

System Operator, California Independent System Operator-registered Scheduling Coordinators, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and Southern California Edison Company.

*Comment date:* July 26, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

#### 7. Madison Gas and Electric Company

[Docket No. ER99-3497-000]

Take notice that on July 6, 1999, Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE) tendered for filing a service agreement under MGE's Power Sales Tariff with Kansas City Power and Light company.

MGE requests an effective date of July 1, 1999.

*Comment date:* July 26, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

#### 8. Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

[Docket No. ER99-3498-000]

Take notice that on July 6, 1999, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison) tendered for filing a service agreement to provide firm transmission service pursuant to its Open Access Transmission Tariff to Aquila Power Corporation (Aquila).

Con Edison states that a copy of this filing has been served by mail upon Aquila

*Comment date:* July 26, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

#### 9. Northeast Utilities Service Company

[Docket No. ER99-3499-000]

Take notice that on July 6, 1999, Northeast Utilities Service Company (NUSCO) tendered for filing, an Executed Service Agreement to provide Non-Firm Point-To-Point Transmission Service to TransAlta Energy Marketing (U.S.) Inc. under the NU System Companies' Open Access Transmission Service Tariff No. 9.

NUSCO states that a copy of this filing has been mailed to TransAlta Energy Marketing (U.S.) Inc.

NUSCO requests that the Service Agreement become effective July 30, 1999.

*Comment date:* July 26, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

#### 10. Pacific Gas and Electric Company

[Docket No. ER99-3500-000]

Take notice that on July 6, 1999, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) tendered for filing proposed revisions to its Transmission Owner Tariff to implement the planned sale of Firm

Transmission Rights proposed by the California Independent System Operator Corporation.

Copies of this filing have been served upon the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Independent System Operator Corporation, the California Independent System Operator, Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, and the active parties to the proceeding that addresses the non-rates terms and conditions of the Transmission Owner Tariffs and Wholesale Distribution Tariffs of PG&E, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and Southern California Edison Company, Docket Nos. ER97-2358-002, *et al.*, ER97-2364-002, *et al.*, and ER97-2355-002, *et al.*, respectively.

*Comment date:* July 26, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

#### 11. Southern California Edison Company

[Docket No. ER99-3501-000]

Take notice that on July 6, 1999, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) tendered for filing revisions to its Transmission Owner Tariff to implement the planned sale of Firm Transmission Rights by the California Independent System Operator.

Copies of this filing have been served upon the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Independent System Operator, California Independent System Operator-registered Scheduling Coordinators, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric Company.

*Comment date:* July 26, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

#### 12. Berkshire Power Company, LLC

[Docket No. ER99-3502-000]

Take notice that on July 6, 1999, Berkshire Power Company, LLC (Berkshire Power) tendered for filing an application for waivers and blanket approvals under various regulations of the Commission and for an order accepting its FERC Electric Rate Schedule No. 1.

Berkshire Power proposed that its Rate Schedule No. 1 become effective upon commencement of service of the Berkshire Power Plant (the Plant), a generation project currently being developed by Berkshire Power in the State of Massachusetts. The Plant will commence the sale of test power on July 23, 1999, but will not be commercially operable until November 1, 1999.

Berkshire Power intends to sell energy and capacity from the Plant at market-

based rates, and on such terms and conditions to be mutually agreed to with the purchasing party.

*Comment date:* July 26, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

#### Standard Paragraphs

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. 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 proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-18311 Filed 7-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6379-7; Docket No. A-99-23]

#### Petition to Delist Methanol From the List of Hazardous Air Pollutants

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of a complete petition.

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**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the receipt of a complete petition from the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) requesting EPA to remove the chemical methanol (CAS No. 67-56-1) from the list of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) contained in section 112(b)(1) of the 1990 Clean Air Act (Act). We have determined that the AF&PA's original petition submittal dated March 8, 1996 and the supplemental materials provided by AF&PA through February 18, 1999 will support an assessment of the human health impacts associated with people living in the vicinity of facilities emitting methanol. In addition, the data submitted by AF&PA will support an assessment of the environmental impacts associated with

emissions of methanol to the ambient air and deposited onto soil or water. Consequently, we have concluded that AF&PA's petition is complete as of February 18, 1999, the date of the last supplement, and is ready for public comment and the technical review phase of our delist petition evaluation process.

This notice invites the public to comment on the petition and to provide additional data, beyond that filed in the petition, on sources, emissions, exposure, health effects and environmental impacts associated with methanol that may be relevant to our technical review.

**DATES:** Comments and additional data will be accepted if received on or before August 18, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:**

**Documents**

A copy of the complete petition is contained in a docket available at the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Office, 401 M Street SW, Room M-1500 (6102), Waterside Mall, Washington DC 20460. The docket number for this action is A-99-23. The docket is an organized file of all the information received and considered in making the decision on the completeness of AF&PA's petition. The main purpose of the docket is to allow you to readily identify and locate documents that record the process we followed in making our decision. You may inspect the petition and copy it for offsite review between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. A reasonable fee may be charged for copying.

