

environmental and regulatory issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS will be accepted. The Corps will hold public meetings to receive public input, either verbal or written, on relevant environmental and regulatory issues that should be addressed in the EIS. The locations and starting times of the public meetings will be announced.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1506.5(c) and 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix B, (8)(f)(2), it is our understanding that Hobet will secure the services of a contractor for the preparation of an EIS. Hobet solicited bids for prospective contractors. Hobet will employ Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. to prepare the EIS for the proposed mining activities associated with the Spruce No. 1 Surface Mine.

The Corps and its cooperating agencies implement Federal and State laws with which mining operations and associated discharges to waters of the United States must comply. The cooperating agencies involved in this NEPA process are the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). Each of the cooperating Federal and State agencies will provide their expertise in compiling information and evaluating potential impacts of the proposed project. OSM is responsible for national administration of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA); it has delegated the authority for the SMCRA programs for surface mining operations in West Virginia to the State of West Virginia DEP. Discharges of fill material into waters of the United States are regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the Corps and applicable 404 regulations issued by the Corps and EPA. Other discharges to waters of the United States are subject Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, administered nationally by the EPA with authority for the program delegated to the State of West Virginia (DEP). Coordination with the FWS will be accomplished in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA). Coordination required by other laws and regulations will also be conducted.

This EIS will evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts associated with Hobet's proposed Spruce No. 1 Surface mine on water quality, streams, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, habitat fragmentation, the hydrological balance, and other individual and cumulative effects. Cumulative environmental impacts may include the efficacy of stream

restoration; the viability of reclaimed streams compared to natural waters; the impact of valley fills on aquatic life, wildlife and nearby residents; biological and habitat analyses; and practicable alternatives for in-stream placement of excess overburden; measures to minimize stream filling to the maximum extent practicable; and the effectiveness of mitigation and reclamation measures.

The activity is to remove overburden to expose coal seams in order conduct surface mining activities on the Spruce No. 1 mining area. The proposed action is to issue a 404 permit to authorize the discharge of overburden into the streams in the surrounding project area.

The scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7 and 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix B) will consist of determining the extent to which potentially significant issues shall be analyzed. It shall define the study area based on the resources potentially affected, opportunities, and geographic areas likely affected by alternative plans. It shall identify current and potential future planning related activities to and not part of the study under consideration. The process shall identify and review consultation requirements, so that cooperating agencies (as defined in 40 CFR 15 CFR 1508.12) may prepare required analyses and studies concurrently with the study under consideration. Coordination of such agencies will be in accordance with Executive Order 12372 and 33 CFR 384. The process shall also indicate tentative planning and a decision making schedule.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and address of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered.

To assist the Corps in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible. These comments will assist in early scoping and later development of alternatives for the DEIS.

Michael D. Gheen,
Chief, Regulatory Branch.

[FR Doc. 00-2546 Filed 2-3-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Secretary of Energy Advisory Board; Notice of Open Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an open meeting of the Secretary of Energy

Advisory Board. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), requires that agencies publish these notices in the **Federal Register** to allow for public participation.

DATES AND TIMES: Friday, February 11, 2000, 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

ADDRESSES: Conference Rooms A-106/A-107, U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office, 232 Energy Way, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030-4199. Note: Members of the public who plan to attend this open meeting are requested to contact Mr. Darwin Morgan, Director of the Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office in advance of the meeting in order to facilitate access to the meeting site. Mr. Morgan may be reached at (702) 295-3521 or via e-mail at morgan@nv.doe.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Betsy Mullins, Executive Director, or Richard Burrow, Deputy Director, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (AB-1), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-7092 or (202) 586-6279 (fax).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (The Board) is to provide the Secretary of Energy with essential independent advice and recommendations on issues of national importance. The Board and its subcommittees provide timely, balanced, and authoritative advice to the Secretary of Energy on the Department's management reforms, research, development and technology activities, energy and national security responsibilities, environmental cleanup activities, and economic issues relating to energy.

