

economies, the United States will subsidize receipt of the spent fuel to maximize participation in the acceptance program.

The fee policy announced in 1996 (61 FR 26507) did not address explicitly how, during the course of the acceptance program, a change in the economic status of the country from which spent fuel is shipped would affect the fee charged for participation in the program. DOE will initially determine whether a foreign research reactor operator is located in a country with a "high-income economy" or "other-than-high-income economy" based on the most current edition of The World Bank Development Report (The Report) at the time the contract between the foreign research reactor operator and DOE is signed. This notice clarifies that, during the term of the contract, if the most current edition of The Report, which is published annually in October, reflects a change in the status of the economy of the country from which the spent fuel is to be shipped from other-than-high-income to high-income, a fee will be charged to the reactor operator for any shipment arriving in the United States in the next fiscal year (starting October 1) following the fiscal year in which such change is published. The fee charged for any shipment arriving in the United States in the same fiscal year in which such change in economic status is published in The Report will be based on the country's status prior to such publication. In the event that the most current edition of The Report reflects a change in the status of the economy of the country from which the spent fuel is to be shipped from high-income to other-than-high-income, DOE's subsidy of shipments would apply to any shipments initiated after publication in The Report of such a change.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kenneth Chacey, Director, Office of Spent Fuel Management (EM-67), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20585, telephone (202) 586-0671.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 13, 1996, DOE issued a ROD on a Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Policy Concerning Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel (61 FR 25092). The ROD announced that over a 13-year period (1996-2009) the United States will accept for management approximately 19.2 metric tonnes of heavy metal (MTHM) foreign research reactor spent fuel and approximately 0.6 MTHM of target material containing uranium enriched in the United States. Because HEU can be used directly in the

production of nuclear weapons, the goal of the acceptance program is to reduce the availability of HEU in civil commerce worldwide.

The ROD specifies that, to encourage foreign research reactor operators in countries with other-than-high-income-economies to participate in the acceptance program, the United States will subsidize receipt of their spent fuel. DOE and the Department of State jointly determined in the ROD that many, if not all, countries with other-than-high-income-economies would not have the financial resources to participate in the acceptance program if the United States were to charge a fee for the acceptance of spent fuel from such countries. Limited participation by such countries would reduce the amount of spent fuel accepted in the United States, thereby increasing the risk of diversion of HEU into a foreign nuclear weapons program.

Whether a country has a high-income economy or other-than-high-income economy is initially determined when a contract between a foreign research reactor operator and DOE is signed. The determination is based on the most current edition of The Report, which is published annually during October. If, during the term of the contract, The Report reflects a change in the status of the economy of the country which the spent fuel is to be shipped from other-than-high-income to high-income, a fee will be charged to the reactor operator for any shipment arriving in the United States in the next fiscal year (starting October 1) following the fiscal year in which such change is published. This period of approximately one year has been established to allow time for reactor operators in countries with changed economic status to renegotiate their contracts with DOE and, as applicable, identify funding to transport the spent fuel to the United States and to pay the associated fee.

Although this fee policy clarification is designed to ensure that reactor operators who are able to bear costs do so, DOE recognizes that fiscal arrangements to support shipments must be made in advance. Countries with newly changed economic status from other-than-high-income economy to high-income economy will not necessarily be in a position to bear these costs in the year of their changed status. Thus, no fee will be charged for any shipment arriving in the United States in the same fiscal year in which the change in economic status from other-than-high-income to high-income is published. DOE will not subsidize any shipment arriving in the United States in the next fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the changed status

is published in The Report. Further, DOE would not subsidize shipments in subsequent years unless the economy of the country in question were again reclassified as having an other-than-high-income economy by a new edition of The Report.

For those countries whose economic status changes from high-income economy to other-than-high-income economy, as published in The Report, DOE's subsidy of shipments would apply to any shipment initiated after publication in The Report of such a change.

