

electric load in the states of Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey and the Canadian province of Ontario. The blackout began a few minutes after 4 p.m. eastern daylight time (16:00 e.d.t.), and power was not restored for two days in some parts of the United States. Parts of Ontario suffered rolling blackouts for more than a week before full power was restored.

On August 15, 2003, President Bush and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien directed that a joint U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force be established to investigate the causes of the blackout and how to reduce the possibility of future outages. Since the Task Force was formed, it has been investigating the causes of the outage and is currently engaged in developing recommendations concerning how to reduce the possibility of future outages and to minimize the scope of any outages that do occur.

In November 2003, the Task Force issued an Interim Report, which is available on the Web at the Internet address identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. The Interim Report presented the facts that the bi-national investigation had found regarding the causes of the August 14, 2003, blackout.

When it issued the Interim Report, the Task Force requested that the public submit comments on any aspect of the Report. The Task Force also called for interested parties to submit proposed recommendations for the Task Force's consideration. Subsequently, three public meetings were held at which Task Force representatives received public comments and proposed recommendations. Those meetings were held on December 4, 2003, in Cleveland, Ohio, on December 5, 2003, in New York, New York, and on December 8, 2003, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Numerous parties also have submitted written comments and recommendations, all of which are available for public inspection at the Internet address identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

All persons interested in submitting comments on the Interim Report, proposed recommendations, and/or comments on proposed recommendations, must submit their comments to the Task Force by the date specified in the **DATES** section of this notice; after that date, no further submissions will be entertained. Comments must be submitted to one of the addresses listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. The Task Force

will consider recommendations and comments received by the specified deadline when preparing the Task Force's final report.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 29, 2004.

**James W. Glotfelty,**

*Director, Office of Electric Transmission and Distribution.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

#### On-Board Fuel Processing Go/No-Go Decision

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Golden Field Office, Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of on-board fuel processing go/no-go decision.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (the Department or DOE) today gives notice of the June 30, 2004, decision regarding the future of on-board fuel processing activities within the Hydrogen, Fuel Cells and Infrastructure Technologies Program. A review panel has been assembled by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to review the current state of fuel processing activities against technical criteria. Based on the panel findings, NREL will submit a written recommendation to the Department regarding the technical decision regarding the future of on-board fuel processing activities on or before June 18, 2004. The NREL review panel will meet during the May 24 through June 18 time frame to hear presentations that include data to support the technical decision. Position papers regarding the go/no-go decision will be accepted by DOE for consideration in this decision and will also be forwarded to NREL for consideration as a presentation to the review panel. Position papers are limited to 10 pages maximum.

**DATES:** Written position papers for consideration by the Department regarding this decision must be received by May 15, 2004. NREL must receive requests to speak before the review panel no later than May 15, 2004. Attendees at the review panel will be limited to the current presenter, the panel and NREL, Argonne National Laboratory and DOE representatives.

**ADDRESSES:** Written position papers regarding the decision and requests to speak before the review panel are welcomed. Please submit 10 copies of

the position paper to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Mail Station EE-2H, Attn: Valri Lightner, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121, e-mail [valri.lightner@ee.doe.gov](mailto:valri.lightner@ee.doe.gov). Requests to present before the panel should be sent to: U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401-3393, Attn: Dale Gardner or via e-mail to [dale\\_gardner@nrel.gov](mailto:dale_gardner@nrel.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Valri Lightner, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Mail Station EE-2H, Attn: Valri Lightner, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121, phone: (202) 586-0937, e-mail [valri.lightner@ee.doe.gov](mailto:valri.lightner@ee.doe.gov) or Mr. Dale Gardner, U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401-3393, Attn: Dale Gardner, phone (303) 275-3020, e-mail [dale\\_gardner@nrel.gov](mailto:dale_gardner@nrel.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The mission of the Department of Energy's Hydrogen, Fuel Cells and Infrastructure Technologies Program is to research, develop and validate fuel cell and hydrogen production, delivery, and storage technologies such that hydrogen from diverse domestic resources will be used in a clean, safe, reliable and affordable manner in fuel cell vehicles; central station electric power production; distributed thermal electric; and combined heat and power applications. The President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative accelerates research, development and demonstration of hydrogen production, delivery and storage technologies to support an industry commercialization decision on the hydrogen economy by 2015. The FreedomCAR partnership is on track for an industry commercialization decision on hydrogen fuel cell vehicles by 2015.

