

S.W. Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97204.

### Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on PGE's proposal to use the alternative procedures to file an application for the Oak Grove and North Fork Hydroelectric Projects.

### Filing Requirements

Any comments must be filed by providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, Dockets—Room 1A, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All comment filings must bear the heading "Comments on the Alternative Procedure," and include the project names and numbers (Oak Grove hydroelectric Project No. 135 and North Fork Hydroelectric Project No. 2195). For further information, please contact John Blair at (202) 219-2845.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-26669 Filed 10-5-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 477]

#### Portland General Electric Company, Portland, Oregon; Notice of Portland General Electric Company's Request to Use Alternative Procedures in Filing a License Application

September 30, 1998.

By letter dated September 1, 1998, Portland General Electric Company (PGE) of Portland, Oregon asked to use an alternative procedure in filing an application for a new license for its Bull Run Project No. 477.<sup>1</sup> PGE has demonstrated that they made a reasonable effort to contact the resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and others who may be affected by their proposal, and has submitted a communication protocol governing how participants in the proposed process may communicate with each other. PGE

has also submitted evidence of support for their proposal, and it appears that a consensus exists that the use of an alternative procedure is appropriate in this case.

The purpose of this notice is to invite any additional comments on PGE's request to use the alternative procedure, as required under the final rule for Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects.<sup>2</sup> Additional notices seeking comments on the specific project proposal, interventions and protests, and recommended terms and conditions will be issued at a later date.

The alternative procedure being requested here combines the prefiling consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing the applicant to file a Third Party Contractor prepared Environmental Impact Statement (TPC-EIS) in lieu of Exhibit E of the license application. This differs from the traditional process, in which the applicant consults with agencies, Indian tribes, and NGOs during preparation of the application for the license and before filing it, but the Commission staff performs the environmental review after the application is filed. The alternative procedure is intended to simplify and expedite the licensing process by combining the prefiling consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants. The alternative procedure can be tailored to the particular project under consideration.

#### TPC-EIS Process and the Bull Run Project Schedule

PGE has begun working collaboratively with the various interested entities to identify issues that will need to be addressed and studies that will need to be conducted in relicensing the project. An initial information package will be disseminated to all interested parties in December 1998. Site visits of the project will be conducted in March 1999. Identification of issues and issuance of Scoping Document 1 will occur December 1999. A Public Scoping Meeting will be held January 2000. Notice of the scoping meeting will be published at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Studies will be conducted beginning April 1999, and continue through 2001. Opportunities for requesting additional studies will be noticed at least 30 days prior to any study request deadline. A

draft license application with preliminary EIS would be distributed for comment in November 2001. The final license application and EIS must be filed with the Commission on or before November 16, 2002, two years before the expiration date of the existing license. A more detailed schedule and project description was distributed by PGE on September 1, 1998, to all parties expressing interest in the proceeding. Copies of the schedule and project description may be obtained from Portland General Electric, Hydro Licensing and Water Rights Office, 121 SW Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97204.

### Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on PGE's proposal to use the alternative procedures to file an application for the Bull Run Hydroelectric Project.

### Filing Requirements

Any comments must be filed by providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, Dockets—Room 1A, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All comment filings must bear the heading "Comments on the Alternative Procedure," and include the project name and number (Bull Run Hydroelectric Project No. 477). For further information, please contact John Blair at (202) 219-2845.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-26670 Filed 10-5-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP94-161-007]

#### U-T Offshore System; Notice of Motion for Extension of Time

September 30, 1998.

Take notice that on September 18, 1998, U-T Offshore System (U-TOS), pursuant to Rules 212 and 2008 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Commission, 18 CFR 385.212 and 385.2008, tendered for filing a request for an extension of time for the filing of its next general rate case pursuant to Section 4(e) of the Natural Gas Act.

U-TOS states that by Letter Order issued September 11, 1995, the Commission approved an uncontested settlement in the captioned rate

<sup>1</sup> The 22-megawatt Bull Run project consists of a 57-foot-high diversion dam on the Sandy River and a 18-foot-high diversion dam on the Little Sandy River. A powerhouse is located on the Bull Run River near the confluence with the Sandy River. The Bull Run project is located on U.S. Forest Service land and Bureau of Land Management land.

