

DEPARTMENT OF STATE**Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs**

[Public Notice 2869]

Finding of No Significant Impact: Lakehead Pipe Line Company, Pipeline at Neche, North Dakota

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact with regard to an application to construct, connect, operate and maintain a pipeline to transport crude oil and natural gas liquids across the U.S.-Canada border.

SUMMARY: The Department of State has conducted an environmental assessment of the proposed construction by Lakehead Pipe Line Company of an oil pipeline across the international boundary at Neche, North Dakota. Based on the environmental assessment, the Department of State has concluded that issuance of a Presidential Permit authorizing construction of the proposed pipeline will not have a significant effect on the human environment within the United States. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 4321 et seq., Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, 40 CFR 1501.4 and 1508.13 and Department of State Regulations, 22 CFR 161.8(c), an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PIPELINE PERMIT APPLICATION, CONTACT: Daniel L. Martinez, Office of International Energy Policy, Room 3535, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, (202) 647-4557.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, CONTACT: Pam Pearson, Office of Ecology and Terrestrial Conservation, Room 4325, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, (202) 647-1123.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Lakehead Pipe Line Company, Limited Partnership has applied for a Presidential Permit to authorize construction, connection, operation and maintenance of a 36 inch diameter pipeline to convey crude oil and natural gas liquids across the border with Canada at Neche, North Dakota. The proposed pipeline would be constructed in the same right of way presently occupied by four oil pipelines owned and operated by the same company. The existing pipelines are operating at full capacity and are unable to transport the volume of oil demanded by U.S. markets in the midwest. The purpose of

the proposed new pipeline is to eliminate this capacity constraint.

On April 21, 1998, the Department of State published a Notice of Application for a Presidential Permit in the **Federal Register**. No public comments were received and concerned agencies expressed no opposition to issuing the permit. The Department of State prepared an environmental assessment for the Pipeline Permit. Based on that assessment, the Department of State has concluded that issuance of the permit will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment within the United States. A finding of no significant impact is adopted, and an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Dated: July 23, 1998.

Stuart E. Eizenstat,

Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 98-22307 Filed 8-18-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2870]

Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs; National Interest Determination Concerning a Pipeline Operated on the Border of the United States at Neche, North Dakota by Lakehead Pipe Line Company

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under Executive Order 11423 of August 16, 1968 as amended by Executive Order 12847 of May 17, 1993, and Department of State Delegation of Authority No. 118-1 of April 11, 1973, and subject to satisfaction of the requirements of sections 1(d) and 1(f) of the said Executive Order, I hereby determine that issuance of a permit to Lakehead Pipe Line Company, a Delaware limited partnership, to construct, connect, operate and maintain a pipeline for the transportation of crude oil and natural gas liquids across the international boundary between the United States and Canada near Neche, North Dakota would serve the national interest.

This determination shall become final fifteen days after the Secretaries of Defense, Treasury, Interior, Commerce, Transportation, the Attorney General, the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, and the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency has been notified of this proposed determination, unless the matter must be referred to the President for consideration and final decision

pursuant to section 1(f) of said Executive Order.

Dated: July 23, 1998.

Stuart E. Eizenstat,

Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2868]

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Certification Pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162

SUMMARY: On July 21, 1998, the Department of State certified, pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 ("Section 609"), that that Venezuela and Nigeria have adopted programs governing the incidental capture of sea turtles in their commercial shrimp fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States. Previously, on May 1, 1998, the Department certified that 15 other nations have adopted programs to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in their shrimp fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States. The Department of State also certified on May 1, 1998, that the fishing environments in 24 countries do not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles protected under Section 609. Shrimp imports from any nation not certified were prohibited effective May 1, 1998 pursuant to Section 609.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 19, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Gibbons-Fly, Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818; telephone: (202) 647-3940.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 prohibits imports of certain categories of shrimp unless the President certifies to the Congress not later than May 1 of each year either: (1) that the harvesting nation has adopted a program governing the incidental capture of sea turtles in its commercial shrimp fishery comparable to the program in effect in the United States and has an incidental take rate comparable to that of the United States; or (2) that the fishing environment in the harvesting nation does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles. The President has delegated the authority to make this certification to the Department of State. Revised State Department guidelines for

making the required certifications were published in the **Federal Register** on April 19, 1996 (61 FR 17342).

