

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans; Meeting**

**AGENCY:** President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans (Commission). Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act in order to notify the public of their opportunity to attend.

**DATES AND TIMES:** Friday, January 29, 1998, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (cst).

**ADDRESSES:** Austin Community College, 5930 Middle Fiskville, Road, Austin, Texas 78752.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Richard Toscano, Special Assistant for Intergovernmental Affairs, at 202-401-1411 (telephone), 202-401-8377 (FAX), richard\_toscano@ed.gov (e-mail) or mail: U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland, SW., room 5E110; Washington, DC 20202-3601.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Commission was established under Executive Order 12900 (February 22, 1994) to provide the President and the Secretary of Education with advice on (1) the progress of Hispanic Americans toward achievement of the National Goals and other standards of educational accomplishment; (2) the development, monitoring, and education for Hispanic Americans; (3) ways to increase, State, county, private sector and community involvement in improving education; and (4) ways to expand and complement Federal education initiatives.

At the January meeting, the Commission Executive Board will discuss current and future activities. Specifically, the Executive Board will discuss the implementation of the Hispanic Education Action Plan, newly funded Department of Education initiatives, and the impact of assessment on Latino learners.

The Executive Board and other attending Commissioners will participate in a half-day workshop on assessment. The specific issues that will be addressed by the Commission and national assessment experts include:

- Exit/entry Criteria
- Teacher Training
- Development of Appropriate Assessments

- National Standards that address instruction
  - Use of data for reporting purposes
- Commissioners have been invited to attend a day-long symposium on "Access to Higher Education in the Post-Hopwood Era" that will occur on January 28, 1999.

Records of all Commission proceedings are available for public inspection at the White House Initiative, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW., Room 5E110, Washington, DC 20202 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (est).

Dated: January 6, 1999.

**G. Mario Moreno,**

*Assistant Secretary, Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 99-876 Filed 1-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket No. PP-197]

**Application for Presidential Permit Public Service Company of New Mexico**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of application.

**SUMMARY:** Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) has applied for a Presidential permit to construct, connect, operate and maintain a double-circuit electric transmission line across the U.S. border with Mexico. The proposed facilities would originate at the switchyard of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station and extend along one of three alternate routes to the U.S.-Mexico border. Depending in part on the results of the environmental review performed by the Department of Energy, the proposed transmission lines could be either alternating current (AC) or direct current (DC).

**DATES:** Comments, protests, or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before February 16, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, protests, or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Import and Export (FE-27), Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0350.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of facilities at the international border of the United States for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign

country is prohibited in the absence of a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038.

On December 31, 1998, PNM, a regulated public utility, filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit. PNM proposes to construct two high-voltage transmission circuits within a single right-of-way. Both circuits would originate at the switchyard adjacent to the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) located west of Phoenix, Arizona, and extend to the U.S.-Mexico border along one of three, two-mile wide corridors preliminarily identified by PNM. From the U.S.-Mexico border, the proposed facilities would extend approximately 60 miles into Mexico where they would connect with complementary transmission facilities of the Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE), the national electric utility of Mexico, at CFE's existing Santa Ana Substation.

The two circuits may be constructed as one double-circuit line (both circuits connected to the same support structure) or as two individual lines (separate support structures for each circuit). The proposed in-service date for the facilities is June 2002; however, PNM may elect to use a phased approach in installing the two circuits.

In its application, PNM states that it is considering designing the transmission circuits for either AC or DC operation. If the AC option is chosen, a back-to-back AC/DC/AC converter station would be constructed in the vicinity of the U.S.-Mexico border. The AC transmission circuits would be operated at 345,000 volts (345-kV) between PVNGS and the back-to-back converter station and at 230-kV between the converter station and CFE's Santa Ana Substation. Each of these AC transmission circuits would have an electrical transfer capability of approximately 400 megawatts (MW).