<sup>2</sup> 81 FERC 61,103 (1997).

proceeding. Article V of the uncontested settlement provided that U-TOS would file its next general rate case under Section 4(e) "by the end of three (3) years of the date of a final, non-appealable Commission order approving the Agreement without conditions unacceptable to U-TOS".

U-TOS requests that the deadline in the captioned proceeding by which it must file its next general rate case under Section 4(e) of the Act be extended to no later than January 1, 2003, and that the time period for filing answers to the uncontested motion be shortened to the maximum extent possible.

Any person desiring to file an answer to this filing should file an answer with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.213 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such answers must be filed within 15 days after U-TOS' motion was filed. Answers will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make persons who file answers parties to the proceedings. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

**David P. Boergers,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-26673 Filed 10-5-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2232-334]

#### Duke Power Company; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

September 30, 1998.

An environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review. The EA analyzes the environmental impacts of allowing Duke Power Company, licensee for the Catawba-Wateree Project, P-2232-334, to authorize the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility District to construct additional facilities at the Catawba River Pumping Station to increase the water withdrawal from Mountain Island Lake for municipal water supply. The EA concludes the proposed action would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The Catawba-Wateree Project is on the Catawba and Wateree rivers in North and South Carolina.

A draft EA was noticed on June 25, 1998, and interested entities were provided the opportunity to comment. No comments were received in response to the draft EA. The EA has not been modified from the draft.

The EA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the EA can be obtained by calling the Commission's Public Reference Room at (202) 208-1371.

**David P. Boergers,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-26672 Filed 10-5-98; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6172-5]

### Proposed Settlement Agreement; Carbon Monoxide Nonattainment Areas; Carbon Monoxide SIP for Denver, Colorado

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed settlement agreement.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 113(g) of the Clean Air Act (Act), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7413(g), notice is hereby given of a proposed settlement agreement concerning litigation instituted against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by Citizens for Balanced Transportation (CBT). The lawsuit concerns EPA's approval under the Clean Air Act of the State of Colorado's nonattainment area state implementation plan (SIP) for the Denver carbon monoxide (CO) nonattainment area.

EPA approved the Denver CO nonattainment area SIP on March 10, 1997 (62 FR 10690) and, on May 9, 1997, CBT sought review of that approval in the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit. Among other things, CBT challenged the air quality monitoring and modeling that supported the Denver CO SIP's attainment demonstration.

Under the proposed settlement agreement, CBT has agreed to dismiss its lawsuit if EPA operates a continuous CO monitor from November 1998 through February 1999 near the intersection of Broadway and Colfax in Denver, and, before March 31, 1999, the State of Colorado (1) establishes a comprehensive meteorological site on the Auraria College campus in Denver, (2) establishes a routine meteorological site near the intersection of Speer and

Auraria in Denver, and (3) obtains enhanced traffic data for the Speer and Auraria intersection. Although the State is not a party to the litigation or the settlement agreement, the State participated in negotiations and intends to perform these actions.

If the State and/or EPA fail to complete one or more of these actions by March 31, 1999, CBT's sole remedy is to proceed to the merits of the case. It is anticipated that the litigation will be stayed until May 30, 1999 to allow the parties to confirm that the State and EPA actions have been completed.

For a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will receive written comments relating to the settlement agreement. EPA or the Department of Justice may withhold or withdraw consent to the proposed settlement agreement if the comments disclose facts or circumstances that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Act.

Copies of the settlement agreement are available from Samantha Hooks, Air and Radiation Division (2344), Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460, (202) 260-7606. Written comments should be sent to Howard J. Hoffman at the above address and must be submitted on or before November 5, 1998.

Dated: September 28, 1998.

**Scott C. Fulton,**

Acting General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 98-26787 Filed 10-5-98; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6173-1]

### Draft Toxicological Review of Benzene (Noncancer Effects): In Support of Summary Information on the Integrated Risk Information System

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of Peer-Review Panel Meeting and public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing an external peer-review panel meeting and a 45-day public comment period to review the external review draft document entitled, Toxicological Review of Benzene (Noncancer Effects): (NCEA-S-0455). The peer-review panel meeting will be organized, convened, and conducted by the American