

place all or part of the system in standby condition. Under the proposed "standby" alternative, portions of the River Water System could be placed in a variety of conditions. For example, surplus portions of the River Water System could be shut down and deactivated. Those portions of the River Water System that are deactivated would not be capable of being restarted. However, other portions of the River Water System could be placed in a "layup" condition in order to support potential future missions. In the layup condition, equipment would be shut down, but preserved so that restart would be possible.

Alternatively, some portions of the River Water System could be placed in a higher state of readiness than in "layup" condition; such portions of the River Water System could be restarted in a relatively short period of time. Short term cost savings would be minimal, but this condition would allow DOE to maintain a great degree of flexibility. Unlike the "shutdown and deactivate" alternative described below, the River Water System could be available to mitigate or even reverse the impacts of the proposed action, if deemed necessary.

Two alternatives to the proposed action are under consideration. The first alternative is to continue current River Water System operation (this is the no-action alternative). Under this alternative, the River Water System would continue to provide water to maintain L Lake and Par Pond water levels. The second alternative is to shut down and deactivate the entire River Water System. Under this alternative, alternative water sources (such as from ground water) would be needed to provide for minor non-reactor cooling requirements (air conditioning, small equipment cooling, etc.). The cessation of river water input to L Lake would result in the gradual disappearance of the lake and its return to original creek conditions over the next several years.

Preliminary Identification of Environmental and Other Issues

The Department has identified the following issues for analysis for proposed and alternative actions in the EIS. Additional issues may be identified as a result of the scoping process.

(1) Public and Worker Safety and Health Risk Assessment: radiological and nonradiological impacts of the proposed action and alternatives, including projected effects on workers and the public from expected and potential conditions.

(2) Impacts from releases to air, water, and soil.

(3) Impacts to plants, animals, and habitat, including impacts to wetlands, and threatened or endangered species and their habitat.

(4) The consumption of natural resources and energy including water, natural gas, and electricity.

(5) Socioeconomic impacts to affected communities from operation labor forces and support services in the SRS area.

(6) Environmental justice: disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

(7) Impacts to cultural resources such as historic, archaeological, scientific, or culturally important sites.

(8) Status of compliance with all applicable Federal, state, and local statutes and regulations; required Federal and state environmental consultations and notifications; and DOE Orders on waste management, waste minimization initiatives, and environmental protection.

(9) Cumulative impacts from the proposed action and other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions at the Savannah River Site.

(10) Potential irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.

Related NEPA Documentation

Completed and ongoing environmental reviews may affect the scope of this EIS. Background information and documents, listed below, on past, present, and future activities at the Savannah River Site are available in DOE public reading rooms.

Continued Operation of K-, L-, and P-Reactors (DOE/EIS-0147, 1990).

Interim Management of Nuclear Materials (DOE/EIS-0220, 1995).

L-Reactor Operation (DOE/EIS-0108, 1984).

Environmental Assessment for the Natural Fluctuation of Water Level in Par Pond and Reduced Water Flow in Steel Creek Below L-Lake at the Savannah River Site (DOE/EA-1070, 1995).

Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management (DOE/EIS-0203, 1995).

Proposed Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Policy Concerning Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0218, 1996).

Savannah River Site Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0217, 1995).

Please direct written comments assisting DOE in identifying significant environmental issues and defining the appropriate scope of the EIS to Mr. Andrew R. Grainger at the address indicated above. DOE also invites

agencies, organizations, and the general public to present oral comments pertinent to the preparation of this EIS at the public scoping meeting on the date indicated above. Organizations and individuals wishing to participate in the public meeting can call 1-800-242-8269 between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM (Eastern time zone) Monday through Friday, or submit their requests to Mr. Grainger at the address indicated above. DOE requests that anyone who wishes to speak at the scoping meeting preregister by contacting Mr. Grainger, either by phone or in writing. Preregistration should occur at least two days before the designated meeting. Persons who have not preregistered to speak may register at the meeting and will be called on to speak as time permits. In addition, DOE will accept comments electronically via voice mail or facsimile transmission by calling 1-800-242-8269. DOE is committed to providing opportunities for the involvement of interested individuals and groups in this and other DOE planning activities; consequently, DOE will give equal consideration to all comments.

Issued in Washington, D.C., this 5th day of June, 1996.

Peter N. Brush,

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health.*

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BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP96-539-000]

Columbia Gulf Transmission Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

June 6, 1996.