Tentative Agenda

Friday, February 11, 2000

9:00 am-9:15 am—Welcome & Opening Remarks—SEAB Chairman Andrew Athy
9:15 am-9:35 am—Opening Remarks—Energy Secretary Bill Richardson
9:35 am-9:45 am—Introduction of New Board Members
9:45 am-10:15 am—Briefing on the DOE's Racial Profiling Task Force Report
10:15 am-11:00 am—Board Action on the Laboratory Operations Board's External Members' Report on Laboratory Directed Research and Development.
11:00 am-11:45 am—Updates on SEAB Subcommittees and Working Group Activities:
—Russia Task Force
—Education Working Group
11:45 am-1:00 pm—Lunch
1:10 pm-1:30 pm—Updates on SEAB Subcommittees and Working Group Activities:
—Openness Advisory Panel

—NIF Task Force
 1:30 pm–2:45 pm—Update on DOE
 Activities:
 —National Nuclear Security
 Administration
 —Energy Efficiency
 2:45 pm–3:00 pm—Public Comment Period
 3:00 pm—Closing Remarks & Adjourn
 This tentative agenda may change. We will
 have a final agenda available at the meeting.

Public Participation

The Chairman of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board is empowered to conduct the meeting in a way that will, in the Chairman's judgment, facilitate the orderly conduct of business. During its meeting in North Las Vegas, Nevada, the Board welcomes public comment. Members of the public will be heard in the order in which they sign up at the beginning of the meeting. The Board will make every effort to hear the views of all interested parties. You may submit written comments to Betsy Mullins, Executive Director, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, AB-1, US Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585. This notice is being published less than 15 days before the date of the meeting due to the programmatic issues that needed to be resolved prior to publication.

Minutes

We will make minutes and a transcript of the meeting available for public review and copying approximately 30 days following the meeting at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190 Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday except Federal holidays. You can find more information on the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board at the Board's web site, located at <http://www.hr.doe.gov/seab>

Issued at Washington, D.C., on January 31, 2000.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-2542 Filed 2-3-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP00-167-000]

Florida Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

January 31, 2000.

Take notice that on January 27, 2000, Florida Gas Transmission Company (FGT) tendered for filing to become part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Third Revised Volume No. 1, effective February 1, 2000, the following tariff sheets:

Thirty-Seventh Revised Sheet No. 8A
 Twenty-Eighth Revised Sheet No. 8A.01
 Twenty-Ninth Revised Sheet No. 8A.02
 Thirty-Third Revised Sheet No. 8B
 Twenty-Sixth Revised Sheet No. 8B.01

FGT states that in Docket No. TM00-1-34-000 filed on August 27, 1999, FGT filed to establish a Base Fuel Reimbursement Charge Percentage (Base FRCP) of 2.75% to become effective for the six-month Winter Period beginning October 1, 1999. In the instant filing, FGT states that it is filing a flex adjustment of 0.25% to be effective February 1, 2000, which, when combined with the proposed Base FRCP of 2.75%, results in an Effective Fuel Reimbursement Charge Percentage of 3.00%.

FGT states that the tariff sheets listed above are being filed pursuant to Section 27.A.2.b of the General Terms and Conditions of FGT's Tariff, which provides for flex adjustments to the Base FRCP. Pursuant to the terms of Section 27.A.2.b, a flex adjustment shall become effective without prior FERC approval provided that such flex adjustment does not exceed 0.50%, is effective at the beginning of a month, is posted on FGT's EBB at least five working days prior to the nomination deadline, and is filed no more than sixty and at least seven days before the proposed effective date. FGT states that the instant filing comports with these provisions and FGT has posted notice of the flex adjustment prior to the instant filing.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining 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 in the Public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-2459 Filed 2-3-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-431-000]

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Rescheduling of Conference

January 31, 2000.

Take notice that due to closure of the Federal Government because of inclement weather, the conference in the above-captioned proceeding originally scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2000, has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2000, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in Hearing Room No. 1, at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-2458 Filed 2-3-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EG00-84-000, et al.]

Panda Gila River, L.P., et al., Electric Rate and Corporate Regulation Filings

January 27, 2000.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. Panda Gila River, L.P.

[Docket No. EG00-84-000]

Take notice that on January 20, 2000, Panda Gila River, L.P. (Panda Gila River), with its principal offices at 4100 Spring Valley Road, Suite 1001, Dallas, Texas 75244, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, an application for determination of exempt wholesale generator status pursuant to