

facilities and staff expertise needed to perform post-irradiation examination as a matter of its routine activities and no major modifications to facilities or processing capabilities would be required. In addition, ORNL is only about 500 km from the reactor site that would irradiate the fuel, considerably closer than ANL—W, which is about 3,700 km away.

Use of MOX Fuel in Canadian Uranium Deuterium Reactors

In the Storage and Disposition PEIS ROD, DOE retained the option to use some of the surplus plutonium as MOX fuel in Canadian Uranium Deuterium (CANDU) reactors, which would have been undertaken only in the event that a multilateral agreement were negotiated among Russia, Canada, and the United States. Since the SPD Draft EIS was issued, DOE determined that adequate reactor capacity is available in the United States for disposition of that portion of the U.S. surplus plutonium suitable for MOX fuel. Therefore, DOE is no longer actively pursuing the CANDU option. However, the CANDU option is still being considered for the disposition of Russian surplus plutonium. To assist U.S., Russia, and Canada in considering this option the three countries are jointly conducting an experiment which will involve irradiating MOX fuel pins that have been fabricated from U.S. and Russian surplus weapons plutonium in a Canadian research reactor. This effort involves a one-time shipment of a small quantity of weapons plutonium from the U.S. to Canada.

Conclusion

The Department of Energy has decided to disposition up to 50 metric tons of plutonium at SRS using a hybrid approach that involves both the ceramic can-in-canister immobilization approach and the MOX fuel approach. Approximately 17 metric tons of surplus plutonium will be immobilized in a ceramic form, placed in cans, and embedded in large canisters containing high-level vitrified waste for ultimate disposal in a geologic repository pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Approximately 33 metric tons of surplus plutonium will be used to fabricate MOX fuel, which will be irradiated in existing domestic, commercial reactors. The reactors are the Catawba Nuclear Station near York, South Carolina; the McGuire Nuclear Station near Huntersville, North Carolina; and the North Anna Power Station near Mineral, Virginia. The resulting spent fuel will be placed in a geologic repository pursuant to the

Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Pursuing this hybrid approach provides the best opportunity for U.S. leadership in working with Russia to implement similar options for reducing Russia's excess plutonium in parallel. Further, it sends the strongest possible signal to the world of U.S. determination to reduce stockpiles of surplus weapons-usable plutonium as quickly as possible and in an irreversible manner. Pursuing both immobilization and MOX fuel fabrication also provides important insurance against uncertainties of implementing either approach by itself. The construction of new facilities for the disposition of surplus U.S. plutonium would not take place unless there is significant progress on plans for plutonium disposition in Russia. In the plutonium disposition effort, the United States will work with Russia to develop acceptable methods and technologies for transparency measures, including appropriate international verification measures and stringent standards of physical protection, control, and accounting for the management of surplus plutonium.

Issued in Washington, DC, January 4, 2000.

Bill Richardson,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-594 Filed 1-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Docket Nos. FE C&E 99-27, C&E 99-28, C&E 99-29, C&E 99-30 & C&E 99-31

Office of Fossil Energy; Notice of Filings of Coal Capability of Cleco Evangeline LLC, Liberty Electric Power, LLC, ANP Bellingham Energy Co., Midlothian Energy Limited Partnership and La Paloma Generating Company, LLC; Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of filings.

SUMMARY: Cleco Evangeline LLC, Liberty Electric Power, LLC, ANP Bellingham Energy Company, Midlothian Energy Limited Partnership and La Paloma Generating Company, LLC have submitted coal capability self-certifications pursuant to section 201 of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978, as amended.

ADDRESSES: Copies of self-certification filings are available for public inspection, upon request, in the Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex, Fossil Energy, Room 4G-039, FE-27, Forrestal

Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ellen Russell at (202) 586-9624

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title II of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (FUA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*), provides that no new baseload electric powerplant may be constructed or operated without the capability to use coal or another alternate fuel as a primary energy source.

In order to meet the requirement of coal capability, the owner or operator of such facilities proposing to use natural gas or petroleum as its primary energy source shall certify, pursuant to FUA section 201(d), to the Secretary of Energy prior to construction, or prior to operation as a base load powerplant, that such powerplant has the capability to use coal or another alternate fuel. Such certification establishes compliance with section 201(a) as of the date filed with the Department of Energy. The Secretary is required to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** that a certification has been filed. The following owners/operators of proposed new baseload powerplants have filed a self-certification in accordance with section 201(d).

Owner: Cleco Evangeline LLC (C&E 99-27).

Operator: Cleco Evangeline LLC.

