

requested amounts to all meritorious applicants, NHTSA may consider the following special award factors in the award decision:

1. Every effort will be made to provide grants to a diverse group of States representing a broad range of geographic, demographic, and use rate characteristics. Thus, preference may be given to an applicant which fits the need for such diversity.

2. Preference may be given to an applicant on the basis that its application is effectively integrated and coordinated with other ongoing efforts in the State, resulting in additional opportunity for immediately increasing usage rates. This could include proposed cost-sharing strategies, and/or the use of other federal, State, local and private funding sources to complement those available under this announcement.

#### Terms and Conditions of the Award

1. Prior to award, each grantee must comply with the certification requirements of 49 CFR Part 20, Department of Transportation New Restrictions on Lobbying, and 49 CFR Part 29, Department of Transportation Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) and Government-wide Requirements for Drug Free Workplace (Grants).

2. Reporting Requirements and Deliverables:

a. Quarterly Progress Reports should include a summary of the previous quarter's activities and accomplishments, as well as the proposed activities for the upcoming quarter. Any decisions and actions required in the upcoming quarter should be included in the report.

b. Draft Final Report: The grantee shall prepare a Draft Final Report that includes a description of the innovative projects conducted, including partners, overall program implementation, evaluation methodology and findings from the program evaluation. In terms of information transfer, it is important to know what worked and what did not work, under what circumstances, and what can be done to avoid potential problems in future projects. The grantee shall submit the Draft Final Report to the COTR 60 days prior to the end of the performance period. The COTR will review the draft report and provide comments to the grantee within 30 days of receipt of the document.

c. Final Report: The grantee shall revise the Draft Final Report to reflect the COTR's comments. The revised final report shall be delivered to the COTR 15 days before the end of the performance

period. The grantee shall supply the COTR:

—A camera ready version of the document as printed.

—A copy, on appropriate media (diskette, Syquest disk, etc.), of the document in the original program format that was used for the printing process.

**Note:** Some documents require several different original program languages (e.g., PageMaker was the program format for the general layout and design and Power point was used for charts and yet another was used for photographs, etc.). Each of these component parts should be available on disk, properly labeled with the program format and the file names. For example, Power point files should be clearly identified by both a descriptive name and file name (e.g., 1994 Fatalities—chart1.ppt).

—A complete version of the assembled document in portable document format (PDF) for placement of the report on the world wide web (WWW). This will be a file usually created with the Adobe Exchange program of the complete assembled document in the PDF format that will actually be placed on the WWW. The document would be completely assembled with all colors, charts, side bars, photographs, and graphics. This can be delivered to NHTSA on a standard 1.44 diskette (for small documents) or on any appropriate archival media (for large documents) such as a CD ROM, TR-1 Mini cartridge, Syquest disk, etc.

—Four additional hard copies of the final document.

3. During the effective performance period of grants awarded as a result of this announcement, the grant shall be subject to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's General Provisions for Assistance Agreements, dated July 1995.

Issued on: December 31, 1998.

**Susan G. McLaughlin,**

*Acting Associate Administrator for Traffic Safety Programs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-98-4034; Notice 15]

#### Pipeline Safety: Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Approved for Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration, Office of Pipeline Safety, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of risk demonstration project approval and finding of no significant impact.

**SUMMARY:** The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) has issued a Risk Management Demonstration Project Order authorizing Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (NGPL) to participate in the Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program. OPS has also made a finding that NGPL's demonstration project will have no significant impacts on the environment.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on this or any other demonstration project will be accepted in the Docket throughout the 4-year demonstration period. Comments should be sent to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, or you can E-Mail your comments to ops.comments@rspa.dot.gov. Comments should identify the docket number, RSPA-98-4034. Persons should submit the original comment document and one (1) copy. Persons wishing to receive confirmation of receipt of their comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard. The Dockets Facility is located on the plaza level of the Nassif Building in Room 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC. The Dockets Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Callsen, OPS, (202) 366-4572, regarding the subject matter of this notice and environmental assessment. Contact the Dockets Unit, (202) 366-9322, for docket material. Comments may also be reviewed on line at the DOT Docket Management System website at <http://dms.dot.gov/>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Project Authorization

On December 31, 1998, OPS, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 60126, issued NGPL a Risk

Management Demonstration Project Order authorizing NGPL to conduct a risk management project on the pipeline system it operates, covering approximately 13,000 miles in 14 states. These states are Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming. OPS has determined, after a comprehensive review of NGPL's demonstration project, that the project is expected to provide superior safety and environmental protection.

