

energy supplies; ensuring the existence of a competitive utility power industry that can deliver adequate and affordable supplies of energy with minimal negative environmental impacts; supporting U.S. energy, environmental, and trade and other economic interests in global markets; and delivering leading-edge technologies.

Proposals will be accepted in the following areas or combination of areas: (1) Advanced materials; (2) biobased products and bioenergy; (3) combustion processes; (4) sensors and controls; (5) computational sciences; and (6) energy storage and power conversion.

Additional information about the programs of the Office of EERE can be obtained at the Office's

Internet site at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/ee.html>.

Issued in Golden, CO.

Dated: February 9, 2000.

Matthew Barron,

Contracting Officer, Golden Field Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP98-206-005]

Atlanta Gas Light Company; Notice of Technical Conference

February 10, 2000.

Take notice that a technical conference will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2000, at 10 am., in a room to be designated at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All interested parties and Staff are permitted to attend.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-3650 Filed 2-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-76-000]

Distrigas of Massachusetts Corporation; Notice of Application

February 10, 2000.

Take notice that on February 3, 2000, Distrigas of Massachusetts Corporation (DOMAC), 75 State Street, 12th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, filed in

Docket No. CP00-76-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and Part 157 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Regulations, for a limited-term certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing DOMAC to install on a temporary basis, at its liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Everett, Massachusetts, certain air injection equipment needed to modify the Btu content of LNG prior to delivery into a pipeline, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. DOMAC further requests that the limited-term certificate be granted for a period through March 31, 2000, the end of the winter heating season. In addition, DOMAC requested that the Commission issue a temporary certificate by February 4, 2000, pursuant to Section 157.17 of the Commission's Regulations, pending final action on the limited-term authorization. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

DOMAC explains that, due to recent weather conditions, very high LNG demand among DOMAC's customers has created a temporary shortage of LNG supply. In order to relieve the LNG shortage, DOMAC states that it has arranged for a cargo of high-Btu-content LNG to arrive at the Everett terminal for unloading on February 6, 2000. Another cargo, of lower-Btu-content LNG, is expected to arrive on February 8, 2000. The additional air injection equipment, which consists of two natural gas-fired, truck-mounted air compressors and appurtenant facilities for air stabilization, is said to be necessary to permit more rapid stabilization of the high-Btu-content LNG in order to permit full utilization of DOMAC's existing send-out capacity to meet the current regional gas demand and permit the unexpected receipt of a cargo of high-Btu-content LNG followed within a short interval by a second cargo.

Based on the statements made in DOMAC's filing, the Commission determined that an emergency exists within the meaning of the Natural Gas Act and, on February 4, 2000, issued temporary authorization, without prejudice to the ultimate disposition of DOMAC's application for a limited-term certificate, to install air injection equipment at DOMAC's LNG terminal in Everett, Massachusetts.

Any questions concerning this application should be directed to Robert A. Nailling, Senior Counsel, Distrigas of Massachusetts Corporation, 75 State

Street, 12th Floor, Boston Massachusetts 02109 at (617) 526-8300.

Any person desiring to be heard or making any protest with reference to said application should on or before February 24, 2000, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, 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. The Commission's rules require that protestors provide copies of their protests to the party or person to whom the protests are directed. 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.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents issued by the Commission, filed by the applicant, or filed by all other intervenors. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order. However, an intervenor must serve copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as filing an original and 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of such comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents, and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission, and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a Federal court.

The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters or those requesting intervenor status.

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 NGA and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on these applications 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 is 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 DOMAC to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-3651 Filed 2-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PL99-3-001]

Certification of New Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities; Order Clarifying Statement of Policy

Issued February 9, 2000.

Before Commissioners: James J. Hoecker, Chairman; William L. Massey, Linda Breathitt, and Curt Hebert, Jr.