Location: Evangeline Parish, Louisiana.

Plant Configuration: Combined-cycle.

Capacity: 710 MW.

Fuel: Natural gas.

Purchasing Entities: Williams Energy Marketing & Trading Co.

In-Service Date: June 1, 2000.

Owner: Liberty Electric Power, LLC (C&E 99-28).

Operator: Liberty Electric Power, LLC.

Location: Delaware County, PA.

Plant Configuration: Combined-cycle.

Capacity: 500 MW.

Fuel: Natural gas.

Purchasing Entities: To be determined.

In-Service Date: Fourth quarter, 2001.

Owner: ANP Bellingham Energy Company (C&E 99-29).

Operator: ANP Bellingham Energy Company.

Location: Bellingham, MA.

Plant Configuration: Combined-cycle.

Capacity: 570 MW.

Fuel: Natural gas.

Purchasing Entities: Competitive market participants in New England.
In-Service Date: First quarter, 2002.

Owner: Midlothian Energy Limited Partnership (C&E 99-30).
Operator: Midlothian Energy Limited Partnership.

Location: Midlothian, TX.
Plant Configuration: Combined-cycle.
Capacity: 1100 MW.

Fuel: Natural gas.

Purchasing Entities: Competitive market participants in Texas.

In-Service Date: Fourth quarter, 2001.

Owner: La Paloma Generating Company, LLC (C&E 99-31).

Operator: La Paloma Generating Company, LLC.

Location: McKittrick, CA.

Plant Configuration: Combined-cycle.
Capacity: 1,040 MW.

Fuel: Natural gas.

Purchasing Entities: California Power Exchange.

In-Service Date: Winter 2001.

Issued in Washington, DC, January 5, 2000.

Anthony J. Como,

*Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation,
 Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex, Office of Coal
 & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.*

[FR Doc. 00-593 Filed 1-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-60-000]

Associated Natural Gas Company, a division of Arkansas Western Gas Company; Notice of Application

January 5, 2000.

Take notice that on December 22, 1999, Associated Natural Gas Company, a division of Arkansas Western Gas Company (ANG), 1083 Sain Street, P.O. Box 1408, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703, filed in Docket No. CP00-60-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(f) of the Natural Gas Act, for approval of a revised service area determination as a result of a sale of facilities in the state of Missouri to Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) and a request for continuation of its waiver of the Commission's accounting and reporting requirements ordinarily applicable to natural gas companies, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222).

ANG states that it presently has a section 7(f) service area determination which allows it to move gas across the Arkansas-Missouri state line without becoming subject to the comprehensive jurisdiction of the Commission. It is stated that ANG has agreed to sell its Missouri facilities, except for two fifty-foot stub lines to Atmos. ANG states that, while the Missouri assets of the ANG system will be sold to Atmos, there will be a continuing need for ANG and Atmos to deliver gas to each other's systems. ANG states that, after the sale of facilities, it will use the stub lines to receive gas from Atmos or deliver gas to Atmos, depending on the circumstances. It is stated that Atmos has filed in Docket No. CP00-56-000 for a blanket certificate under Section 284.224 of the Commission's Regulations.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before January 26, 2000, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, 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. 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.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the 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 and permission for abandonment are 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 ANG to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-540 Filed 1-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-56-000]

Atmos Energy Corporation; Notice of Application

January 5, 2000.

Take notice that on December 22, 1999, Atmos Energy Corporation, (Atmos), Three Lincoln Center, 5430 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75040, filed in Docket No CP00-56-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, for a limited-jurisdiction blanket certificate pursuant to Section 284.224 of the Commission's Regulations to engage in non-discriminatory basis sales and/or transportation of natural gas through facilities in the state of Missouri and for approval of the rates for the services as set forth in an operating statement attached to the application, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222).

Atmos states that it has entered into an agreement to purchase the Missouri intrastate facilities of Arkansas Western Gas (AWG) doing business in Missouri as Associated Natural Gas (ANG). Atmos further states that the authorizations requested are necessary to preserve the ability of AWG and customers with access to AWG's Arkansas distribution system to access supplies of natural gas available through interstate pipeline delivery points in Missouri. Atmos proposes maximum rates for firm transportation service of \$5.3858 per MMBtu and for interruptible transportation service of \$0.1771 per MMBtu with minimum rates in each case of \$0.00 per MMBtu, with each rate subject to an add-on fuel charge. It is indicated that the proposed rates are derived on a SFV rate design and based on the projected cost of service based in part of the historical cost of service and throughput experience of ANG in operating the Missouri facilities. It is