Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting Burden and Recordkeeping:

Responses: 57.

Burden Hours: 9,635.

Abstract: The CCD Survey collects data annually from state education agencies about student enrollments, graduation, dropout; education staff; school and agency characteristics; and revenues and expenditures for public elementary and secondary education. The Department will use this information to provide an official listing of public elementary and secondary schools and education agencies in the United States; and provide basic information and descriptive statistics on public elementary and secondary schools and schooling, including school finance.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Title: Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loan and Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loan Promissory Note and Disclosure.

Frequency: On occasion.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 2,600,000.

Burden Hours: 433,160.

Abstract: This form is the means by which a Federal Direct Stafford/Ford and/or Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loan borrower promises to repay his or her loan.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Title: Federal Direct PLUS Loan Application and Promissory Note.

Frequency: On occasion.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 210,000.

Burden Hours: 105,000.

Abstract: This form is the means by which a Federal Direct PLUS Loan borrower promises to repay his or her loan.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Title: Addendum to Federal Direct PLUS Loan Promissory Note Endorser.

Frequency: On occasion.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 52,500.

Burden Hours: 26,250.

Abstract: This form is the means by which an endorser for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan borrower with an adverse credit history applies for and promises to repay the Federal Direct PLUS loan if the borrower does not pay it.

[FR Doc. 97–21597 Filed 8–14–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Technology Center; Notice of Intent to Issue a Program Research and Development Announcement (PRDA)

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE), Federal Energy Technology Center (FETC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue a PRDA No. DE–RA26–98FT35008 entitled ''Global Climate Change—Novel Concepts for Management of Greenhouse Gases.'' The PRDA will solicit the submission of innovative, ''pathbreaking'' concepts to sequester and recycle greenhouse gases, and bring those concepts to a stage of technical development sufficient to prove validity on an engineering scale. Specifically, the objective of the procurement is the development of novel, less costly concepts to sequester and recycle greenhouse gases which include ways to reuse, or store greenhouse gases or their conversion products.

DATES: Requests for information concerning the solicitation should be submitted in writing at the address in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, by facsimile at 304/285–4683, or by E-mail to raymond.jarr@fetc.doe.gov. Telephone requests for the solicitation package will not be accepted.

ADDRESSES: Acquisition and Assistance Division, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507–0880.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Raymond R. Jarr, Contracting Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507–0880; Telephone (304) 285–4088.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The concepts can include chemical or biological conversion methods, as well as, physical storage. The greenhouse gases of interest are CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O associated with the production and use of fossil fuels. Science-based, less costly concepts are sought which are broadly applicable and potentially able to reduce emissions well below those resulting from increased efficiency of fossil-fuel use. In addition, fundamental work prior to development of pathbreaking technologies is acceptable. Sequestration is a very broad term which encompasses a variety of ways to recycle or store the gas, or the carbon from the gases, in a form that will remain stable for centuries. Recycling refers to the ability to reuse carbon contained in fossil fuels or in the atmosphere and thus, avoid the further combustion of fossil fuels.

Awards resulting from the solicitation will be divided into three Phases. Phase I involves a technical and preliminary economic assessment of proposed concept; Phase II involves laboratory- and bench-scale development of the proposed technology; and Phase III involves pilot or larger scale testing to bring the technology to an engineering scale. An industrial company will be required to perform at least 30 percent of the effort in Phase III. Offerors are encouraged to seek additional sources of funding for any or all phases. Multiple awards are expected for Phase I with a competitive down selection process occurring at the completion of Phases I and II.

The solicitation will be available upon written request to FETC or on the Internet at http://www.fetc.doe.gov/business/solicita.html. Those prospective offerors who obtain a copy of the solicitation through the Internet should check the location frequently for any solicitation amendments. Those prospective offerors who request in writing a copy of the solicitation will receive an electronic version of the solicitation on diskette in a WordPerfect 6.1 format. Solicitations will not be distributed in paper form. Requests for information concerning the solicitation should be submitted in writing at the address in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, by facsimile at 304/285–4683, or by E-mail to raymond.jarr@fetc.doe.gov. All requests should reference the PRDA solicitation number and title, and should include a point-of-contact at the requestor's location. Telephone requests for the solicitation package will not be accepted. The solicitation will be available on or about September 1, 1997. The exact date and time for the submission of proposals will be indicated in the solicitation. However, at least a sixty day response time is currently planned. It is DOE's desire to encourage the widest participation including the involvement of small business concerns, and small disadvantaged business concerns. As a consequence, Phase I of this procurement is a partial set-aside. Subsequent down selections at the end of Phases I and II will not include partial set-aside preferences. In accordance with FAR 52.232–18, ''Availability of Funds,'' funds are not presently available for this procurement. The Government's obligation under this contract is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payment for contract purposes can be made.

Dated: August 8, 1997.

Randolph L. Kesling,

Supervisory Contract Specialist, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

[FR Doc. 97–21659 Filed 8–14–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IN97–3–000]

Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation; Order Instituting Proceeding

Issued August 8, 1997.

Before Commissioners: James J. Hoecker, Chairman; Vicky A. Bailey, William L. Massey, and Donald F. Santa, Jr.

Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation (AOG) is a local natural gas distribution company in the Fort Smith, Arkansas area. It provides interruptible transportation (IT) of natural gas in interstate commerce subject to a blanket certificate issued under section 284.224 of the Commission's regulations.[1] In a complaint to the Enforcement Task Force, a potential shipper stated that AOG's IT service agreements contain a ''sales provision'' requiring the shipper to sell gas to AOG when AOG determines that the gas is needed to protect AOG's sales to its local customers. The sales provision in AOG's IT agreements may violate sections 4 (a) and 4(b) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA),[2] section 311 (a)(2) of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA),[3] and sections 284.9(b)(1), 284.123(a) and 284.123(e) of the Commission's regulations relating to transportation under the blanket certificate.[4]

This order establishes a proceeding pursuant to NGA sections 4, 5 and 16 and NGPA sections 211 and 501.[5] We are requiring AOG to sow why it has not violated NGA sections 4(a) and 4(b), NGPA section 311(a)(2), or sections 284.9(b)(1), 284.123(a) and 284.123(e) of the Commission's regulations. We are also directing AOG to respond to data and document requests that relate to AOG's blanket certificate transportation.

