

92-463, notice is hereby given that the Standing Committee on compliance assistance will meet on the date and time described below. The meeting is open to the public. Seating at the meeting will be a first-come basis and limited time will be provided for public comment. For further information concerning this meeting, please contact the individual listed with the announcement below. NACEPT Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance; November 18 and 19, 1999. Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency will hold an open meeting of the NACEPT Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance on Thursday, November 18, 1999 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and November 19, 1999 from 8:30-5. The meeting will be held at the AED Conference Center, 1825 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009. The agenda for the first day of the meeting will be focused primarily on organizational issues. The second day will focus specifically on the development of the compliance assistance clearinghouse, national forum and the annual agency plan. A formal Agenda will be available at the meeting.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NACEPT is a federal advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463. NACEPT provides advice and recommendations to the Administrator and other EPA officials on a broad range of domestic and international environmental policy issues. NACEPT consists of a representative cross-section of EPA's partners and principal constituents who provide advice and recommendations on policy issues and serve as a sounding board for new strategies.

EPA recently issued a new report, "Aiming for Excellence." This report commits EPA to take a number of actions to enhance our reinvention programs, including several to improve our compliance assistance efforts. The report was developed based on extensive external outreach to a broad range of stakeholders through a variety of forums. It is available on EPA's Reinvention home page ([www.epa.gov/reinvent/](http://www.epa.gov/reinvent/)).

In connection with this effort, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) has recently completed work on an action plan, "Innovative Approaches to Enforcement and Compliance Assurance." This action plan includes the compliance assistance activities identified in the Task Force report as well as additional OECA commitments. The action items described in the OECA report (available

at [www.epa.gov/oeca/innovative/approaches.html](http://www.epa.gov/oeca/innovative/approaches.html)) will change fundamental aspects of the Agency's compliance assistance planning and programs.

To ensure that the compliance assistance activities in the action plan are implemented in a way that continues to reflect stakeholder needs, the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) is creating a new Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance. This will provide a continuing Federal Advisory Committee forum from which the Agency can continue to receive valuable stakeholder advice and recommendations on compliance assistance activities.

For further information concerning the NACEPT Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance, including the upcoming meeting, contact Gina Bushong Designated Federal Officer (DFO), on (202)564-2242, or E-mail: [bushong.gina@epa.gov](mailto:bushong.gina@epa.gov).

Inspection of Subcommittee Documents: Documents relating to the above topics will be publicly available at the meeting.

Dated: October 27, 1999.

**Gina Bushong,**

*Designated Federal Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-28636 Filed 11-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting Notice

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:** Federal Maritime Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 10 a.m.—November 9, 1999.

**PLACE:** 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., First Floor Hearing Room, Washington, D.C.

**STATUS:** A portion of the meeting will be open to the public and the remainder of the meeting will be closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

The Open Portion of the Meeting:

1. Docket No. 99-10—Ocean Common Carriers Subject to the Shipping Act of 1984—Consideration of Comments.

The Closed Portion of the Meeting:

1. Docket No. 98-14—Shipping Restrictions, Requirements and Practices of the People's Republic of China.

2. Fact Finding Investigation No. 23—Ocean Common Carriers Practices in the Transpacific Trades—Consideration of the Record.

3. Docket No. 99-05—ANERA and its Members—Opting Out of Service Contracts—Consideration of the Record.  
**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Bryant L. VanBrakle, Secretary, (202) 523-5725.

**Bryant L. VanBrakle,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-28733 Filed 10-29-99; 1:05 pm]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

[Docket No. R-1049]

### Publication Activities Review

**AGENCY:** Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

**ACTION:** Request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Reserve Board (Board) is conducting a review of its publication activities. As part of this effort, the Board is asking the public to comment on how the Board's publications are individually and collectively meeting their information needs and to offer suggestions for improving or possibly eliminating some publications or adding new ones.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before December 17, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, which should refer to Docket No. R-1049, may be mailed to Ms. Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20551. Comments addressed to Ms. Johnson may also be delivered to the Board's mailroom between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. and to the security control room at all other times. Both the mailroom and the security control room are accessible from the courtyard entrance on 20th Street between Constitution Ave. and C Street, NW. Comments may be inspected in Room MP-500 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., except as provided in § 261.12 of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, 12 CFR 261.12 and 261.14.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Zacharias (202/973-5016). For the hearing impaired only, contact Diane Jenkins, Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), (202/452-3544).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### Description of the Board's Publications Program

The Board's publications program supports the various missions of the Board by making information about the Federal Reserve System accessible to other parts of the U.S. Government,

regulated entities, the legal and business communities, libraries and research institutions, economists and other scholars, consumers, and the public at large. The publications program has the following six objectives:

- To provide to a large and diverse audience, the facts essential to an understanding of the functions and operations of the Federal Reserve System.
- To inform the public of official actions, interpretations, and policies of the Board of Governors.
- To present analyses and discussions of developments relating to public policy in banking, finance, and monetary matters and the general economy.
- To disseminate to the public certain statistics and survey information that the Board collects in the course of its formulation and conduct of monetary and regulatory policies.
- To present the results of developmental research in the areas of finance, economics, and statistics.
- To educate members of the public about, and to inform them of their rights in, financial transactions governed by regulations that the Board administers.