Take notice that on May 23, 1996, Columbia Gulf Transmission Company (Columbia Gulf), 2603 Augusta STE 125, Houston, Texas 77057-5637, filed in Docket No. CP96-539-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.211) for authorization to establish a new interconnection in Louisiana, under Columbia Gulf's blanket certification issued in Docket No. CP83-496-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Columbia Gulf proposes to construct and operate a new interconnection point

with Central Louisiana Electric Company, Inc. (CLECO) for providing transportation services. The new point will be located in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana and was requested by CLECO to serve the Teche Power Plant. The estimated quantities of natural gas to be delivered will be 85,000 Dth/day–12.6 Bcf/annually. The cost is approximately \$186,000 with CLECO reimbursing Columbia Gulf 100% of the total actual construction cost. The services provided through the interconnection will be on an interruptible basis and will not affect Columbia Gulf's peak day and annual deliveries and the total volumes delivered will not exceed total volumes authorized prior to this request. Columbia Gulf states that this new interconnection is not prohibited by its existing tariff and that it has sufficient capacity to accomplish deliveries without detriment or disadvantage to other customers.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Lindwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-14837 Filed 6-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. RP96-267-000]

Gas Research Institute; Notice of Annual Application

June 6, 1996.

Take notice that on June 5, 1996, Gas Research Institute (GRI) filed an application requesting advance approval of its 1997-2001 Five-Year Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Plan and 1997 RD&D Program, and the funding of its RD&D activities for 1997, pursuant to the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Regulations, particularly 18 CFR 154.401.

In its application, GRI requests approval of a total obligations budget of

\$170.4 million in 1997, a decrease of \$4.4 million from the \$174.8 million approved for GRI's amended 1996 obligations budget. During the twelve months ending December 31, 1997, GRI intends to collect \$179.9 million through jurisdictional rates and charges, and disburse \$176.2 million.

GRI also proposes to modify its current funding mechanism by: (i) Not following the 50/50 demand/commodity balancing provisions so that current surcharges may be used in 1997; and (ii) limiting refunds to amounts collected in excess of the annualized funding requirement for its 1997 RD&D program.

GRI proposes to fund its 1997 RD&D Program through the following surcharges: (1) A demand/reservation surcharge on two-part rates of 26.0 cents per Dth per Month for "high load-factor customers"; (2) a demand/reservation surcharge on two-part rates of 16.0 cents per Dth per month for "low load-factor customers"; (3) a volumetric commodity/usage surcharge of 0.88 cents for firm services involving two-part rates and for one-part interruptible rates; (4) a special "small customer" surcharge of 2.0 cents per Dth; and (5) a surcharge of 1.74 cents per Dth per month for one-part, firm service outside the "small customer" class.

GRI has not filed detailed information on its 1998 RD&D Program. According to GRI, downsizing of its 1996 RD&D Program is yet to be fully implemented and issues pertaining to funding stability are still outstanding; for this reason GRI requests that its 1997 proposal be approved on its own merit, rather than as part of a two-year program.

The Commission Staff will analyze GRI's application and prepare a Commission Staff Report. This Staff Report will be served on all parties and filed with the Commission as a public document by July 31, 1996. Comments on the Staff Report by all parties, except GRI, must be filed with the Commission on or before August 14, 1996. GRI's reply comments must be filed on or before August 28, 1996.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest GRI's application, except for GRI members and state regulatory commissions, who are automatically permitted to participate in the instant proceedings as intervenors, should file a motion to intervene or protest with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 214 and 211 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.214 and 385.11. All protests, motions to intervene and comments should be filed

on or before June 20, 1996. All comments and protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to this proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party, other than a GRI member or a state regulatory commission, must file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-14829 Filed 6-11-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. RP96-264-000]

K N Interstate Gas Transmission Co.; Notice of Account No. 858 Filing

June 6, 1996.

Take notice that on June 3, 1996, K N Interstate Gas Transmission Co. (KNI) made its annual Account No. 858 tracker filing in the above captioned docket.

KNI states that the filing revises KNI's Account No. 858 rate component and details, for the months April 1, 1995 through March 1996, its actual Account No. 858 cost recovery and incurrence.

KNI states that copies of the filing were served upon KNI's jurisdictional customers, interested public bodies, and all parties to the proceedings.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to this filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). All such motions or protests must be filed as provided in Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a petition to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-14831 Filed 6-11-96; 8:45 am]

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