaware would be accomplished under a plan of reorganization and merger pursuant to which CES, a Kentucky corporation, will be merged into CES (DE), a newly-formed Delaware corporation which will, by virtue of the merger, become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Columbia.³ CES (DE) will succeed to all of the rights and assets of CES and assume all of its liabilities and obligations. The officers and directors of CES will become the officers and directors of CES (DE). The merger will qualify as a tax-free reorganization under Sections 368(a)(1) (A) and (F) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. No additional capital financing will occur as a result of the transaction. Applicants state that the merger and reincorporation of CES in Delaware will afford CES the benefits of Delaware's favorable business corporation laws, allow it to conduct its affairs in a more flexible and efficient manner and produce significant property tax savings.⁴

³ All of the assets and liabilities of CES will be transferred to CES (DE) in exchange for common stock of CES (DE) which will simultaneously be transferred to Columbia in exchange for all outstanding shares of CES, leaving CES (DE) the surviving company.

⁴ Applicants note that Delaware has followed a policy of encouraging incorporation in that state and, in furtherance of that policy, has adopted

Columbia owns all 1,939,000 outstanding shares of common stock of CGC, a Delaware corporation.⁵ Columbia would accomplish the merger of CGC with and into CNR, a Texas corporation, by transferring all 1,939,000 shares of CGC common stock, \$25 par value per share, to CNR in exchange for approximately 343,000 shares of newly issued CNR common stock, \$25 par value per share. The actual number of shares of CNR stock will depend on the net book value of CGC on the effective date. Based upon the \$8.581 million net book value of CGC as of February 29, 1996, 343,245 CNR shares would be issued to Columbia in exchange for the 1,939,000 shares of CGC transferred to CNR. The proposed transaction will qualify as a tax-free reorganization under Section 368(a)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, as amended. No additional capital financing will occur as a result of the transaction.

This exchange will make CNR the parent corporation of CGC and the temporary owner of 100% of CGC's outstanding shares. Promptly, thereafter, CGC will be merged with and into CNR pursuant to Article 5.16 of the Texas Business Corporation Act. Article 5.16 provides that, upon the merger, CNR will succeed to all of the rights and assets of CGC and will assume all of its liabilities and obligations.

Applicants expect the merger of CGC and CNR to produce significant benefits and efficiencies, including (1) simplified and less costly internal and external accounting operations; (2) reduced and less costly regulatory and compliance requirements; (3) reduced general and administrative costs, and (4) the realization of certain state tax benefits associated with being a single company.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-13803 Filed 5-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

comprehensive, modern and flexible corporation laws that are periodically updated and revised to meet changing business needs. They also note that a majority of Columbia's subsidiaries are already incorporated in Delaware. In addition, Delaware, unlike Kentucky, does not impose a tax on intangible property. The Columbia Energy Market Center, a division of CES that licenses and sublicenses commodity trading software used to operate an electronic bulletin board for the trading of natural gas, is subject to the tax on intangible property, the impact of which is expected to become increasingly significant as revenues generated by the bulletin board grow.

⁵ CGC has no other class of equity stock outstanding.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under OMB Review

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements submitted for review.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), agencies are required to submit proposed reporting and recordkeeping requirements to OMB for review and approval, and to publish a notice in the Federal Register notifying the public that the agency has made such a submission.

DATE: Comments should be submitted on or before July 3, 1996. If you intend to comment but cannot prepare comments promptly, please advise the OMB Reviewer and the Agency Clearance Officer before the deadline.

COPIES: Request for clearance (OMB 83-1), supporting statement, and other documents submitted to OMB for review may be obtained from the Agency Clearance Officer. Submit comments to the Agency Clearance Officer and the OMB Reviewer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Agency Clearance Officer: Jacqueline White, Small Business Administration, 409 3RD Street, S.W., 5th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20416, Telephone: (202) 205-6629

OMB Reviewer: Victoria Wasserman, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503

Title: Small Business Development Center's Checklist.

SBA Form No.: SBA Form 59.

Frequency: Quarterly.

Description of Respondents: Small Business Development Centers.

Annual Responses: 228.

Annual Burden: 456.

Jacqueline White,

Chief, Administrative Information Branch.

[FR Doc. 96-13724 Filed 5-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-M

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Social Security Acquiescence Ruling 96-1(6)]

DeSonier v. Sullivan; Method of Application of State Intestate Succession Law In Determining Entitlement to Child's Benefits

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Social Security Acquiescence Ruling.