

respect to a long-term agenda for educational research, development, and dissemination, and to provide advice and assistance to the Assistant Secretary in administering the duties of the Office. The meeting is open to the public. Persons who wish to attend should contact the Board office at (202) 208-0692. The Board will review and give final approval to revisions of its budget plan for the remainder of FY 2000. Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the office of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board, Suite 100, 80 F St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20208-7564.

Dated: February 11, 2000.

Eve M. Bither,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 00-3680 Filed 2-15-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Oak Ridge Reservation

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), Oak Ridge. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Wednesday, March 8, 2000: 6:00-9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Garden Plaza Hotel, 215 South Illinois Street, Oak Ridge, TN.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Theresa Perry, Federal Coordinator, Department of Energy Oak Ridge Operations Office, P.O. Box 2001, EM-90, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, (865) 576-8956.

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:

1. Project Team Leaders' reports on their team's current and planned activities.

2. Board members' trip reports on the SSAB Chairs Meeting in Idaho, and on the Western Stakeholder Forum on Land Use Controls.

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 Carol Davis 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 Deputy Designated Federal Official 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 at the end of the meeting.

Minutes: Minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Department of Energy's Information Resource Center at 105 Broadway, Oak Ridge, TN between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by writing to Carol Davis, Department of Energy Oak Ridge Operations Office, P.O. Box 2001, EM-90, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, or by calling her at (423) 576-0418.

Issued at Washington, DC on February 11, 2000.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-3695 Filed 2-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket Nos. PP-50 and PP-219]

Application for Presidential Permit, Central Power & Light; Request to Rescind Presidential Permit, Comision Federal de Electricidad

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Application; Request for Rescission.

SUMMARY: Central Power and Light Company (CPL) has applied for a Presidential permit to operate and maintain existing electric transmission facilities across the U.S. border with Mexico. In the same application, Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE) has requested a rescission of its Presidential permit originally granted for the construction of these same cross-border transmission facilities.

DATES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before March 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments, protests, or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Import and Export (FE-27),

Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Russell (Program Office) 202-586-9624 or Michael T. Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-2793.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of facilities at the international border of the United States for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign country is prohibited in the absence of a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038.

On February 9, 2000, CPL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Central and South West Corporation, a public utility regulated by both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Public Utility Commission of Texas, filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit. CPL proposes to operate and maintain existing international transmission facilities at Eagle Pass, Texas. Construction of these existing facilities was authorized by Presidential Permit PP-50 issued to CFE, the national electric utility of Mexico. The CPL application also includes a letter from CFE requesting that DOE rescind PP-50 coincident with issuance of a Presidential permit to CPL.

Presidential Permit PP-50 originally was granted by the Federal Power Commission on February 8, 1971, in Order E-6192, and authorized construction of a 138,000-volt (138-kV) transmission line extending approximately 1.3 miles from CPL's Eagle Pass, Texas, substation to the United States border with Mexico. From the border, the transmission line continues approximately 3.7 miles to Piedras Negras in Mexico's State of Coahuila. CPL does not propose to change the physical facilities previously authorized to CFE. Rather, CPL proposes to change the manner in which the facilities will be operated.

In its application, CPL indicates that it is installing High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) equipment in the form of Voltage Source Converter technology at its Eagle Pass substation to address transmission reliability problems that exist in the area. CPL expects that the installation of this equipment will relieve the existing transmission constraints within the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. In its Presidential permit application, CPL is requesting DOE to authorize the connection of this HVDC equipment to

the international transmission facilities authorized by PP-50 in order to enhance cross-border transmission of electric energy.

Presently, the PP-50 facilities can only be operated as a radial connection between the CFE and CPL systems. In this mode of operation, electric energy can only be transmitted from one system to the other by means of a "block-loading" scheme. Connection of the HVDC equipment to the PP-50 facilities would convert the interconnection with CFE to a continuous asynchronous interconnection.

