

Tennessee. The original public scoping period was scheduled to end on February 26, 1999. The Department has separately notified interested and affected stakeholders of the change in date. Comments postmarked after March 18, 1999, will be considered to the extent practicable. Further information on the alternatives being considered in the environmental impact statement is contained in the Notice of Intent.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, this 5th day of March 1999.

Rodney R. Nelson,

Assistant Manager for Environmental Management.

[FR Doc. 99-6148 Filed 3-11-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office

Notice of Availability of Solicitations for Mining Industry of the Future Crosscutting Technologies

AGENCY: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE) Office of Industrial Technologies (OIT) through the Federal Energy Technology Center (FETC), Pittsburgh, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Issuance of Two (2) Related Financial Assistance Solicitations.

SUMMARY: The U. S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE) Office of Industrial Technologies (OIT) in conjunction with the Federal Energy Technology Center (FETC) announces that it intends to issue two (2) competitive Program Solicitations (PS), Nos. DE-PS26-99FT40298 and DE-PS26-99FT40299 in support of DOE/EE "Mining Industry Roadmap for Crosscutting Technologies" initiative <<http://www.oit.doe.gov/mining/roadmap.html>>. This announcement for the two solicitations is combined because each has identical program goals and evaluation criteria. One solicitation directs government funding to the DOE national laboratories (#40298), whereas the other is directed primarily at private sector (#40299) funding. Through the issuance of these solicitations, the DOE seeking field work proposals/applications for cost-shared research and development of technologies which will enhance economic competitiveness, reduce energy consumption and reduce environmental impacts of the mining industry. Field work proposals and applications will be subjected to a

comparative merit review by industry and DOE technical panels, and awards will be made to a limited number of proposers on the basis of the scientific merit of the field work proposals/applications, application of relevant program policy factors, and the availability of funds.

DATES: Both of the solicitations are expected to be ready for release by March 5, 1999. Field work proposals/applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms in the Program Solicitations and the respective closing dates are April 19, 1999 (i.e., National Laboratory field work proposals) and May 17, 1999 (private sector applications). Prior to submitting proposals or applications to these solicitations, check for any changes (i.e. closing date of solicitation) and/or amendments, if any through the Internet at FETC's Home Page <<http://www.fetc.doe.gov/business>>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Keith R. Miles, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 10940 (MS 921-143), Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940; (Telephone: 412-892-5984; Facsimile: 412-892-6216; E-Mail: miles@fetc.doe.gov).

ADDRESSES: The solicitation will be available through the Internet at FETC's Home Page <<http://www.fetc.doe.gov/business>>. Telephone requests will not be accepted for any format version of the solicitation.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In June 1998, the mining industry and Department of Energy signed a compact pledging to work together through research and development partnerships. In September 1998, the mining industry released a vision for 2020 and beyond: "The Future Begins With Mining. A Vision of the Mining Industry of the Future" <<http://www.oit.doe.gov/mining/vision.html>> which focuses on advanced technologies that increase productivity and permit exploration, extraction, and processing to occur with minimal environmental impact.

The objective of these two (2) solicitation is to support this partnership by funding research, development and demonstration projects at the National Laboratories and within the private sector which address the priorities identified in the "Mining Industry Roadmap for Crosscutting Technologies". Proposals must address the selected research priorities from this document that meet the OIT programmatic objectives of increasing energy efficiency and reducing waste. The relevant passage from the roadmap

that justifies the proposed effort should be cited.

The specific focus of this solicitation is these three (3) research goals from Table 1 of the "The Future Begins With Mining. A Vision of the Mining Industry of the Future":

(1) Low Cost and Efficient Production—Use advanced technologies to improve process efficiencies from exploration to final product,

(2) Superior Exploration and Resource Characterization—Develop ways to find and define larger high grade reserves with minimal environmental disturbance, and

(3) Safe and Efficient Extraction and Processing—Use advanced technologies and training to improve the worker environment and reduce worker exposure to hazards that reduces lost time accidents and occupational diseases to near zero.

Note: Applications offering emissions or waste disposal, remediation, or treatment as a primary focus are not eligible for funding under this solicitation. This limitation does not include applications which target materials recycling or by-product utilization as their primary focus.