The Department did not previously certify Venezuela and Nigeria because the governments of those countries had not demonstrated that their respective sea turtle protection programs were comparable to that of the United States, or that their specific fishing environments did not pose a threat to sea turtles. Although both governments have adopted programs comparable to the U.S. program, requiring shrimp trawl vessels to use seat turtle excluder devices, initial evidence this year indicated that neither government was enforcing its program sufficiently to warrant certification. However, in both cases, more recent evidence demonstrates that each government has taken the necessary steps to improve enforcement of its program. Accordingly, the Department of State hereby certifies Venezuela and Nigeria pursuant to Section 609(b)(2)(A) and (B).

As with the other countries currently certified, the Department of State will remain in close contact with the governments of Venezuela and Nigeria in order to ensure that their shrimp harvesting methods do not threaten sea turtles.

Dated: August 10, 1998.

R. Tucker Scully,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Space.

[FR Doc. 98-22306 Filed 8-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-M

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as Amended by Pub. L. 104-13; Proposed Collection, Comment Request

AGENCY: Tennessee Valley Authority.

ACTION: Proposed Collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). The Tennessee Valley Authority is soliciting public comments on this proposed collection as provided by 5 CFR Section 1320.8(d)(1). Requests for information, including copies of the information collection proposed and supporting documentation, should be directed to the Agency Clearance Officer: Wilma H. McCauley, Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street (WR 4Q), Chattanooga, Tennessee

37402-2801; (423) 751-2523. Comments should be sent to the Agency Clearance Officer no later than October 19, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Title of Information Collection:

Economic Assessment of Waterway Docks and Terminals in the Tennessee Valley and Parts of the Surrounding National Inland Waterway Network.

Frequency of Use: Occasional.

Type of Affected Public: Federal, State and Local Governments, and Private Industry.

Small Businesses or Organizations

Affected: Yes.

Federal Budget Functional Category Code: 450.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 1700.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3400 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Hours Per Response: 2 hours.

Need For and Use of Information: The information collection is necessary to assess the service capability of waterway docks and terminals located in the Tennessee Valley and surrounding States. The data will be used to help potential industrial clients with decisions regarding transportation information and the handling capabilities of waterway facilities located on various river segments. This is vital information for industry when deciding where the most economical location is for a new plant site or project. In addition the data collection surrounding the waterway terminals located on the Tennessee River is necessary for use in updating TVA's river performance indicator.

William S. Moore,

Senior Manager, Administrative Services.

[FR Doc. 98-22311 Filed 8-18-98; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Solicitation of Public Comment Regarding U.S. Preparations for the World Trade Organization's Ministerial Meeting, Fourth Quarter 1999

SUMMARY: The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is providing notice of the U.S. intention to develop proposals and positions concerning the agenda of the third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The TWO General Council has been instructed to prepare recommendations regarding the launch of further trade negotiations and work in the WTO, which will be considered and approved

by WTO Members meeting at their next Ministerial to be held in the United States during the fourth quarter of 1999. The TPSC invites public comment regarding the development of the agenda, scope, content and timetables for negotiations or further work in the WTO, including additional consultations with non-governmental stakeholders. The Administration seeks views on the broadcast possible range of issues for considerations, including possible subject matter and approaches to any new negotiations or future work in the WTO. The deadline for written comments is Friday, October 16, 1998.

The General Council's instructions are contained in WTO Ministerial Declarations WT/MIN(98)/DEC/1 and DEC/2 agreed on May 20, 1998, at the WTO's second ministerial meeting. In September 1998, the General Council will begin holding special sessions to prepare recommendations. Recommendations will be developed on the basis of consensus of WTO Members. The General Council is expected to review issues, at least initially, in the order presented in WT/MIN(98)/DEC/1, as well as to review the results of work carried out in accordance with WT/MIN(98)/DEC/2. This solicitation is intended to facilitate the Administration's participation in the General Council's consideration of issues, preparation of U.S. proposals and positions regarding eventual recommendations, and acceptance of such proposals by consensus of WTO Members.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-3475. General inquiries should be made to the Office of WTO and Multilateral Affairs at (202) 395-6843; calls on individual subjects will be transferred within USTR as appropriate. Information about the WTO can be obtained via the Internet on www.ustr.gov, or the WTO website (www.wto.org). Attention is drawn, in particular, to the Ministerial Declarations (WT/Min(98)/DEC/1 and DEC/2 of May 20, 1998 regarding preparation of the WTO's forward agenda and electronic commerce) and the Ministerial Declaration resulting from the WTO's first ministerial meeting held in Singapore in December, 1996 (WT/Min(96)/DEC), which are available on the USTR and WTO websites. In addition, a detailed review of the WTO Agreements, the work of the various WTO committees and bodies and the WTO "built-in agenda" are contained in