

the program entitled "Identification and Demonstration of Preferred Upstream Management Practices (PUMP) for the Oil Industry." The Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), on behalf of the National Petroleum Technology Office (NPTO), seeks cost-shared research and development applications for identification of preferred management practices (PMP) addressing a production barrier in a region and the documentation of these practices for use by the oil industry. The near-term goal is to increase current domestic oil production quickly.

Awards will be made to a limited number of applicants based on the economic and technical merit of the application, the integrated approach and technical understanding, the technical and management capabilities of the applicant organization(s), the planned technology transfer activities, and availability of DOE funding.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Keith R. Miles, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Acquisition and Assistance Division, P.O. Box 10940, MS 921-143, Pittsburgh PA 15236-0940, Telephone: (412) 386-5984, FAX: (412) 386-6137, E-mail: miles@netl.doe.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Solicitation Number:* DE-PS26-00BC15304.

*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 will be made. Subject to availability of funding, DOE expects to provide funds totaling \$4.8 million. The program seeks to sponsor projects for a single budget/project period of 24 months or less. Due to the low risk and near-term nature of the PUMP program and the potential for a process or technology demonstration, all applicants are required to cost share at a minimum of 50% of the project total. Details of the cost sharing requirement, and the specific funding levels are contained in the solicitation.

*Solicitation Release Date:* This Program Solicitation (available in both WordPerfect 6.1 and Portable Document Format (PDF)) is expected to be ready for release on or about April 15, 2000 and will be available from NETL's World Wide Web Server Internet System at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business>. Telephone requests, written requests, E-mail requests, or facsimile requests for a copy of the solicitation package will

not be accepted and/or honored. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the solicitation. The actual solicitation document will allow for requests for explanation and/or interpretation.

*Background:* The National Petroleum Technology Office of the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy (FE) has authorized DOE's National Energy Technology Lab (NETL) to act on its behalf and solicit cost-shared applications for identification of preferred management practices (PMP) addressing a production barrier in a region and the documentation of these practices for use by the industry. The near-term goal is to increase current domestic oil production quickly.

The mission of the Department of Energy's Fossil Energy Oil Program is driven by the needs of the oil producers. The overall program is designed to develop unique technologies and processes to locate untapped resources; to extend the life of domestic energy resources; and to reduce well abandonment—all essential to maximizing the production of domestic resources while protecting our environment. The National Petroleum Technology Office's Preferred Upstream Management Practices (PUMP) program as a part of this overall goal is designed to facilitate production of existing oil reserves more quickly without sacrificing efficiency or environmental protection.

Based on prior successful results from demonstrations of under-utilized or advanced technology coupled with reservoir characterization, the DOE Oil Program seeks to demonstrate that the identification and use of PMP can overcome regional constraints to increased production. The program will accept proposals that combine the identification of preferred management practices (PMP) to overcome regional production constraints and aggressive technology transfer that will promote the use of those practices. Barriers can be identified as technical, physical, regulatory, environmental, or economic. The selected projects are expected to employ the following four (4) strategies in order to have a rapid impact on production: (1) focus on regions that present the biggest potential for additional oil production quickly, (2) integrate solutions to technological, economic, regulatory, and data constraints, (3) demonstrate the validity of these practices either through field demonstration during the project or documentation of well-run successful past demonstration, and (4) use known technology transfer mechanisms.

Using a regional approach where the projects will have a wide applicability, an integrated approach scheduling tasks along parallel paths to facilitate a quicker response, and operating with existing networks, the production results in the field should be accelerated. The documentation and evaluation of the PMP will be a valuable resource to all producers in the applicable area and possibly other regions as well.

This program expects near-term results and actions that will create data or technological resources suitable for long-term use. Teaming is encouraged and the proposal partners could include, but not be limited to, producers, producer organizations, universities, service companies, State agencies or organizations, non-Federal research laboratories, and Native American Tribes or Corporations. They will demonstrate practices and/or technologies that can increase production, increase cost savings, or rapid returns on the capital investments of the operators. New technologies/processes or under-used but effective applications of existing technologies/processes critical to a region will be demonstrated.

The DOE will make publicly available over the Internet the data on preferred practices resulting from this program. The resulting publicly available databases of the preferred practices will be interactive, Internet accessible, should include both technologies and practices, and address constraints in the exploration, production, or environmental areas.

Issued in Pittsburgh, PA on April 4, 2000.

**Dale A. Siciliano,**

*Deputy Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-142-000]

#### Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

April 5, 2000.

Take notice that on March 29, 2000, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 12801 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-1046, filed a request with the Commission in Docket No. CP00-142-000, pursuant to section 157.205 and 157.21(b) of the

Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for authorization to abandon approximately 410 feet of 2-inch pipeline, appurtenances, and a point of delivery to Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. (CGV), all located in Fauquier County, Virginia authorized in blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83-76-000, all as more fully set forth in the request on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

There are no other points of delivery associated with this section of pipeline. The proposed abandonment will not result in any loss or reduction in service to any customers.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after the Commission has issued this notice, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the allowed time, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-8900 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-287-048]

#### El Paso Natural Gas Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

April 5, 2000.

Take notice that on March 31, 2000, El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso) tendered for filing to become part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1-A, the following tariff sheets, to become effective April 1, 2000:

Twenty-Eighth Revised Sheet No. 30  
Twenty-Third Revised Sheet No. 31  
Fifth Revised Sheet No. 31A

El Paso states that the above tariff sheets are being filed to implement a

specific negotiated rate transaction in accordance with the Commission's Statement of Policy on Alternatives to Traditional Cost-of-Service Ratemaking for Natural Gas Pipelines.

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 web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-8903 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-286-002]

#### Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc.; Notice of Compliance Filing

April 5, 2000.

Take notice that on March 31, 2000, Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc. (Granite State) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Third Revised Volume No. 1, the revised tariff sheets listed below for effectiveness on April 1, 2000.

Substitute First Revised Sheet No. 10  
Substitute Fourth Revised Sheet No. 24  
Substitute Second Revised Sheet No. 141  
Substitute Second Revised Sheet No. 142  
Substitute Third Revised Sheet No. 144  
Substitute First Revised Sheet No. 145  
Substitute First Revised Sheet No. 146  
Substitute First Revised Sheet No. 147  
Substitute First Revised Sheet No. 148  
Substitute First Revised Sheet No. 149  
Substitute First Revised Sheet No. 150  
Substitute First Revised Sheet No. 441

Granite State explains that the purpose of this filing is to comply with the March 17, 2000, order issued in this proceeding.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed as provided in 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. 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 web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-8906 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP00-233-000]

#### Midwestern Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Tariff Filing

April 5, 2000.

Take notice that on March 31, 2000, Midwestern Gas Transmission Company (Midwestern), tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the revised Tariff sheets identified in Appendix A to the filing. Midwestern proposes that the tariff sheets be made effective on May 1, 2000.

Midwestern states that as part of its transition to interactive Internet communications in compliance with the Commission's Order No. 587-I it has undertaken a major rewrite of its critical computer system functions. In conjunction with the rewrite, Midwestern further states that it is taking the opportunity to initiate additional modifications to its computer systems in order to streamline certain of Midwestern's processes and to provide additional service flexibilities (collectively, hereinafter referred to as Service Upgrades). In order to provide the Service Upgrades by completion and implementation of the rewrite, Midwestern is seeking approval for certain modifications to its existing tariff and pro forma service agreements.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the