DOE currently has available \$1.8 million for the first year of selected National Laboratory research efforts and has budgeted \$2.0 million in FY 2000 for private sector projects. Out-year funding shall depend upon availability of future year appropriations. DOE anticipates multiple awards with a duration of 3 years or less. A minimum 50% non-federal cost-share is required for all applications. Collaboration between industry, university, and DOE National Laboratories is strongly encouraged.

Issued in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on March 2, 1999.

Dale A. Siciliano,

Contracting Officer, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

[FR Doc. 99-6149 Filed 3-11-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-262-000]

Algonquin Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Compliance Filing and Joint Stipulation and Agreement

March 8, 1999.

Take notice that on March 4, 1999, Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Fourth Revised

Volume No. 1 and Original Volume 2, tariff sheets to become effective May 1, 1999 as listed on Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 of the filing.

Algonquin asserts that the filing is a limited Section 4 filing in compliance with Article IV, Section 3 of the Stipulation and Agreement (S&A) approved by the Commission in Docket Nos. RP93-14, et al. Algonquin states that the filing also is a contemporaneous filing pursuant to Rule 602 of the Rules of Practice and Procedures of the Commission, 18 CFR 385.602 whereby Algonquin and the Sponsoring Parties submit a Joint Stipulation and Agreement (Offer of Settlement) in settlement of Algonquin's instant limited Section 4 filing filed in compliance with the S&A.

Algonquin states that the offer of settlement is designed to respond to concerns of Algonquin and its customers related to the increased competitive environment in the marketplace. Algonquin also states that the Offer of Settlement is also designed to reduce and render more competitive Algonquin's rates in the near future to the benefit of Algonquin, its customers and consumers.

Algonquin states that copies of the filing are being served contemporaneously on all participants listed on the service list in this proceeding and on all persons who are required by the Commission's Regulations to be served with the application initiating these proceedings.

Pursuant to Rule 602, Algonquin requests a shortened comment period, with Initial Comments with respect to the Offer of Settlement due on March 12, 1999 and Reply Comments due on March 18, 1999. Algonquin also requests that motions to intervene and protests on the compliance filing be due on March 12, 1999. Algonquin states that it is authorized to state that the Sponsoring Parties and those listed on Exhibit A to the Offer of Settlement concur in the shortened comment period.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest this filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 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 on or before March 12, 1999. Persons who are already a party to the Docket No. RP93-14-000, et al, proceeding and made parties to the instant proceeding and do not have to file a motion to intervene. 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. Initial comments with respect to the proposed settlement are due on or before March 12, 1999, with reply comments due on or before March 18, 1999. 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).

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc 99-6094 Filed 3-11-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-138-000]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Austin Storage Field Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

March 8, 1999.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of ANR Pipeline Company's (ANR) proposed Austin Storage Field project. The project would involve the injection of approximately 2 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of nitrogen into the existing Austin Storage Field in Mecosta and Newaygo Counties, Michigan, to function as base gas.¹ The nitrogen injection would allow ANR to recover approximately 2 Bcf of the natural gas currently serving as base gas. ANR would install skid-mounted facilities to generate the nitrogen and then use compressor facilities for storage field injection.

This project would also involve a delineation of the Austin Storage Field boundary (including the fringe area protective acreage) which may have changed over the past 57 years of operation. This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity. The application and other supplemental filings in this docket are available for viewing on the FERC

¹ ANR's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The pipeline company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law. A fact sheet addressing a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain, is attached to this notice as appendix 1.²

Summary of the Proposed Project

ANR proposes to inject approximately 2 Bcf of nitrogen into its existing Austin Storage Field in Mecosta and Newaygo Counties, Michigan, to function as base gas. This project would entail:

- The placement of a 500 horsepower (hp) natural gas fueled engine/compressor package approximately 750 feet east of ANR's Woolfolk Compressor Station for the withdrawal of the natural gas; and

- The clearing and regrading of a previously disturbed 200-foot-square area adjacent to gas well #124 in the Austin Storage Field for the placement of a nitrogen generator, three 700 hp air compressors, and a 500 hp compressor for nitrogen injections.

All equipment would be temporary (skid-mounted) and would be installed at an existing well location or along existing pipeline right-of-way. The location of the project facilities is shown in Appendix 2.

Land Requirements for Construction

The proposed activities would be performed within a 0.92 acre area of the existing right-of-way.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.