The Board publishes information in both print and electronic forms. Its over eighty published products include books, journals, brochures, press releases, testimony, speeches, legal notices, statistical releases, manuals, reports, staff studies, and research papers. Some products, such as statistical releases, are issued on a weekly, monthly, or quarterly schedule. Others, such as consumer education brochures, are issued when appropriate and are often a joint effort of the Board and other financial regulatory agencies or industry groups. Certain products are available in audio, video, or digital form, and nearly all products are now available on the Board's public Internet web site [<http://www.federalreserve.gov/>]. The Board currently serves more than 31,000 regular subscribers and annually responds to several thousand phone, walk-in, and mail requests for individual publications. In addition, the Board's Internet web site, which has been operational since March 1996, now contains about 14,000 current and historical documents and averages over 450,000 visits each week.

A Publications Committee (committee), composed of senior officials from several Board divisions and offices, oversees the program. The committee, assisted by the Board's Office of Inspector General, is currently reviewing the Board's publishing processes and products to assess

customer service, operational efficiency, and how well the program's objectives are being met.

#### Issues for Public Comment

User feedback is a key component of the committee's review. The Board is asking the public to comment on the quality of its publications and to offer suggestions for improving or possibly eliminating some publications or adding new ones. The public should feel free to provide comments on any or all of the publications or processes with which they are familiar, regardless of whether access is obtained in printed form or through the Internet. In evaluating these publications, the public is asked to consider the following:

**Content:** Usefulness, relevance, and reliability of information; quality of information and analysis; appropriateness of level of detail; clarity and effectiveness of writing.

**Format/appearance:** Logic of organization; ease of locating information; attractiveness and appropriateness of design, including type, color, paper, illustrations, and format; readability of charts, graphs, and text boxes.

**Timeliness:** Appropriate frequency of issuance; promptness of release of data, public statements, and regulatory material; and speed of delivery relative to the publication date.

Comments of a more general nature are also welcome, including, for example, suggestions on alternative methods for delivering published information, improving subscriber services, or informing the public about the availability of publications.

Presented below is a listing of the Board's publications to facilitate comments on particular documents.

#### Federal Reserve Board Publications

##### A. Manuals

1. Federal Reserve Regulatory Service (FRRS)
  - a. Consumer And Community Affairs Handbook
  - b. Monetary Policy and Reserve Requirements Handbook
  - c. Securities Credit Transactions Handbook
  - d. Payment Systems Handbook
2. Bank Holding Company Examination
3. Commercial Bank Examination
4. U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banking Organizations Examinations
5. Bank Secrecy Act Examinations
6. Trading and Capital Markets Activity
7. Trust Examination
8. Examination of Edge Corporations

9. Transfer Agent Examination
  10. Textual Changes to Federal Reserve Act
  11. Merchant and Investment Bank Examinations
  12. Consumer Compliance Examinations
  13. FFIEC Information Systems Examination
- ##### B. Regular Periodic Statistical Releases
1. Aggregate Summaries of Annual Surveys of Securities Credit Extensions C.2
  2. Survey of Terms of Bank Lending E.2
  3. List of OTC Foreign Margin Stocks E.7
  4. Geographical Distribution of Assets and Liabilities of Major Foreign Branches of US Banks E.11
  5. Agricultural Finance Data Book E.15
  6. Country Exposure Lending Survey E.16
  7. Foreign Exchange Rates G.5
  8. Selected Interest Rates G.13
  9. Research Library Recent Acquisitions G.15
  10. Industrial Production and Capital Utilization G.17
  11. Consumer Installment Credit G.19
  12. Finance Companies G.20
  13. Actions of the Board: Applications and Reports H.2
  14. Aggregate Reserves of Depository Institutions and Monetary Base H.3
  15. Factors Affecting Reserve Balances and Condition Statement of FR Banks H.4.1
  16. Money Stock and Debt Measures H.6
  17. Assets and Liabilities of Commercial Banks H.8
  18. Foreign Exchange Rates H.10
  19. Selected Interest and Exchange Rates H.13
  20. Selected Interest Rates H.15
  21. Flow of Funds Accounts Z.1
- ##### C. Other Regular Periodic Publications
1. Federal Reserve Bulletin
  2. Annual Report
  3. Annual Report: Budget Review
  4. Annual Reports to Congress on Specific Topics (e.g., Freedom of Information Act requests, depository institution credit card profitability, and fees and services of depository institutions)
  5. Monetary Policy Report (Humphrey Hawkins)
  6. Annual Percentage Rate Tables vols 1 and 2
  7. Statistical Digest and Concordance (5 Years)
  8. Summary of Official Holidays to be Observed by FR Offices. K.8
  9. Summary of Commentary On Economic Conditions by Federal Reserve District (Beige Book)

