

**National Weather Service
Modernization and Associated
Restructuring**

AGENCY: National Weather Service (NWS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The NWS is publishing proposed certifications for the consolidation, automation, and closure of the following Weather Service offices at the indicated FAA Weather Observation Service Level:

(1) Fargo Weather Service Office (WSO) which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and have its services consolidated into the future Eastern North Dakota, Bismarck, Aberdeen, and Minneapolis Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs);

(2) Muskegon WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level B and have its services consolidated into the future Grand Rapids and North Central Lower Michigan WFOs;

(3) Residual Rapid City WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and have its services consolidated into the future Rapid City WFO;

(4) Springfield WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and have its services consolidated into the future Central Illinois and St. Louis WFOs;

(5) Asheville WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and have its services consolidated into the future Greenville/Spartanburg, Knoxville/Tri-Cities, and Roanoke WFOs;

(6) Cincinnati WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level A and have its services consolidated into the future Cincinnati WFO;

(7) Greensboro WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level A and have its services consolidated into the future Raleigh/Durham, Greenville/Spartanburg, and Roanoke WFOs;

(8) Augusta WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and have its services consolidated into the future Columbia, Charleston, and Atlanta WFOs;

(9) Meridian WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and have its services consolidated into the future Jackson, Mobile, and Birmingham WFOs;

(10) Savannah WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level B and have its services consolidated into the future Charleston,

Jacksonville, Tallahassee, and Atlanta WFOs; and

(11) Lewiston WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and have its services consolidated into the future Spokane, Pendleton, and Missoula WFOs.

In accordance with Pub. Law 102-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed consolidation, automation, and closure certifications.

DATES: Comments are requested by March 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the proposed consolidation, automation and closure packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 09356, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0300. All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1698 ext 151.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 706 of Pub. Law 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that these consolidations, automations, and closures will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed consolidation, automation, and closure certification in the FR. The documentation supporting each proposed certification includes the following:

(1) A draft memorandum by the meteorologist(s)-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS if appropriate, after consideration of public comments and completion of consultation with the Modernization Transition Committee (the Committee);

(2) A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;

(3) A comparison of the services provided within the service area and the services to be provided after such action;

(4) A description of any recent or expected modernization of NWS operation which will enhance services in the service area;

(5) An identification of any area within the affected service area which would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(6) Evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, which was considered in

reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Report(s), User Confirmation of Services Report(s), and the Decommissioning Readiness Report (as applicable);

(7) Evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, which was considered in reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the ASOS Commissioning Report; series of three letters between NWS and FAA confirming that weather services will continue in full compliance with applicable flight aviation rules after ASOS commissioning; Surface Aviation Observation Transition Checklist documenting transfer of augmentation and backup responsibility from NWS to FAA; successful resolution of ASOS user confirmation of services complaints; and an in-place supplementary data program at the responsible WFO(s);

(8) Warning and forecast verification statistics for pre-modernized and modernized service which were utilized in determining that services have not been degraded;

(9) An Air Safety Appraisal for offices which are located on an airport; and

(10) A letter appointing the liaison officer.

These proposed certifications do not include any report of the Committee which could be submitted in accordance with sections 706(b)(6) and 707(c) of Pub. Law 102-567. In December 1995 the Committee decided that, in general, they would forego the optional consultation on proposed certification. Instead, the Committee would just review certification after the public comment period had closed so their consultation would be with the benefit of public comments that had been submitted.

This notice does not include the complete certification packages because they are too voluminous to publish. Copies of the certification packages and supporting documentation can be obtained through the contact listed above.

Once all public comment have been received and considered, the NWS will complete consultation with the Committee and determine whether to proceed with the final certification. If a decision to certify is made, the Secretary of Commerce must publish the final certification in the FR and transmit the certification to the appropriate Congressional committees prior to consolidating, automating, and closing these offices.

Dated: December 31, 1996.
 Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.
 [FR Doc. 97-225 Filed 1-6-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-12-M

National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

AGENCY: National Weather Service (NWS), NOAA, Commerce.
ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The National Weather Service (NWS) is publishing proposed certifications for the proposed consolidations and closures of:

(1) Omaha Residual Weather Service Office (RWSO) which will have its services consolidated into the future Omaha Weather Forecast Office (WFO); and

(2) Sacramento RWSO which will have its services consolidated into the future Sacramento WFO. In accordance with Pub. Law 102-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed consolidation and closure certifications.

DATES: Comments are requested by March 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the proposed consolidation and closure packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 09356, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0300. All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1698 ext 151.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 706 of Pub. Law 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that these consolidations and closures will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed consolidation and closure certifications in the FR. The documentation supporting each proposed certification includes the following:

(1) A draft memorandum by the meteorologist-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS if appropriate, after consideration of public comments and completion of consultation with the Modernization Transition Committee (the Committee);

(2) A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;

(3) A comparison of the services provided within the service area and the services to be provided after such action;

(4) A description of any recent or expected modernization of NWS operation which will enhance services in the service area;

(5) An identification of any area within the affected service area which would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(6) Evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, which was considered in reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Report(s), User Confirmation of Services Report(s), and the Decommissioning Readiness Report (as applicable);

(7) Warning and forecast verification statistics for pre-modernized and modernized services which were utilized in determining that services have not been degraded;

(8) An Air Safety Appraisal, if applicable, for offices which are located on an airport; and

(9) A letter appointing the liaison officer.

These proposed certifications do not include any report of the Committee which could be submitted in accordance with sections 706(b)(6) and 707(c) of Pub. Law 102-567. In December 1995 the Committee decided that, in general, they would forego the optional consultation on proposed certifications. Instead, the Committee would just review certifications after the public comment period had closed so their consultation would be with the benefit of public comments that had been submitted.

This notice does not include the complete certification packages because they are too voluminous to publish. Copies of the certification packages and supporting documentation can be obtained through the contact listed above.

Once all public comments have been received and considered, the NWS will complete consultation with the Committee and determine whether to proceed with the final certifications. If decisions to certify are made, the Secretary of Commerce must publish the final certifications in the FR and transmit the certifications to the appropriate Congressional committees prior to consolidating and closing the offices.

Dated: December 31, 1996.
 Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.
 [FR Doc. 97-226 Filed 1-6-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-12-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EG97-16-000]

Amoco Power Finance (BVI) Limited; Notice of Amendment to Application for Commission Determination of Exempt Wholesale Generator Status

December 31, 1996.

Take notice that on December 19, 1996, Amoco Power Finance (BVI) Limited tendered for filing an amendment to its application for exempt wholesale generator status filed in the above-referenced docket on November 8, 1996.

Any person desiring to be heard concerning the amendment to the Application should file a motion to intervene or comments with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Commission will limit its consideration of comments to those that concern the adequacy or accuracy of the application. All such motions and comments should be filed on or before January 10, 1997 and must be served on the Applicant. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-205 Filed 1-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. GT97-16-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

December 31, 1996.

Take notice that on December 20, 1996, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) tendered for filing Attachment A to the filing which details, by customer, the historical load factors calculated using total firm entitlements for the 12-month period ended October 31, 1996. Columbia proposes to charge its firm customers the GRI demand rate indicated by these