

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 23, 1997.

**Joseph Arango,**

*Acting Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.*

December 12, 1997.

The Honorable John T. Conway,  
*Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004.*

Dear Mr. Chairman: We are pleased to forward the Department's Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 97-2, Criticality Safety. This Plan addresses the need for improved criticality safety practices and coherent programs to alleviate the potential adverse impacts on safety and productivity of Department of Energy operations. It builds upon the successful actions taken in response to Board Recommendation 93-2, The Need for Critical Experiment Capability, which is being implemented through the Nuclear Criticality Predictability Program. Because the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 97-2 incorporates ongoing Nuclear Criticality Predictability Program activities, I propose closure of Recommendation 93-2.

To continue successful implementation of Recommendation 93-2 and implement Recommendation 97-2 in an integrated fashion, the Department is taking steps to ensure stable funding for these important crosscutting safety activities now and in the outyears. We have established a responsible line manager and identified necessary funding for fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

The Implementation Plan was prepared by a cross-organizational response team reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs in coordination with other affected Headquarters and Field offices. Dr. Robin Staffin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Development, Office of Defense Programs, will be the responsible manager for implementing this plan. He can be reached at (202) 586-7590.

Sincerely,

Federico Peña.

[FR Doc. 97-34196 Filed 12-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), notice is hereby given of the following Advisory Committee meeting:

*Name:* Environmental Management Advisory Board.

*Date and Times:* Wednesday, January 21, 1998, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

*Place:* U.S. Department of Energy/Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence

Avenue, S.W.; Room 1E-245, Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-4400.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James T. Melillo, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management; Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB), EM-22, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4400.

The Internet address is:

James.Melillo@em.doe.gov

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Purpose of the Board. The purpose of the Board is to provide the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) with advice and recommendations on issues confronting the Environmental Management program, from the perspectives of affected groups and state, local, and tribal governments. The Board will help to improve the Environmental Management Program by assisting in the process of securing consensus recommendations, and providing the Department's numerous publics with opportunities to express their opinions regarding the Environmental Management Program.

#### Tentative Agenda

*Wednesday, January 21, 1998*

- 8:30 a.m. Co-Chairmen Open Public Meeting
- 8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
- 9:00 a.m. Technology Development and Transfer Committee Report
- 9:30 a.m. Privatization Committee Report
- 10:00 a.m. Science Committee Report
- 10:45 a.m. 2006 Strategic Planning Committee Report
- 11:15 a.m. Long-Term Stewardship Committee Report
- 11:45 a.m. Worker Health and Safety Committee Report
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Board Business
- 2:15 p.m. Public Comment Session
- 3:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourns

A final agenda will be available at the meeting.

#### Public Participation

The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should either contact James T. Melillo at the address or telephone number listed above, or call 1-(800) 736-3282, the Center for Environmental Management Information and register to speak during

the public comment session of the meeting. Individuals may also register on January 21, 1998 at the meeting site. Every effort will be made to hear all those wishing to speak to the Board, on a first come, first serve basis. Those who call in and reserve time will be given the opportunity to speak first. The Board Co-Chairs are empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

#### Transcripts and Minutes

A meeting transcript and minutes will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, DC on December 23, 1997.

**Rachel M. Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-34195 Filed 12-31-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-149-000]

#### El Paso Natural Gas Company; Notice of Application

December 24, 1997.

Take notice that on December 19, 1997, El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso), Post Office Box 1492, El Paso, Texas 79978, filed in Docket No. CP98-149-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate the Bondad Expansion Project to alleviate a capacity constraint on El Paso's system north of the Blanco plant in San Juan County, New Mexico, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

El Paso states that it proposes to construct and operate additional compression facilities, with appurtenances, at the existing Bondad compressor station located on the Ignacio to Blanco Line and Loop Line (Line Nos. 1205 and 1218, respectively) (Ignacio Lines), in La Plata County, Colorado, in order to restage the three existing Solar Centaur centrifugal compressor units and to replace each of the three gas turbine engines comprising

10,740 (ISO) horsepower with three gas turbine engines comprising 15,900 (ISO) horsepower.

El Paso contends that the Bondad Expansion Project has been designed to permit El Paso to transport 116,500 Mcf per day of additional quantities of gas from receipt points along the Ignacio Lines to an existing point near the existing Blanco plant located in San Juan County, New Mexico.

El Paso estimates the cost of constructing the Bondad Expansion Project to be \$3.6 million. El Paso proposes to place the proposed facilities in service by October 1, 1998.

It is stated that based on the cost of the proposed compression facilities, El Paso has calculated a separate incremental rate attributable to the cost of service for the proposed Bondad Expansion Project. It is stated that the incremental reservation rate for the proposed project, which is referred to as the Bondad Facilities Reservation Charge, is \$0.67734 per dth, on a monthly basis. El Paso proposes the calculated incremental rate (the recourse rate) as the tariff rate applicable to firm transportation service on the Bondad Expansion Project.

In addition, it is stated that El Paso has calculated a separate incremental fuel charge, referred to as the Bondad Facilities Fuel Charge, in which shippers receiving firm service on the Bondad Expansion Project will be assessed a proposed incremental fuel charge of 0.75 percent of quantities of gas transported.

El Paso states that in support of the Bondad Expansion Project, it has entered into final, firm Transportation Service Agreements (TSAs) with Enron Capital & Trade Resources Corp., Elm Ridge Resources, Inc. and Conoco, Inc., for the transportation of an additional 116,500 mcf per day of gas from any point of receipt on the Bondad System, including the Ignacio Receipt Point, to the Blanco Delivery Point.

El Paso states that the executed firm TSAs applicable at the Bondad Expansion Project are subject to the provisions of Rate Schedule FT-1 contained in El Paso's Volume No. 1-A, FERC Gas Tariff; however, pursuant to Section 4.5 of the Tariff, the executed TSAs each contain a separate negotiated rate, rather than the proposed tariff rate, applicable to the Bondad Expansion Project. El Paso further states that the rate negotiated with each of the three shippers on the Project is a Total Daily One-Part Rate per dth.

Any person desiring to participate in the hearing process or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before January

14, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). 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. The Commission's rules require that protestors provide copies of their protests or the party or parties directly involved. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

A person obtaining intervene status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by every one of the intervenors. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order. However, an intervenor must submit copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a federal court.

The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters or those requesting intervenor status.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the

Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for El Paso to appear or be represented at the hearing.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-34175 Filed 12-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP90-1512-001]

#### Mountain Fuel Supply Company; Notice of Petition To Amend

December 24, 1997.

Take notice that on December 19, 1997, Mountain Fuel Supply Company (Mountain Fuel), 180 East First South Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145, filed in Docket No. CP90-1512-001 a petition pursuant to Section 7(f) of the Natural Gas Act to amend its certificate issued in Docket No. CP90-1512, authorizing a service area determination, all as more fully set forth in the petition on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Mountain Fuel proposes to modify its service area by adding Box Elder, Weber Davis, Salt Lake, Tooele and Utah Counties, all located in Utah, and the remainder of Cache County, Utah, that is not part of Mountain Fuel's existing service area. It is stated that the service area presently consists of Franklin County, Idaho, and most of Cache County, Utah. It is explained that the additional counties are located along the Wasatch Front of northern Utah and incorporate the Sunset, Porter's Lane (Centerville), Little Mountain and Payson gate-station interconnects with Questar Pipeline Company (Questar), an interstate pipeline company, and the Hunter Park interconnect with Kern River Gas Transmission Company, an interstate pipeline company.

Mountain Fuel asserts that the additions to the service area are required to improve its operating flexibility for meeting customer requirements in its northern Utah and