More detailed descriptions of all aspects of the NGPL demonstration project, including the OPS rationale for approving the project, are available in the following documents:

(1) 63 FR 46497, "Pipeline Safety: Intent To Approve Project and Environmental Assessment for the Natural Gas Pipe Line Company of America Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program", September 1, 1998.

(2) "Demonstration Project Prospectus: Natural Gas Pipeline Company", available by contacting Elizabeth M. Callsen at 202-366-4572. Includes a map of the NGPL pipeline system.

(3) "Natural Gas Pipeline Company—Application and Work Plan for DOT-OPS Risk Management Demonstration Program", as modified by the December 18, 1998, letter from KN Energy, Inc. to OPS.

(4) "OPS Project Review Team Evaluation of Phillips Demonstration Project".

(5) "Risk Management Demonstration Project Order" for Natural Gas Pipeline Company, December 31, 1998.

These documents and other information pertaining to the NGPL project are accessible to the public via the Pipeline Risk Management Information System (PRIMIS), on the OPS Home Page at <http://ops.dot.gov>.

#### **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

OPS has reviewed NGPL's project for conformity with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332), the Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and Department of Transportation Order 5610.1c, Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts. OPS conducted an Environmental Assessment of NGPL's project (63 FR 46497, "Pipeline Safety: Intent To Approve Project and Environmental Assessment for the Natural Gas Pipe Line Company of America Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program").

OPS received no public comment on the Environmental Assessment.

Based on the analysis and conclusions reached in the Environmental Assessment and the analyses conducted in the above-listed documents, OPS has found that there are no significant impacts on the environment associated with this action. The Environmental Assessment and the other above-listed documents are incorporated by reference into this FONSI. To summarize, the reason that the project will not have a significant effect on the human environment is that the project as now defined requires no regulatory exemption. This project is expected to demonstrate that risk management techniques can be successfully applied toward improving safety and environmental protection. All activities to be performed by NGPL as part of the demonstration project—including investigating risks, integrating risk information, identifying and allocating resources to manage risks, institutionalizing risk management within the company, and effectively communicating about risks with company employees, OPS, and other stakeholders—exceed what is currently required by pipeline safety regulations. This rationale is further discussed in the Environmental Assessment referenced above. When OPS determines that it plans to grant a regulatory exemption, it will amend the Environmental Assessment to analyze any environmental impacts of the proposed exemption.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 31, 1998.

**Richard B. Felder,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Finance Docket No. 33688]

#### **State of Georgia, Department of Transportation—Acquisition Exemption—Line of Central of Georgia Railroad Company**

The State of Georgia, Department of Transportation (GDOT), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire from Central of Georgia Railroad Company (COG) certain railroad assets, including approximately 42.4 miles of rail line. The assets consist of two portions of rail line: (1) a previously abandoned line of railroad between milepost GF-152.2

near Vidalia, Toombs County, GA, and milepost GF-171.0 near Kirby, Emanuel County, GA; and (2) COG's active rail line between milepost GF-171.0 near Kirby and milepost 194.6 near Midville, Burke County, GA.

GDOT, COG, and Ogeechee Railway Company (Ogeechee), a Class III rail carrier, will enter into certain agreements whereby GDOT will acquire from COG fee title to certain railroad assets, but not including the right to conduct common carrier freight operations. The assets will be sold by COG to GDOT, with COG retaining a permanent easement to conduct operations over the line. In a separate and concurrently executed agreement, COG will transfer its retained easement and all rights and obligations pertaining to the assets, including but not limited to the right to maintain and repair the physical assets on the line to Ogeechee, which will continue to conduct freight operations over the line.<sup>1</sup> It is intended that Ogeechee will assume COG's common carrier obligation, and that neither COG nor GDOT will have a common carrier obligation to provide freight services when the transaction is completed.

The transaction was scheduled to take place as soon as possible after the December 18, 1998 effective date of the notice of exemption.

This transaction is related to STB Finance Docket No. 33689, *Ogeechee Railway Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Line of Central of Georgia Railroad Company*, wherein Ogeechee seeks to acquire the right to conduct common carrier freight operations over the line being acquired by GDOT.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.<sup>2</sup> Petitions to reopen the proceeding to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33688, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Luke Cousins, Georgia Department of

<sup>1</sup> Ogeechee currently leases and operates over both portions of the line. See *Ogeechee Railway Company—Lease Exemption—Line of Central of Georgia Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33683 (STB served Dec. 16, 1998).

<sup>2</sup> A motion to dismiss has been filed in this proceeding. The motion will be addressed in a subsequent Board decision.