The transition to a hydrogen economy will take decades. During this transition, from about 2010 to 2030, technologies that enable the use of the current liquid fuels infrastructure to provide the hydrogen to power fuel cell vehicles will be required. Several options are being considered, such as fuel reforming on-site at fueling stations or fuel reforming on-board the vehicle for transportation applications. The Department has funded research and development (R&D) of on-board vehicle, fuel processing technologies for 10 years. The R&D has focused on the development of a fuel flexible, fuel processor targeting gasoline, ethanol, methanol and natural gas. Based on the

current state of technology development, it is uncertain that on-

board fuel processing activities will be on track to meet the ultimate technical

criteria to support the transition to a hydrogen economy as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1.

Attribute	Units	2003 status	2004 demo criteria	Ultimate target
Transient .....	sec .....	60	<5, 10% to 90% and 90% to 10%.	<1, 10% to 90% and 90% to 10%
Start-up Time .....	sec .....	<600 (+20°C)	<60 to 90% traction power .....	<2 to 10%, <30 to 90%
Start-up Energy .....	MJ/50kWe .....	<2 .....	<2 .....	<2
Efficiency .....	% .....	78	78 .....	>80
Power density .....	W/L .....	700	700 .....	2,000
Durability .....	hours .....	2000	2000 and >50 stop/starts .....	5,000 and 20,000 starts
Sulfur Tolerance .....	ppb .....	<50	<50 out from 30 ppm in .....	<10 out from 30 ppm in
Turndown, cost .....	ratio .....	20:1 .....	20:1 .....	>50:1
	\$/kWe .....	65	n/a .....	<10

Specifically challenging are start-up time/energy and cost. The Department has decided to review the current state of on-board fuel processing and the technology path forward as a "Go/No-Go Decision" whether to continue on-board fuel processing activities in June 2004. The criteria for the review will be to demonstrate that the 2004 demonstration criteria can be met using available technology as demonstrated in experimental hardware. A clear technical path to achieving the ultimate targets is also required. It is desired that a single system be demonstrated that meets all criteria simultaneously; however, if integration with other technologies is needed to simultaneously meet all targets, the technologies must be compatible. For more information about the Hydrogen, Fuel Cells and Infrastructure technologies Program and related fuel processing activities visit the program's Web site at [www.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells](http://www.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells).

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on January 21, 2004.

**Mary Hartford,**

*Acting Director, Office of Acquisition and Financial Assistance.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. ER04-242-000, EL04-50-000, ER04-115-000, EL04-47-000]

#### Pacific Gas and Electric Company and California Independent System Operator Corporation; Notice of Initiation of Proceeding and Refund Effective Date

January 27, 2004.

Take notice that on January 23, 2004, the Commission issued an order in the above-referenced dockets initiating an investigation in Docket No. EL04-50-000 under section 206 of the Federal Power Act.

The refund effective date in Docket No. EL04-50-000, established pursuant to section 206(b) of the Federal Power Act, will be 60 days following publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

**Magalie R. Salas,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E4-177 Filed 2-3-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Motions To Intervene, Protests, and Comments

January 28, 2004.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

a. *Type of Application:* Preliminary Permit.

b. *Project No.:* 12481-000.

c. *Date filed:* December 19, 2003.

d. *Applicant:* AMG Energy, LLC.

e. *Name of Project:* Selden Dam Project.

f. *Location:* On the Black Warrior River, in Greene and Hale Counties, Alabama, utilizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Selden Dam.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)—825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Janis Millett, Esq., AMG Energy, LLC, Lincoln Square, 555 Eleventh Street, NW., Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20004, (202) 508-3415.

i. *FERC Contact:* Robert Bell, (202) 502-6062.

j. *Deadline for filing comments, protests, and motions to intervene:* 60 days from the issuance date of this notice.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Please include the project Number (P-12481-000) on any comments, protests, or motions filed.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all interveners filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person in the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervener files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. *Description of Project:* The proposed project utilizing the Corps existing Selden Dam and would consist of: (1) A proposed powerhouse containing 2 or 3 generating units and having a total installed capacity of 6 megawatts, (2) a proposed 2-mile-long, 14.7 kilovolt transmission line, and (3) appurtenant facilities. Applicant