**Comments and Data Submissions**

Comments and additional data should be submitted (in duplicate if possible) to: The Docket Clerk, Air and Radiation Docket and Information Office, 401 M Street SW, Room M-1500 (Mail Code 6102), Waterside Mall, Washington DC 20460.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chuck French, Emission Standards Division (MD-13), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone (919) 541-0467, electronic mail address: french.chuck@epamail.epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Introduction**

*A. What Is the List of Hazardous Air Pollutants?*

Hazardous air pollutants include a wide variety of organic and inorganic

substances released from large and small industrial operations, fossil fuel combustion, gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles, and many other sources. The HAPs have been associated with a wide variety of adverse health effects, including cancer, neurological effects, reproductive effects, and developmental effects. The health effects associated with the various HAPs may differ depending upon the toxicity of the individual HAP and the particular circumstances of exposure, such as the amount of chemical present, the length of time a person is exposed, and the stage in life of the person when the exposure occurs. The list of HAPs, which includes methanol, can be found in section 112(b)(1) of the Act. The HAPs list provides the basis for research, regulation, and other related EPA activities under section 112 of the Act.

*B. What Is a HAP Delist Petition?*

A HAP delist petition is a formal request to the EPA from an individual or group to remove a specific HAP from the HAPs list. The removal of a HAP from the list eliminates it from consideration in EPA's program to promulgate national, technology-based emissions control standards. This technology-based standards program is commonly referred to as the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) program.

Petitions to add or delete chemicals from the HAPs list are allowed under section 112(b)(3)(A) of the Act. The Act specifies that any person may petition the Administrator to modify, by addition or deletion, the list of HAPs, and the EPA Administrator is required to either grant or deny a petition to delist a specific HAP within 18 months of the receipt of a complete petition.

To delete a substance from the HAPs list, section 112(b)(3)(C) requires that the petitioner must provide adequate data on the health and environmental effects of the substance to determine that emissions, ambient concentrations, and bio-accumulation or deposition of the substance may not reasonably be anticipated to cause any adverse effects to human health or adverse environmental effects.

*C. How Does EPA Review a Petition To Delist a HAP?*

The petition review process proceeds in two phases: a completeness determination and a technical review. During the completeness determination, we conduct a broad review of the petition to determine whether or not all the necessary subject areas are addressed and whether reasonable

information and analyses are presented for each of these subject areas. Once the petition is determined to be complete, we place a notice of receipt of a complete petition in the **Federal Register**. That **Federal Register** notice announces a public comment period on the petition and starts the technical review phase of our decision-making process. The technical review involves a more thorough scientific review of the petition to determine whether the data, analyses, interpretations, and conclusions in the petition are appropriate and technically sound. The technical review will also determine whether or not the petition satisfies the necessary requirements of section 112(b)(3)(C) and adequately supports a decision to delist the HAP. All comments and data submitted during the public comment period are considered during the technical review.

*D. How Is the Decision To Delist a HAP Made?*

The decision to either grant or deny a petition is made after a comprehensive technical review of both the petition and the information received from the public to determine whether the petition satisfies the requirements of section 112(b)(3)(C) of the Act. If the Administrator decides to grant a petition, a notice of proposed rulemaking is published in the **Federal Register**. That notice proposes a modification of the HAPs list and presents the reasoning for doing so. However, if the Administrator decides to deny a petition, a notice setting forth an explanation of the reasons for denial will be published instead. A notice of denial constitutes final Agency action of nationwide scope and applicability and is subject to judicial review as provided in section 307(b) of the Act.

**II. Completeness Determination and Request for Public Comment**

On March 8, 1996, we received a petition from the AF&PA to remove methanol (methyl alcohol, methyl hydroxide, wood alcohol, wood spirit) (CAS No. 67-56-1) from the HAPs list. The petition was presented on behalf of the producers and consumers of methanol in the United States. After our initial review of the petition, we determined that additional information was needed on estimated ambient air concentrations of methanol as well as on the derivation of the safe exposure level (SEL) for methanol. The petitioner submitted several additional documents in 1997 and early 1998 to address the information gaps. After further review, we determined that the additional documents that AF&PA submitted

improved the petition, but that there were still information gaps, particularly in the identification of sources, exposure modeling assessment, and atmospheric chemistry. The petitioner submitted additional documents in 1998 and early 1999 to address these remaining information gaps.

After reviewing all of the supplemental information, we have now determined that the essential subject areas have been addressed and that the petition is complete and ready for technical review. The AF&PA's last supplement which occurred February 18, 1999 marked the start of the 18 months decision period. Today's notice initiates our comprehensive technical review of the petition and invites public comment on the substance of the petition as described above.

### III. Description of the Petition

The complete petition provided by AF&PA contains the following information:

A. Background data on methanol, including chemical and physical properties data and production and use data.

B. A review of available scientific literature documenting human, animal, in vitro, and other toxicity studies concerning methanol, with copies of the relevant literature citations.