10. FOMC Minutes
11. FOMC Transcripts (5-Year Lag)
- D. One-time or Occasional Publications
  1. Purposes and Functions
  2. FR Act and Related Statutes (Red Book)
  3. Individual Regulations of the Board of Governors (about 30 documents)
  4. Preparedness Program for Emergencies in Banking
  5. Guide to Flow of Funds Accounts (1993)
  6. U.S. Economy in an Interdependent World: A Multicountry Model (5/84)
  7. Industrial Production 1986 Edition (12/86)
  8. Financial Futures and Options in the US Economy (12/86)
  9. Financial Sectors in Open Economies: Empirical Analysis and Policy Issues (8/90)
  10. Risk Measurement and Systemic Risk: Proceedings of a 1996 Joint Central Bank Research Conference
  11. Public Policy and Capital Formation
  12. Research Staff Studies
  13. Finance and Economic Discussion Papers
  14. International Finance Discussion Papers
  15. Speeches and Testimony
  16. Press Releases
  17. Board Telephone and Public Information Directory
  18. Processing Applications through the Federal Reserve
- E. Brochures and Booklets
  1. Consumer Handbook on Adjustable Rate Mortgages
  2. Consumer Handbook on Credit Protection Laws
  3. A Guide to Business Credit for Women, Minorities, and Small Business
  4. Series Structure of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
  5. The Federal Open Market Committee
  6. Federal Reserve Bank Board of Directors
  7. Federal Reserve Banks
  8. Keys to Vehicle Leasing
  9. A Consumer's Guide to Mortgage Lock-Ins
  10. A Consumer's Guide to Mortgage Settlement Costs
  11. A Consumer's Guide to Mortgage Refinancing
  12. Home Mortgages: Understanding the Process and Your Right to Fair Lending
  13. How to File a Consumer Complaint about a Bank
  14. Making Sense of Savings
  15. Shop: The Card You Pick Can Save You Money

16. Welcome to the Federal Reserve
17. When Your Home Is on the Line: What You Should Know about Home Equity Lines of Credit
18. Looking for the Best Mortgage
19. Government in the Sunshine
20. Guide to Federal Reserve Regulations

By Order of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, October 27, 1999.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Associate Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 99-28588 Filed 11-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 991 0178]

### El Paso Energy Corporation; Analysis To Aid Public Comment

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed consent agreement.

**SUMMARY:** The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the draft complaint that accompanies the consent agreement and the terms of the consent order—embodied in the consent agreement—that would settle these allegations.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before November 23, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20580.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Parker or Phillip Broyles, FTC/H-374, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20580 (202) 326-2574 or 326-2805.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46 and § 2.34 of the Commission's rules of practice (16 CFR 2.34), notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the complaint. An electronic copy of the full text of the consent agreement package can be obtained from the FTC Home Page (for October 22, 1999), on

the World Wide Web, at "http://www.ftc.gov/os/actions97.htm." A paper copy can be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Room, Room H-130, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580, either in person or by calling (202) 326-3627.

Public comment is invited. Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington DC 20580. Two paper copies of each comment should be filed, and should be accompanied, if possible, by a 3½ inch diskette containing an electronic copy of the comment. Such comments or views will be considered by the Commission and will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office in accordance with § 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's rules of practice (16 CFR 4.9(b)(6)(ii)).

### Analysis of the Draft Complaint and Proposed Consent Order To Aid Public Comment

#### I. Introduction

The Federal Trade Commission ("Commission") has accepted for public comment from El Paso Energy Corporation ("El Paso") an Agreement Containing Consent Order ("the proposed consent order"). El Paso has also reviewed a draft complaint that the Commission contemplates issuing. The proposed consent order is designed to remedy likely anticompetitive effects arising from El Paso's proposed acquisition of all of the voting securities of Sonat Inc.

#### II. Description of the Parties and the Proposed Acquisition

El Paso, a Delaware corporation headquartered in Houston, Texas, owns and operates natural gas transmission, gas gathering and processing, energy, marketing, power generation and international energy infrastructure development companies. It operates through the following business units: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, East Tennessee Natural Gas Company, El Paso Natural Gas Company, El Paso Field Services Company, El Paso Energy Marketing Company, and El Paso Energy International Company.

In addition to its wholly-owned interests, El Paso also controls offshore pipelines through its interest in Leviathan Gas Pipeline Partners, L.P. ("Leviathan"), a publicly held Delaware limited partnership. El Paso holds a 34.5 percent effective ownership interest in, and is the general partner of, Leviathan. Leviathan owns interests in pipelines across the Gulf of Mexico, including Stingray and Viosca Knoll Gathering