On September 15, 1999, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a Statement of Policy (Policy Statement) revisiting its policy for certificating new construction not covered by the optional or blanket certificate authorizations. The purpose of the Policy Statement was to provide the industry with guidance as to the analytical framework the Commission will use to evaluate proposals for certificating new construction.

The Policy Statement sets out the analytical steps the Commission will use. It provides that when a certificate application is filed, the threshold question applicable to existing pipelines is whether the project can proceed without subsidies from their existing customers. The next step is to determine whether the applicant has made efforts to eliminate or minimize any adverse effects the project might have on the existing customers of the pipeline

proposing the project, existing pipelines in the market and their captive customers, or landowners and communities affected by the route of the new pipeline. If the proposed project will not have any adverse effect on the existing customers of the expanding pipeline, existing pipelines in the market and their captive customers, or the economic interests of landowners and communities affected by route of the new pipeline, then no balancing of benefits against adverse effects would be necessary. The Commission would proceed to a preliminary determination or a final order. If residual adverse effects on the three interests are identified, after efforts have been made to minimize them, then the Commission will proceed to evaluate the project by balancing the evidence of public benefits to be achieved against the residual adverse effects. The Policy Statement sets forth in detail the considerations that the Commission will apply to each of these steps. At the end of the analysis, the Commission will approve an application for a certificate only if the public benefits from the project outweigh any adverse effects. This policy approach strives to advance development of a sustainable energy infrastructure that supports economic growth, environmental protection and other social benefits over the life of the projects.

Twelve parties sought rehearing or clarification of the Policy Statement. The issues raised by these parties include application of the Policy Statement to optional certificates, the application of the threshold no-subsidy requirement, issues relating to some of the factors to be considered in the balancing text, and the application of the policy to projects preceding its issuance. These issues are discussed in turn below.

Application of Policy Statement to Optional Certificates

The Policy Statement indicated that this policy does not apply to construction authorized under 18 CFR Part 157, Subparts E and F (optional and blanket certificates).

The Coastal Companies request that the Commission clarify that the Policy Statement will apply the public interest balancing factors to pipeline projects that are filed under the optional certificate regulations. The Coastal Companies contend that this clarification is necessary to ensure that there is no major policy gap in the Commission's administration of section 7 of the NGA between traditional and optional certificate applicants, and that both types of applicants will be entitled

to a certificate of public convenience and necessity only to the extent that such applicants clearly demonstrate that the project's benefits exceed its economic and social costs.

Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCO) and El Paso concur that the Policy Statement should apply to projects filed under the optional certificate regulations, as well as to traditional applicants. It notes that the overarching standard applicable to all requests for certificate authority under NGA section 7, regardless of whether the certificate is sought under traditional or optional certificate procedures, is the requirement that a certificate applicant show that its proposal is required by the present or future public convenience and necessity.

Enron requests that the Commission either require that optional certificates make the same showing of public benefits and mitigation of adverse effects that is required of traditional section 7(c) applicants, or eliminate this requirement for traditional certificates.

The optional certificate regulations establish procedures whereby an eligible applicant may obtain, for the purposes of providing new service, a certificate authorizing: the transportation of natural gas; sales of natural gas; the construction and operation of natural gas facilities; the acquisition and operation of natural gas facilities; and conditional pre-granted abandonment of such activities and facilities. If an applicant complies with the requirements set forth in the Commission's regulations for optional certificates, it is presumed, subject to rebuttal, that the proposed new service is or will be required by the present or future public convenience and necessity.

The optional certificate procedures were established to provide expedited treatment of applications for service under section 7 of the NGA. A certificate and pre-granted abandonment are available under the optional certificate procedures to allow any applicant to institute jurisdictional service and to construct and operate facilities for such services. To qualify, the applicant must agree to comply with certain terms and conditions, the most important of which is that the applicant must accept the full risk of the proposed venture. The applicant's willingness to assume the full risk of the project is critical to the presumption that the project is in the public interest.

In the Policy Statement, the Commission explained that as the natural gas marketplace has changed, the Commission's traditional factors for