

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the extension of the scoping period for the environmental impact statement (EIS) that is being prepared in connection with an application for a Presidential permit filed by Public Service Company of New Mexico. An EIS is being prepared because DOE has determined that the issuance of the Presidential permit would constitute a major Federal action that may have a significant impact upon the environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

**DATES:** The scoping period on the EIS is extended until April 14, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Written questions and comments should be submitted to: Mrs. Ellen Russell, NEPA Document Manager, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20585-0350; Telephone (202) 586-9624; Facsimile: 202-287-5736; or electronic mail at Ellen.Russell@hq.doe.gov.

For general information on the Department's NEPA process, please contact: Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20585; Telephone: 202-586-4600; or leave a message at 800-472-2756.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public Service Company of New Mexico has applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to construct an electric transmission line across the U.S.-Mexico border. The proposed transmission line would originate at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Switchyard located west of Phoenix, Arizona, and extend to the town of Santa Ana in the Mexican State of Sonora. On February 12, 1999, DOE published a notice in the **Federal Register**, (64 FR 7173) announcing its intent to prepare an EIS and to conduct public scoping meetings in the vicinity of the proposed line. The public scoping period was to continue until March 15, 1999. To ensure that the public has ample opportunity to provide comments, DOE is extending until April 14, 1999, the period during which it will receive comments for consideration in establishing the scope and content of the EIS. DOE has separately notified interested and affected stakeholders of the change in dates. Comments received after April 14, 1999, will be considered to the extent practicable. Further information on this proceeding is

contained in the previously published Notice of Intent.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 15, 1999.

**Anthony J. Como,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-6774 Filed 3-18-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Notice Inviting Financial Assistance Applications**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Federal Energy Technology Center (FETC).

**ACTION:** Notice inviting financial assistance applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy announces that it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation and award financial assistance (cooperative agreements) for the program entitled "Emission Control Technologies for Fine Particulate Matter, Ozone, and Related Environmental Issues." Through this solicitation, FETC seeks to support applications in the following areas of interest: (1) Cost Effective and Efficient Control of Nitrogen Oxide Emissions from Coal-Fired Electric Utility Boilers, and (2) Cost Effective and Efficient Control of Fine Particulate Emissions from Coal-Fired Electric Utility Boilers. Applications will be subjected to a review by a DOE technical panel, and awards will be made to a limited number of applicants based on a scientific and engineering evaluation of the responses received to determine the relative merit of the approach taken in response to this offering by the DOE, and funding availability.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas J. Gruber, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, Acquisition and Assistance Division, P.O. Box 10940, MS 921-143, Pittsburgh PA 15236-0940, Telephone: (412) 892-5897, FAX: (412) 892-6216, E-mail: gruber@fetc.doe.gov. The solicitation (available in both WordPerfect 6.1 and Portable Document Format (PDF)) will be released on DOE's FETC World Wide Web Server Internet System (<http://www.fetc.doe.gov/business/solicit>) on or about March 15, 1999.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title of Solicitation:* "Emission Control Technology for Fine Particulate Matter, Ozone, and Related Environmental Issues."

*Objectives:* Through Program Solicitation No. DE-PS26-99FT40288, the Department of Energy seeks applications for innovative technical approaches to ensure the continued use of domestic fossil fuels (i.e. coal) as an environmentally sound component of the U.S. overall energy mix well into the next century. This solicitation is specifically aimed at the development and testing of emission control technologies, processes, and concepts that have a high probability of commercial success and that can cost-effectively and efficiently reduce the level of NO<sub>x</sub> and fine particulate matter. This solicitation is limited to those technologies, processes, and concepts that are applicable to utility boilers that combust U.S. coals as the primary fuel and that are retrofittable to existing coal-based power systems.

*Eligibility:* Eligibility for participation in this Program Solicitation is considered to be full and open. All interested parties may apply. The solicitation will contain a complete description of the technical evaluation factors and relative importance of each factor.

