

programs for N or D children, and adult correctional institutions and (2) the October caseload of N or D children in local institutions.

[FR Doc. 97-10819 Filed 4-25-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket No. EA-145]

### Application To Export Electric Energy; British Columbia Power Exchange Corporation

**AGENCY:** Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of application.

**SUMMARY:** British Columbia Power Exchange Corporation (Powerex) has submitted an application to export electric energy to Mexico pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

**DATES:** Comments, protests or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before May 28, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, protests or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex (FE-52), Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0350 (FAX 202-287-5736).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ellen Russell (Program Office) 202-586-9624 or Michael Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-6667.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. § 824a(e)).

On April 21, 1997, Powerex filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for authorization to export electric energy to Mexico pursuant to section 202(e) of the FPA. Specifically, Powerex has proposed to transmit to Mexico electric energy purchased from electric utilities and other suppliers located in Canada and the United States.

Powerex would arrange for the exported energy to be transmitted to Mexico over the international transmission facilities owned by San Diego Gas and Electric Company. The transmission facilities, as more fully described in this application, have previously been authorized by Presidential permits issued pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended.

#### Procedural Matters

Any persons desiring to become a party to this proceeding or to be heard

by filing comments or protests to this application should file a petition to intervene, comment or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of such petitions and protests should be filed with the DOE on or before the date listed above. Additional copies are to be filed directly with: Paul W. Fox and David A. Montoya, Bracewell and Patterson, L.L.P., 111 Congress Avenue, Suite 2300, Austin, TX 78746, FAX (512) 472-9123 and Douglas Little, Manager, Trade Policy & Regulation, British Columbia Power Exchange Corporation, 666 Burrard Street, Suite 2210, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6C2X8, FAX 604-891-5015.

A final decision will be made on this application after the environmental impacts have been evaluated pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and a determination is made by the DOE that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above.

Issued in Washington, DC on April 22, 1997.

**Anthony J. Como,**

*Director, Electric Power Regulation, Coal & Power Im/Ex, Office of Coal & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.*

[FR Doc. 97-10857 Filed 4-25-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket Nos. EA-143 and EA-144]

### Applications To Export Electric Energy; CNG Energy Services Corporation

**AGENCY:** Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of applications.

**SUMMARY:** CNG Energy Services Corporation (CNG), a power marketer, has submitted applications to export electric energy to Mexico and Canada pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

**DATES:** Comments, protests or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before May 28, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, protests or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex (FE-52), Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy,

1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0350 (FAX 202-287-5736).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William H. Freeman (Program Office) 202-586-5883 or Michael Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-6667.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. § 824a(e)).

On April 10, 1997, CNG filed two applications with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for authorization to export electric energy to Mexico (Docket EA-143) and Canada (Docket EA-144) as a power marketer, pursuant to section 202(e) of the FPA. Specifically, CNG has proposed to transmit to Mexico and Canada electric energy purchased from electric utilities and other suppliers.

CNG would arrange for the exported energy to be transmitted to Mexico over the international transmission facilities owned by San Diego Gas and Electric, El Paso Electric Company, Central Power and Light Company, and Comision Federal de Electricidad. GNC would arrange for the exported energy to be transmitted to Canada over the international facilities owned by Basin Electric, Bonneville Power Administration, Citizens Utilities, Detroit Edison Company, Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Joint Owners of the Highgate Project, Maine Electric Power Company, Maine Public Service Company, Minnesota Power and Light Company, Minnkota Power, New York Power Authority, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, Northern States Power and Vermont Electric Transmission Company. Each of the transmission facilities, as more fully described in these applications, has previously been authorized by a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended.

#### Procedural Matters

Any persons desiring to become a party to these proceedings or to be heard by filing comments or protests to these applications should file a petition to intervene, comment or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of such petitions and protests should be filed with the DOE on or before the date listed above. Responses to CNG's request to export to Mexico should be clearly marked with Docket EA-143. Responses to CNG's request to

export to Canada should be clearly marked with Docket EA-144. Additional copies are to be filed directly with: Kevin J. Lipson, Jolanta Sterbenz, Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. Columbia Square, 555 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004-1109, (202)637-5600 and Gary A. Jeffries, CNG Energy Services Corporation, One Park Ridge Center, P.O. Box 15746, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15244-0746, (412)787-4268.

