

minutes, except for public officials and representatives of groups, who will be allotted ten minutes each. DOE encourages those providing oral comments to also submit them in writing. Comment cards will also be available for those who prefer to submit their comments in written form. Speakers may be asked clarifying questions, but the scoping meetings will not be conducted as evidentiary hearings.

Upon close of the scoping period, DOE and MEQB will review all comments and prepare a draft Scope Statement that will identify the proposed scope of the EIS and be issued to all interested parties. The issuance of the draft Scope Statement will be accompanied by a notice of an MEQB/DOE public meeting on the Statement at which the Agencies will finalize the Scope Statement. The final Scope Statement will be distributed to interested parties.

DOE and MEQB will make the final Scope Statement, transcripts of the scoping meetings, the draft EIS and final EIS when issued, and project-related materials available for public review in the following reading rooms:

U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, Telephone: (202) 586-3142

U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, Public Reading Room, 15013 Denver West Parkway, Golden, CO 80401, Telephone: (303) 384-6565  
Region 6, Willmar Public Library, 410 Fifth Street, SW., Willmar, MN 56201-3298, Telephone: (320) 235-3162

Minnesota Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning Library, 658 Cedar Street, 300 Centennial Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155, Telephone: (651) 296-3985

Legislative Reference Library, 645 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155, Telephone: (651) 296-3398

Granite Falls Public Library, 155 Seventh Avenue, Granite Falls, MN 56241, Telephone: (320) 564-3738

**NEPA/MEPA Process:** The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the CEQ's NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), DOE's NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR Part 1021), and Minnesota's MEPA and implementing rules (Minnesota Statutes Ch 116D and Minnesota Rules, Part 4410).

After the completion of the public scoping process, a draft EIS will be prepared. Interested persons, the public,

and agencies will be notified when the draft is available through a Notice of Availability published in the **Federal Register**, the *EQB Monitor*, and local media. The draft EIS will be distributed to individuals and agencies that request a copy and will also be placed in the reading rooms listed above. A 45-day comment period on the draft EIS is planned, and public hearings to receive comments will be held approximately four weeks after distribution of the draft EIS. In addition, under the Minnesota Power Plant Siting Act procedures, a Minnesota administrative law judge will hold a formal hearing on the *Application for Site Designation and Certificate of Site Compatibility*, which will include a review of information in the draft EIS. The draft EIS public comment hearings and the formal siting hearing may be combined. The locations and times for comment hearings will be included in the Notice of Availability. The draft EIS is scheduled to be issued during spring 1999.

The final EIS, which will consider the public comments received on the draft EIS, is scheduled to be published during summer 1999. DOE and MEQB will coordinate their decision processes, but each agency will document its decision according to its specific governing statutes. No sooner than 30 days after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability of the final EIS is published in the **Federal Register**, DOE will issue its Record of Decision and publish it in the **Federal Register**. Minnesota State Statutes require that the MEQB issue a decision as to the adequacy of the EIS and if it is deemed adequate, issue a Site Designation and Certificate of Site Compatibility. MEQB will issue its decisions in the *EQB Monitor*. It is currently planned to issue simultaneous DOE/MEQB decision documents during summer/fall 1999.

Signed in St. Paul, Minnesota, this 30th day of September 1998.

**Rod Sando,**

*Chairman, MEQB, State of Minnesota.*

Signed in Washington, DC, this 1st day of October 1998.

**Peter N. Brush,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary, Environment, Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Energy.*  
[FR Doc. 98-26874 Filed 10-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Department of Energy, Los Alamos National Laboratory

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) notice is hereby given of the following Advisory Committee meeting: Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Los Alamos National Laboratory.

**DATES:** Wednesday, October 28, 1998: 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.; 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (public comment session)

**ADDRESSES:** Cochiti Pueblo Tribal Offices, Community Room, Cochiti Pueblo, New Mexico.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Ann DuBois, Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board, Los Alamos National Laboratory, 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544, (505) 665-5048.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Purpose of the Board:** The purpose of the Advisory Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

#### Tentative Agenda

6:00 p.m.—Call to Order by DOE  
6:00 p.m.—Welcome by Chair, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda and Minutes  
6:30 p.m.—Public Comments  
7:00 p.m.—Break  
7:15 p.m.—Board Business  
9:00 p.m.—Adjourn

**Public Participation:** The meeting is open to the public. The public may file written statements with the Committee, either before or after the meeting. A sign-up sheet will also be available at the door of the meeting room to indicate a request to address the Board. Individuals who wish to make oral presentations, other than during the public comment period, should contact Ms. Ann DuBois at (505) 665-5048 five (5) business days prior to the meeting to request that the Board consider the item for inclusion at this or a future meeting. The Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

**Minutes:** The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal

Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 between 9:00 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Ms. M.J. Byrne, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Department of Energy, Los Alamos Area Office, 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87185-5400.