This clarification will be effective on October 1, 1999. This notice is being published well in advance of the effective date to provide ample time for potentially affected foreign research reactor operators to plan for any financial arrangements that may become necessary. For those reactor operators planning with DOE for a shipment scheduled to arrive in the United States prior to October 1, 1999, any applicable fee will be based upon the respective country's economic status as reported in the ROD that was issued in May 1996.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 6, 1999.

**David G. Huizenga,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Material and Facility Stabilization, Office of Environmental Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-273-000]

#### ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

April 7, 1999.

Take notice that on March 31, 1999, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, the following tariff sheet to become effective May 1, 1999:

Twenty-Fifth Revised Sheet No. 17

ANR states that the above-referenced tariff sheets are being filed to eliminate the Upstream Pipeline Surcharge filed in Docket No. RP98-177-000 due to the expiration of the amortization period for the recovery amount.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said 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 in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. 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. 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).

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-9117 Filed 4-12-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-277-000]

#### CNG Transmission Corporation; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

April 7, 1999.

Take notice that on April 1, 1999, CNG Transmission Corporation (CNG), tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheet, with an effective date of May 1, 1999:

Forty-Seventh Revised Sheet No. 32

CNG states that the purpose of this filing is to submit CNG's quarterly revision of the Section 18.2.B Surcharge, effective for the three-month period commencing May 1, 1999. The charge for the quarter ending April 30, 1999 has been \$0.0211 per Dt, as authorized by Commission order dated January 26, 1999 in Docket No. RP99-198-000. CNG's proposed Section 18.2.B surcharge for the next quarterly period is \$0.0194 per Dt. The revised surcharge is designed to recover \$124,591 in Stranded Account No. 858 Costs, which CNG incurred for the period of December, 1998 through February, 1999.

CNG states that copies of this letter of transmittal and enclosures are being mailed to CNG's customers and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said 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 in accordance

with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. 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. 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).

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-9119 Filed 4-12-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-269-000]

#### Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

April 7, 1999.

Take notice that on March 22, 1999, as supplemented April 6, 1999, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 12801 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-0146, filed a prior notice request with the Commission in Docket No. CP99-269-000 pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.208(a), 157.212(a), and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for authorization to modify an existing delivery point in Scioto County, Ohio, under Columbia's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83-76-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA, all as more fully set forth in the request which is open to the public for inspection. The application may be viewed on the web at [www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us). Call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

Columbia proposes to modify an existing delivery point used to serve Columbia Gas of Ohio's (COH) customer, Aristech Chemical Corporation (Aristech) in Scioto County. Columbia proposes to modify the existing metering station by installing and owning electronic measuring equipment, and replacing approximately 1.7 miles of 6-inch diameter pipe with 1.7 miles of 10-inch diameter pipe. Columbia states that it would increase deliveries at the Aristech delivery point from 15,000 dekatherms equivalent of natural gas per day at the modified delivery point. Columbia, however, further states that COH has not requested an increase in its firm entitlements. COH states that it

would cover the increased deliveries at the Aristech delivery point by shifting volumes at other delivery volumes at other delivery points. Thus, the proposed increase in delivery volumes at the Aristech delivery point would have no impact on Columbia's design day or annual obligations to its other customers. Columbia states that COH would reimburse Columbia approximately \$952,600 for the modification cost of the Aristech delivery point.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after the Commission has issued this notice, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the allowed time, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-9110 Filed 4-12-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-287-031]

#### El Paso Natural Gas Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

April 7, 1999.

Take notice that on April 1, 1999, El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso) tendered for filing to become part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1-A, the following tariff sheets to become effective April 1, 1999:

Twenty-Third Revised Sheet No. 30  
Fourteenth Revised Sheet No. 31

El Paso states that the above tariff sheets are being filed to implement three negotiated rate contracts pursuant to the Commission's Statement of Policy on Alternatives to Traditional Cost-of-Service Ratemaking for Natural Gas Pipelines and Regulation of Negotiated Transportation Services of Natural Gas Pipelines issued January 31, 1996 at Docket Nos. RM95-6-000 and RM96-7-000.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,