[1] 18 C.F.R. § 284.224 (1996).

[2] 15 U.S.C. 717c (a), (b) (1994).

[3] 15 U.S.C.A. § 3371(a)(2) (1994).

[4] 18 C.F.R. §§ 284.9(b), 284.123(a), 284.123(e) (1996).

[5] 15 U.S.C. 717c, 717d, 717o, 3371, 3411 (1994).

I. Background

AOG makes direct sales to 60,000 residential and industrial customers in four Oklahoma and five Arkansas counties surrounding Fort Smith.[6] AOG obtains system supply from more than 450 local production input points scattered throughout its system.[7]

AOG received its Order No. 63 [8] blanket certificate from the Commission on November 13, 1985.[9] In particular, this certificate permits AOG to transport gas in interstate commerce under the same conditions as apply to transportation by intrastate pipelines under section 311(a)(2) of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA).[10] These conditions are set forth in Part 284, Subpart C of the Commission's regulations. Section 284.224(e)(1) of the regulations provides that, as relevant here, any transportation transaction under an Order No. 63 blanket certificate is subject to the Subpart C terms and conditions and reporting requirements.[11] In 1994, AOG transported 8,334,725 MMBtu pursuant to its Order No. 63 authority, as compared to 13,698,875 MMBtu that AOG distributed to retail customers.[12]

In discussions with the Task Force, AOG stated that its IT agreements under its blanket certificate contain the following ''sales provision'' or a similar provision:

> Shipper agrees to sell to Transporter gas from the wells listed in the Exhibit ''A'', on a best efforts basis, when, in Transporter's judgment, the purchase of such gas is necessary to protect the continuity of gas service to Transporter's gas purchasing customers. Such a right to purchase from Shipper shall be up to the volumes sufficient for Transporter to cease curtailment. Any volumes in excess of those required to enable Transporter to meet its customers [sic] needs which Shipper can deliver to Transporter and which Transporter can transport will thereupon be transported pursuant to other provisions of the gas transportation agreement. Transporter will first balance gas deliveries and redeliveries and if Transporter is unable to balance them it will purchase the gas at the greater of the W.A.COG [sic] as filed with the Arkansas Public Service Commission for AOG system purchases or the ''net back'' price plus Transporter's transportation attributable to Purchaser's contract. (Use average W.A.COG for preceding twelve months.) Transporter further has the right to purchase transportation gas not currently flowing. These pricing provisions can be changed by mutual consent between the parties. This pricing provision is also subject to other pricing provisions set forth in any gas purchase contracts between Shipper and Transporter. Transporter's right to purchase gas hereunder shall be in effect as to any well listed in Exhibit ''A'' so long as this agreement is in effect.

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 284.123(e), AOG was required to file an operating statement concerning its transportation under the blanket certificate.[13] The statement must ''describe [ ] how the pipeline will engage in these transportation arrangements, including operating conditions, such as, quality standards and financial viability of the shipper.'' [14] On March 22, 1988, AOG filed an amended operating statement with the Commission that does not refer to the sales provision.

On June 23, 1997, AOG submitted a ''Statement of Position and Offer of Settlement'' (statement), pursuant to Rules 1b.18 and 1b.19 of the Commission's Rules Relating to Investigations.[15] AOG requests confidential treatment for the statement. The statement (apart from the offer of settlement) is a legal argument that does not contain proprietary or otherwise privileged information that would be protected from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. AOG has not provided any reason why its legal analysis should not be made public. Therefore, the Commission grants AOG's request for confidential treatment for the offer of settlement and otherwise denies its request for confidential treatment of the remainder of the statement. The Commission addresses

[6] *See* AOG's March 22, 1995 filing in Docket No. PR95–4–000, AOG's most recent rate case before the Commission.

[7] *Id.*

[8] FERC Stats. & Regs. (Regulations Preambles 1977–1981) ¶ 30,118 (1980).

[9] Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation, 33 FERC ¶ 61,197 (1995).

[10] 15 U.S.C. § 3371(a)(2) (1994).

[11] When AOG received its Order No. 63 blanket certificate, the Commission regulated AOG as a ''natural gas company'' pursuant to the NGA. As such, AOG had received certificates under NGA section 7 for constructing and operating facilities within this Commission's jurisdiction. In 1989, the Commission held that the Uniform Regulatory Jurisdiction Act of 1988 transferred exclusive jurisdiction over AOG's transportation of gas to ultimate consumers from the Commission to the Arkansas Public Service Commission and the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation, 48 FERC ¶ 61,338 (1989). As a result, except for the blanket certificate, the Commission vacated all NGA section 7 certificates it had previously issued to AOG, effective October 6, 1988. Nonetheless, AOG remains subject to the Commission's jurisdiction to the extent necessary to enforce the terms and conditions of the blanket certificate. *Id.*

[12] AOG's May 9, 1995 filing in Docket No. PR95–4–000, Answer to Item (2), p. 2 of 2.

[13] This requirement applies to AOG's transportation by virtue of section 284.224(e)(1) of the Commission's regulations.

[14] 18 C.F.R. § 284.123(e).

[15] 18 C.F.R. § 1b.18, 19 (1996). These rules permit a person to submit a memorandum setting forth its position on matters relevant to an investigation.