If the DC option is selected, an AC/DC converter station will be installed at each end of the proposed circuits within or near the PVNGS in the U.S. and the Santa Ana Substation in Mexico. If PNM elects to use a phased approach, the DC circuits would initially be operated as a mono-pole DC line (one conductor) and have a nominal operating voltage of  $\pm$  400-kV with an electrical transfer capability of between 400 MW and 500 MW. With the addition of the second circuit, (second conductor) the resulting interconnection would be upgraded to

bi-pole  $\pm$  400-kV operation with a transfer capability of between 800 MW and 1000 MW.

PNM is also considering three possible routes for the cross-border transmission lines. The first alternative corridor is approximately 130 miles in length. It starts at the PVNGS switchyard and continues south, crossing the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range and the western boundary of the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation before terminating in Santa Ana, Mexico. The second alternative corridor is approximately 160 miles long and starts at the PVNGS switchyard. It then proceeds slightly east and south, crossing the middle to eastern area of the Tohono O'odham Reservation and terminating in Santa Ana, Mexico. The third corridor begins at PVNGS and continues southeasterly to an area south of Tucson, Arizona, where it would turn south to Nogales, Arizona, and continue to Santa Ana, Mexico. This corridor is approximately 250 miles long. Although the corridors are approximately 2 miles in width, when constructed, the transmission facilities are expected to utilize a right-of-way of no more than 150 to 200 feet wide.

A final decision on the design technology and routing will be made after the completion of the environmental and technical studies by regulatory agencies in the U.S. and Mexico. It will depend, in part, on the environmental review that DOE will conduct pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Prior to commencing electricity exports to Mexico using these proposed facilities, PNM, or any other electricity exporters, must obtain an electricity export authorization required by section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

Since the restructuring of the electric power industry began, resulting in the introduction of different types of competitive entities into the marketplace, DOE has consistently expressed its policy that cross-border trade in electric energy should be subject to the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to transmission in interstate commerce. DOE has stated that policy in export authorizations granted to entities requesting authority to export over international transmission facilities. Specifically, DOE expects transmitting utilities owning border facilities constructed pursuant to Presidential permits to provide access across the border in accordance with the

principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination contained in the FPA and articulated in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order No. 888, as amended (Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities). In furtherance of this policy, DOE intends to condition any Presidential permit issued in this proceeding on compliance with these open access principles.

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS:** Any person 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 each petition and protest should be filed with the DOE on or before the date listed above.

Additional copies of such petitions to intervene or protests also should be filed directly with: Jeffery R. Harris, Public Service Company of New Mexico, 414 Silver Avenue, SW, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

Before a Presidential permit may be issued or amended, the DOE must determine that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. In addition, DOE must consider the environmental impacts of the proposed action (i.e., granting the Presidential permit, with any conditions and limitations, or denying the permit) pursuant to NEPA. DOE also must obtain the concurrence of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense before taking final action on a Presidential permit application.

The NEPA compliance process is a cooperative, non-adversarial process involving members of the public, state governments and the Federal government. The process affords all persons interested in or potentially affected by the environmental consequences of a proposed action an opportunity to present their views, which will be considered in the preparation of the environmental documentation for the proposed action. Intervening and becoming a party to this proceeding will not create any special status for the petitioner with regard to the NEPA process. Notice of upcoming NEPA activities and information on how the public can participate in those activities will appear in the **Federal Register**. Additional announcements will appear in local newspapers in the vicinity of the proposed transmission

line. To apply for the NEPA mailing list now, contact Mrs. Ellen Russell at the address above.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above. In addition, the application may be reviewed or downloaded from the Fossil Energy Home Page at: <http://www.fe.doe.gov>. Upon reaching the Fossil Energy Home page, select "Regulatory" and then "Electricity" from the options menu.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 11, 1999.

**Anthony J. Como,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-881 Filed 1-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER98-1440-002]

#### Central Vermont Public Service Corporation; Notice of Filing

January 8, 1999.

Take notice that on April 9, 1998, Central Vermont Public Service Corporation tendered for filing in compliance with the Commission's March 11, 1998, order issued in the above-referenced docket.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before January 19, 1999. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. 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.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-785 Filed 1-13-99; 8:45 am]

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