C. A review of available scientific literature concerning environmental effects of methanol, with copies of the relevant literature citations.

D. An assessment of the human health and environmental effects of methanol including AF&PA's proposed calculation of the air inhalation SEL. The petition asserts that the proposed SEL is a quantitative estimate of an inhalation exposure to humans that is likely to be without appreciable risk of adverse impacts over a lifetime.

E. A characterization of the fate of methanol emitted to the atmosphere including atmospheric residence time, solubility, information on atmospheric transformations, and potential degradation or transformation products.

F. A screening assessment to demonstrate that only sources emitting greater than 500 tons per year (tpy) have a theoretical possibility of exceeding the SEL.

G. Estimated emissions of methanol for sources that emit greater than 500 tpy of methanol derived from the toxic release inventory (TRI), as well as other data sources such as State air toxics emissions inventories. The TRI is an emissions inventory database developed under section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986.

H. Tiered air dispersion modeling that provides estimates of the ambient concentrations of methanol adjacent to facilities that emit over 500 tpy of methanol and the potential human exposures to methanol due to these emissions. Tiered modeling involves the use of successive modeling techniques to move from

conservative "worst case" estimates of the ambient concentrations of a substance emitted from a source toward more realistic site specific estimates of the ambient concentrations.

I. Characterization of the potential exposures and risks from methanol to human health and the environment.

The petition describes methanol as a simple alcohol containing one carbon atom. Methanol is reported to occur naturally as an emission resulting from metabolism in vegetation, microorganisms, and insects. It has also been found in volcanic gases. Methanol is produced during the natural biodegradation of organic wastes of all kinds, including sewage and wastewater sludge, by microorganisms normally found in the environment.

In the original petition submittal (dated March 8, 1996), it is stated that based on the 1993 TRI, 2,303 facilities reported emissions of methanol for a total of 86,155 tons of methanol emitted to the air in the United States in 1993. Based on the 1993 TRI data, the paper and allied products industry accounted for about 52 percent of the methanol emissions. The next largest source category was the chemical and allied products industry which accounted for 25 percent of the methanol emissions. Six facilities reported emissions over 1,000 tpy, 195 facilities reported emissions over 100 tpy and 828 facilities reported emissions over 10 tpy. Subsequent petition submittals present emissions estimates based on more recent data sources (e.g., the 1995 TRI) for sources emitting greater than 500 tpy of methanol.

The petition presents the derivation of a SEL of 83 milligrams of methanol per cubic meter of air (i.e., 83 mg/m<sup>3</sup>). The petitioner asserts that exposures below this SEL can be expected to produce no potential adverse human effects from lifetime inhalation exposures. The petition claims the SEL is based on standard EPA methodology, which incorporates the identification of the most sensitive toxic endpoint and the corresponding no-observable-adverse-effect-level (NOAEL) (in this case an exposure level of 1,300 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for pregnant mice), adjustment of the NOAEL from an animal exposure concentration to an equivalent human exposure concentration, and application of appropriate uncertainty factors. To determine the human equivalent concentration of methanol, the petition used the NOAEL derived from the mouse study and converted it to a human-equivalent NOAEL following EPA guidelines by multiplying the animal species NOAEL by the ratio of a breathing rate divided by the body

weight of the animal species to the same parameters for humans. The human-equivalent NOAEL, along with uncertainty factors, was then used to determine the SEL.

The petition asserts that inhalation is the only significant route of human exposure to methanol emissions. Since methanol rapidly biodegrades and volatilizes in water, it is highly unlikely that humans are exposed to significant amounts of methanol through fallout or impaction upon soils or directly upon water bodies. Using the TRI data as input in a tiered air dispersion modeling approach, the petition develops estimates of the maximum annual and 24-hour concentrations anticipated to occur at the boundaries of facilities known to emit methanol in excess of 500 tpy. The maximum predicted 24-hour concentration for any of these facilities was about 7.5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. After comparing the estimated exposure levels to the SEL, the AF&PA concludes that concentrations of methanol anticipated to occur due to emissions from these sources cannot reasonably be anticipated to cause either acute or chronic adverse health effects to people living nearby these facilities.

The petition also provides data to support the AF&PA's position that in the concentrations expected to occur in the environment, methanol is nontoxic to plants and animals. It is readily degradable through natural process and does not tend to accumulate in living organism.

Dated: July 9, 1999.

**Robert Perciasepe,**

*Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.*

[FR Doc. 99-18356 Filed 7-16-99; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6379-9]

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council's (NEJAC) International Subcommittee; Notification of Environmental Justice Roundtable on the U.S.-Mexico Border, Open Meeting and Public Comment Period(s) and Concurrent Meeting of NEJAC's Enforcement Subcommittee (All Times are Pacific Daylight Time)**

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) and the Environmental Protection Agency will sponsor a Roundtable on Environmental Justice on the U.S.-Mexico Border, August 19, 20, 21, 1999, in National City, California. A broad range of