*Areas of Interest:* The Department is interested in obtaining applications in the following areas of interest: (1) Cost Effective and Efficient Control of Nitrogen Oxide Emissions from Coal Fired Electric Utility Boilers. Within this area of interest are two technical topics: (a) Advanced Technologies and Systems, and (b) Field Testing and Optimization; and (2) Cost Effective and Efficient Control of Fine Particulate Emissions from Coal Fired Electric Utility Boilers. Within this second area of interest are two technical topics: (a) Primary PM Emissions Control, and (b) Acid Aerosols/Condensable Emissions Control.

*Awards:* DOE anticipates issuing financial assistance (cooperative agreements) for each project selected. DOE reserves the right to support or not support, with or without discussions, any or all applications received in whole or in part, and to determine how many awards may be made through the solicitation subject to funds available. Approximately \$12 million of DOE funding is planned for this solicitation. The estimated funding by the DOE is planned to be \$1 million to \$2 million per award. Cost sharing by the applicant is required, and details of the cost sharing requirement are contained in the solicitation.

*Solicitation Release Date:* The Program Solicitation is expected to be ready for release on or about March 15, 1999. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the

instructions and forms contained in the Program Solicitation.

**Richard D. Rogus,**

*Contracting Officer, Acquisition and Assistance Division.*

[FR Doc. 99-6775 Filed 3-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Savannah River Site

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Savannah River Site. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES AND TIMES:** Monday, March 22, 1999: 6:00 p.m.–6:15 p.m.: Public Comment Session; 6:15 p.m.–7:15 p.m.: Budget Review—Stakeholder Q&A; 7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.: Individual Subcommittee Meetings. Tuesday, March 23, 1999: 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** All meetings will be held at: University of South Carolina—Aiken, Business & Education Building, 171 University Parkway, Aiken, South Carolina 29801.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gerri Flemming, Public Accountability Specialist, Environmental Restoration and Solid Waste Division, Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, S.C. 29802, (803) 725-5374.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management and related activities.

#### Tentative Agenda

*Monday, March 22, 1999*

- 6:00 p.m. Public comment session (5-minute rule)
- 6:15 p.m. Budget Review—Stakeholder Q&A
- 7:30 p.m. Issues-based subcommittee meetings
- 9:00 p.m. Adjourn

*Tuesday, March 23, 1999*

- 8:30 a.m. Approval of minutes, agency updates (~15 minutes)
- Public comment session (5-minute rule) (~ 10 minutes)
- DOE—Senior Manager Update (~ 30

minutes)

Dose reconstruction study (~ 45 minutes)

Presentation of issues matrix (~ 15 minutes)

Risk management & future use subcommittee report (~ 1 hour)

Facilitator update (~ 15 minutes)

12:00 p.m. Lunch Environmental remediation and waste management subcommittee report (~ 1¼ hours)

Nuclear materials management subcommittee (~ 15 minutes)

Administrative subcommittee report (~ 30 minutes)

—Membership elections

Executive committee recap (~ 10 minutes)

Outreach subcommittee report (~ 10 minutes)

Budget subcommittee report (~ 10 minutes)

Public comment session (5-minute rule) (~ 10 minutes)

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

If necessary, time will be allotted after public comments for items added to the agenda, and administrative details. A final agenda will be available at the meeting Monday, March 22, 1999.

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Gerri Flemming's office at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received 5 days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of 5 minutes to present their comments. This notice is being published less than 15 days in advance of the meeting due to programmatic issues that needed to be resolved prior to publication.

*Minutes:* The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 between 9:00 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday–Friday except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Gerri Flemming, Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, S.C. 29802, or by calling her at (803) 725-5374.

Issued at Washington, DC on March 16, 1999.

**Rachel M. Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-6773 Filed 3-18-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Docket No. TM99-7-23-000]

#### Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

March 15, 1999.

Take notice that on March 5, 1999, Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (ESNG) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, certain revised tariff sheets in the above captioned docket, bear a proposed effective date of April 1, 1999.

ESNG states that the purpose of this instant filing is to track rate changes attributable to storage services purchased from Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) under its Rate Schedules GSS and LSS and Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) under its Rate Schedules SST and FSS. The costs of the above referenced storage services comprises the rates and charges payable under ESNG's Rate Schedules GSS, LSS and CFSS. This tracking filing is being made pursuant to Section 3 of ESNG's Rate Schedules GSS, LSS and CFSS.

ESNG states that copies of the filing have been served upon its jurisdictional customers and interested State Commissions.

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