Issued at Washington, DC on September 30, 1998.

**Rachel M. Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-26875 Filed 10-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of the Secretary

#### **Federal Power Act; Delegation of Authority to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of delegation and assignment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the delegation and assignment by the Secretary of Energy to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission of the authority to carry out functions vested in the Secretary under section 202(a) of the Federal Power Act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bonnie A. Suchman, Department of Energy, Office of the General Counsel. Telephone: (202) 586-3359.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary of Energy (Secretary) has authority under Section 202(a) of the Federal Power Act "to divide the country into regional districts for the voluntary interconnection and coordination of facilities for the generation, transmission, and sale of electric energy \* \* \*" 16 U.S.C. § 824a. This function was originally vested in the Federal Power Commission. Subsection 301(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (the "DOE Act") (Pub. L. 95-91) transferred to, and vested in, the Secretary all the functions of the Federal Power Commission not specifically vested by the DOE Act in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission). 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b). Sections 401-407, 503, and 504 of the DOE Act set forth the jurisdiction and authority of the Commission, an independent body within the Department of Energy (DOE). 42 U.S.C. §§ 7171-7177; 7193; 7194. The Federal Power Commission's functions with respect to dividing the

country into regional districts were not specifically vested in the Commission.

Section 642 of the DOE Act permits the Secretary to delegate any of the Secretary's functions to any officer or employee of the Department the Secretary may designate, including the Commission. Moreover, section 402(e) provides that the Commission shall have jurisdiction over any matter the Secretary assigns to the Commission after public notice. Pursuant to these provisions of the DOE Act, public notice is hereby given that the Secretary delegates and assigns to the Commission the authority to carry out certain functions vested in the Secretary. The assignment is in the form of a delegation.

Section 202(a) of the Federal Power Act provides DOE with sufficient authority to establish boundaries for Independent System Operators (ISOs) or other appropriate transmission entities. DOE has not exercised this authority. However, FERC devotes substantial resources to ISO development and regulation. FERC is also increasingly faced with reliability-related issues. Providing FERC with the authority to establish boundaries for ISOs or other appropriate transmission entities could aid in the orderly formation of properly-sized transmission institutions and in addressing reliability-related issues, thereby increasing the reliability of the transmission system. The Department has therefore concluded that the Commission is the most appropriate agency to exercise authority under Section 202(a). Accordingly, the Secretary is delegating to the Commission his authority under Section 202(a) of the Federal Power Act.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on October 1, 1998.

**Bill Richardson,**

*Secretary of Energy.*

#### **Delegation Order No. 0204-166—To the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as Secretary of Energy ("Secretary") and by sections 642 and 402(e) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub.L. 95-91) (the "DOE Act"), there is hereby delegated and assigned to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) the authority to carry out such functions as are vested in the Secretary under section 202(a) of the Federal Power Act. The authority delegated to the Commission may be further delegated within the Commission, in whole or in part, as may be appropriate.

Nothing in this Order shall preclude the Secretary from exercising or further

delegating any of the authority hereby delegated, whenever, in the Secretary's judgment, the exercise or further delegation of such authority is necessary or appropriate to administer the functions vested in the Secretary.

All actions pursuant to any authority delegated prior to this Order or pursuant to any authority delegated by this Order taken prior to and in effect on the date of this Order are hereby confirmed and ratified, and shall remain in full force and effect as if taken under this Order, unless or until rescinded, amended, or superseded.

This Order is effective October 1, 1998.

**Bill Richardson,**

*Secretary of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 98-26873 Filed 10-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**[Docket No. CP98-798-000]**

#### **Florida Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization**

October 1, 1998.

Take notice that on September 24, 1998, Florida Gas Transmission Company (FGT), 1400 Smith Street, P.O. Box 1188, Houston, Texas 77251-1188, filed in Docket No. CP98-798-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.212 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 157.205, 157.212, and 157.216) under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for authorization to replace an existing tap, regulator station, meter station and connecting pipeline, all located in Leon and Wakulla Counties, Florida, under FGT's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-553-000, pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

FGT proposes to abandon an existing regulator station and connecting pipe in Leon County, Florida, installed to deliver gas to the City of Tallahassee (Tallahassee) for its Purdom Plant, and to construct a new delivery tap on its 36-inch mainline, a new regulatory station and less than 50 feet of 12-inch connecting pipeline in Leon County. FGT also proposes to abandon an existing meter station and approximately 300 feet of 12-inch connecting pipeline in Wakulla County, Florida, and to construct a new meter station and connecting pipeline in