A final decision will be made on these applications after the environmental impacts have been evaluated pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and a determination is made by the DOE that the proposed actions will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

Copies of these applications will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above.

Issued in Washington, DC on April 21, 1997.

**Anthony J. Como,**

*Director, Electric Power Regulation, Coal & Power Im/Ex, Office of Coal & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.*

[FR Doc. 97-10858 Filed 4-25-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Ground Water Project

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Record of decision.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) is issuing this Record of Decision regarding its programmatic decision for the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Ground Water Project. This decision enables DOE to take action under its UMTRA Ground Water Project, and is based on the environmental analyses in the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Ground Water Project (DOE/EIS-0198), which DOE issued in December 1996. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, the State of Colorado and the State of Texas cooperated in the preparation of the PEIS.

Under Title I of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 (UMTRCA), DOE is responsible for performing remedial action to bring 22 designated former uranium mill processing sites into compliance with applicable Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) standards for milling-related contamination (40 CFR part 192). Under DOE's UMTRA Surface Project, DOE has completed surface remediation at 20 sites and work is underway at the remaining two sites. These sites are located in nine States and are on or near four Indian Tribal lands. The shallow ground water at most of these sites has been contaminated with uranium, nitrates, and other milling-related contaminants. The purpose of the UMTRA Ground Water Project is to protect human health and the environment by meeting EPA's ground water standards, which were issued January 11, 1995.

DOE has decided to implement the Proposed Action for conducting the Ground Water Project. The Proposed Action, which was identified as DOE's preferred alternative in the final PEIS, is intended to establish a consistent risk-based framework for implementing the UMTRA Ground Water Project and determining appropriate ground water compliance strategies for complying with EPA ground water standards at the UMTRA project former processing sites. Under this preferred alternative, DOE may use active, passive, and no-remediation strategies to comply with the ground water standards as conditions warrant at specific sites.

Before making site-specific decisions to implement the preferred alternative for the Ground Water Project, DOE will prepare appropriate further National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. DOE encourages affected States, tribes, local government agencies and members of the public to continue to participate in the site-specific decision making processes for the Ground Water Project.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Further information on the final PEIS can be obtained by contacting Mr. Donald R. Metzler, Grand Junction Office, Department of Energy, 2567 B 3/4 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81503, telephone 970-248-7612. Information about the Department of Energy National Environmental Policy Act process can be obtained by contacting Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, telephone 202-586-4600, or leave a message at 800-472-2756.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** DOE has prepared this Record of Decision pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) and DOE's NEPA regulations (10 CFR part

1021). This Record of Decision is based on the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Ground Water Project (PEIS) (DOE/EIS-0198, issued December 1996). The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, the State of Colorado and the State of Texas participated as cooperating agencies in the preparation of this PEIS.

A Notice of Intent was published in the **Federal Register** on November 18, 1992 (57 FR 54374), announcing that the Department would prepare a PEIS to examine programmatic alternatives for conducting the UMTRA Ground Water Project at former uranium processing sites. Dates, locations, and times for public scoping meetings were announced locally and published in the **Federal Register** on February 8, 1993 (58 FR 7551). Nineteen public scoping meetings in 16 communities were held between November 18, 1992, and April 15, 1993, to solicit public comment regarding the scope and content of the PEIS. The UMTRA Ground Water Project PEIS Implementation Plan (DOE/AL/62350-72D, March 31, 1994) summarized the comments received during scoping and described how the comments would be addressed in the PEIS.

A Notice of Availability of the draft PEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on May 17, 1995 (60 FR 26417). Nine public hearings were conducted in communities near tailings sites between June 7 and 28, 1995, to solicit public comment on the draft PEIS. Volume II of the final PEIS identifies and responds to the 576 comments received during the public comment period.

#### Alternatives Considered

##### *Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)*

Under the proposed action, which was identified in the draft PEIS as DOE's preferred alternative, DOE would use ground water compliance strategies tailored for each site to achieve conditions that are protective of human health and the environment and that meet EPA ground water standards. The proposed action would consider ground water compliance decisions in a step-by-step approach, beginning with consideration of a "no-remediation" strategy and proceeding, if necessary, to consideration of passive strategies, such as natural flushing with compliance monitoring and institutional controls, and finally to consideration of more complex, active ground water methods, if needed. For example, under the proposed action, if a site risk assessment and Site Observational Work Plan