On July 27, 1999, DOE published a notice in the **Federal Register** indicating its intention to amend certain Presidential permits to require permit holders to provide non-discriminatory open access transmission services over their international transmission lines. In that notice, the cross-border facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-50 were included in a list of facilities proposed to receive this open access condition. Since the facilities covered by Presidential Permits PP-50 and the proposed PP-219 are the same, it would be DOE's intention to add such an open access condition to PP-219, if granted, at the conclusion of DOE's open access proceeding in Docket No. 99-1.

Procedural Matters

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest this application should file a petition to intervene or protest at the address provided above in accordance with section 385.211 or 385.214 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFE 385.211, 385.214).

Fifteen copies of such petitions and protests should be filed with DOE on or before the date listed above. Additional copies of such petitions to intervene or protest also should be filed directly with: Alan McQueen, Project Manager, Central and South West Service Inc., Two West Second Street, Tulsa, OK 74103 and Carolyn Y. Thompson, Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, 51 Louisiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001-2113.

Before a Presidential permit may be issued or amended, DOE must determine that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. In addition, DOE must consider the environmental impacts of the proposed action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). DOE also must obtain the concurrences of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense before taking final action on a Presidential permit application.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above. In addition, the application may be reviewed or downloaded from the Fossil Energy Home Page at: <http://www.fe.doe.gov>. Upon reaching the Fossil Energy Home page, select "Electricity" from the "Regulatory Info" menu, and then "Pending Proceedings" from the options menu.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 10, 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. 00-3697 Filed 2-15-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Competitive Financial Assistance for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of competitive financial assistance solicitation for energy efficiency science initiative.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) is announcing a competitive solicitation for applications for cooperative agreements to pursue scientific and engineering research and development (R&D) in enabling technologies. The solicitation will focus on areas that have the potential for cross-cutting applications in the field of energy efficiency across the transportation, industrial, and building sectors. It is estimated that funding of approximately \$10.7 million will be available for 10 to 15 awards under this solicitation in fiscal year 2000.

Six priority areas of interest have been identified: (1) Advanced materials; (2) biobased products and bioenergy; (3) combustion processes and systems; (4) sensors and controls; (5) computational sciences; and (6) energy storage and power conversion. The awards will be for a period of one to three years. Proposals will be subject to the objective merit review procedures for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE).

It is anticipated that the solicitation will encourage applications to be submitted by institutions of higher education and that such institutions will lead teams including participants such as for-profit entities, non-profit organizations, national laboratories, state government agencies, and/or individual researchers located in the

United States. Applications that are submitted by institutions of higher education and that reflect a collaborative team approach will be given favorable consideration in the selection process.

Applications by DOE management and operating contractors (M&O) will not be eligible for award. However, applications that include performance of a portion of the project by an M&O contractor will be eligible and encouraged, provided that the proposed use of any such entity is specifically authorized in writing by the DOE Contracting Officer or authorized designee responsible for the M&O based on specified criteria.

This solicitation provides opportunities to leverage funds for important research and development (R&D) designed to advance technologies that promote energy efficiency. Proposed cost-sharing will be given favorable consideration in the selection process.

DATES: Later in February 2000, a draft solicitation document, which will include greater detail about specific program areas of interest, application instructions, due dates and evaluation criteria, will be issued for public comment for a ten-day period. The final solicitation is expected to be issued in March 2000.

ADDRESSES: The formal solicitation document will be disseminated electronically as Solicitation No. DE-PS36-00GO10500 through the Golden Field Office's World Wide Web site at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/golden/solicitations.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Blvd., Golden, CO 80401. The Contract Specialist is James Damm, at FAX (303) 275-4788 or e-mail at jim_damm@nrel.gov. All questions or comments concerning this announcement must be in writing and should be directed to the attention of Mr. Damm. The preferred method of submitting questions and/or comments is through e-mail. Only questions and comments submitted to Mr. Damm will be considered. Questions and/or comments requiring coordination with EERE program officials will be directed to the cognizant offices.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of EERE implements DOE's strategic objectives of increasing the efficiency and productivity of energy use, while limiting harmful environmental impacts; reducing the vulnerability of the U.S. economy to disruptions in