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- U.S. Department of Energy Freedom of Information Reading Room, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585, phone 202-586-5000.

Issued this 19th day of April 1999.

James J. Fiore,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Restoration.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11659-000]

Gustavus Electric Company of Gustavus, Alaska; Notice of Scoping Meetings, Site Visit, and Soliciting Additional Comments on the Request to Use Alternative Licensing Procedures

April 19, 1999.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) Regulations provide applicants with the option of preparing their own Environmental Assessment (EA) for hydropower projects, and filing this applicant prepared environmental assessment (APEA) with their application as part of an alternative licensing procedure (ALP).¹ On February 17, 1999, the Commission received a request from Gustavus Electric Company (GEC) to use the ALP in the preparation of a license application for the proposed Kahtaheena River (Falls Creek) Project, No. 11659. On March 9, 1999, the Commission issued a notice requesting comments on the applicant's use of this process. A Commission decision

regarding the use of this process is still pending; however, contingent on subsequent Commission approval of the use of this process, we are proceeding with scoping, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, at this time.

The alternative procedures include provisions for the distribution of an initial information package, and for the cooperative scoping of environmental issues and needed studies. On December 1, 1998, GEC distributed their initial information document (ICD). On January 19 and 20, 1999, GEC held two public meetings to discuss the ICD and conducted a visit of the proposed project site. On April 5, 1999, GEC distributed their Scoping Document 1 (SD1).² As part of scoping, GEC has scheduled two public meetings to discuss the information presented in SD1, primarily the alternatives and issues to be evaluated in any APEA which may be prepared by GEC if it is subsequently approved to use the ALP in preparation of a license application. In addition to participating in the scoping meetings and site visit, Commission staff will use this opportunity to answer questions and take comments about the use of the ALP. Participation in these meetings will not prejudice any rights or future participation by the Department of the Interior or any of its subsidiary agencies.

Scoping Meetings

GEC will hold public scoping meetings on May 6 and 7, 1999, pursuant to NEPA. At the scoping meetings, GEC will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) outline any resources they believe would not require a detailed analysis; (3) identify reasonable alternatives to be addressed in the EA; (4) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantitative data, on the resources at issue; and (5) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

GEC has requested to use the ALP and prepare an APEA for inclusion in its application; however, there is the possibility that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required. If the Commission subsequently approves the applicant's request to use the ALP, these meetings would serve to satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, regardless of whether an EA or EIS is issued by the Commission

and/or any other participating federal agencies.³

The times and locations of the scoping meeting are:

Evening scoping meeting	Morning scoping meeting
May 6, 1999, 7:00 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Gustavus School, Gustavus, Alaska.	May 7, 1999, 1:00 p.m., King Conference Room, Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, 802 Third Street, Douglas Alaska.

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited and encouraged to attend any or all of the meetings to assist in identifying and clarifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

Scoping Meeting Procedures

These scoping meetings will be conducted consistent with the procedures used at Commission scoping meetings. Commission staff will attend the meetings on May 6 and 7, 1999. These meetings would serve to address the Commission's scoping requirements under NEPA if the applicant is subsequently approved to use the ALP. Regardless of whether the applicant's request to use the ALP is approved, the Commission may reconvene scoping during the post-filing period if it is needed.

Commenting Deadline

Both scoping meetings will be recorded and the transcripts will become part of the formal record of the proceedings for this project. Those who choose not to speak during the scoping meetings may instead submit written comments on the project. Written comments should be mailed to: Mr. Richard Levitt, Gustavus Electric Company, P.O. Box 102, Gustavus, AK 99826.

All correspondence should be postmarked no later than July 7, 1999. Comments should show the following caption on the first page: Scoping Comments, Kahtaheena River (Falls Creek) Project, Project No. 11659.

Site Visit

GEC has scheduled a tour of the proposed project site on Thursday, May 6, 1999. This site visit will require

³The Glacier Bay National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 1998 designates the National Park Service (NPS) as a joint lead agency with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in the preparation of any environmental document under NEPA for this project. FERC and NPS have initiated discussions to address how this joint lead designation would be coordinated.

¹ 81 FERC ¶ 61,103 (1997).

² Copies of the ICD and SDI can be obtained by calling Lani Joslin at 907-697-2299.

hiking approximately 5 to 6 miles over rugged terrain and it is expected to take approximately 6 hours to complete. Those wishing to attend the site visit must notify Richard Levitt of GEC at (907) 697-2299 by April 30, 1999. Site visit participants should meet at Gustavus Dray Gas Station in Gustavus at 8:30 a.m. or at the end of Rink Creek Road at 9:00 a.m.

For further information please contact Richard Levitt of GEC at (907) 697-2299 or Bob Easton of the Commission at (202) 219-2782.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-10220 Filed 4-22-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-302-000]

Koch Gateway Pipeline Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

April 19, 1999.

Take notice that on April 13, 1998, Koch Gateway Pipeline Company (Koch), P.O. Box 1478, Houston, Texas 77251-1478, filed under Sections 157.205 and 157.211(a) of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act to construct, own and operate a 16-inch tap, ultrasonic meter station and regulation equipment¹ to enable Koch to transport gas on a firm basis for Southern Company Service, Inc. (SCS), to Mississippi Power Company's Jack Watson Power Plant. Construction of these facilities will allow Koch to make average day deliveries under its Rate Schedule FTS to the Jack Watson Power Plant, totaling 20,000 MMBtu. Koch will transport these volumes under its blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP88-6-000. This docket is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. The application may also be viewed on the web at www.ferc.fed.us. Call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, 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

Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefore, 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 Natural Gas Act.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-10219 Filed 4-22-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-312-000]

National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

April 19, 1999.

Take notice that on April 14, 1999, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Fuel), 10 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, New York 14203, filed in Docket No. CP99-312-000 a request pursuant to sections 157.205 and 157.212 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.212) for authorization to construct and operate facilities at an existing delivery point used to render service to an existing firm transportation customer, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (Distribution) in Erie County, New York, under National Fuel's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83-4-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

National Fuel proposes to construct and operate facilities at the Vicksburg Station, which is a delivery point used to serve Distribution. National Fuel states that the new facilities include two 12-inch meters, two 8-inch regulator and monitor sets, one 4-inch regulator and monitor set, and upstream and downstream piping, valves, fittings, controllers, etc. National Fuel estimates the cost of construction to be \$750,000. National Fuel declares the peak day capacity of this station is 120 MMcf and 6,200 MMcf per year. It is further indicated that the proposed

construction will not increase Distribution's authorized level of service or the capacity of the station.

National Fuel states that in connection with this project, it will also be purchasing certain facilities at the Vicksburg Station from Distribution, including approximately 200 feet of 20-inch inlet piping, a three valve tee (valve numbers TN3104, TN3105 and TN3106), which consists of two 16-inch valves and one 20-inch valve, a gas heater and a path of the outlet piping and some additional miscellaneous downstream piping. National Fuel states that these facilities will be purchased from Distribution at its net book value, which will be approximately \$166,800.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, 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 Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, 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 Natural Gas Act.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-10222 Filed 4-22-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-317-000]

Williams Gas Pipelines Central, Inc.; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

April 19, 1999.

Take notice that on April 15, 1999, Williams Gas Pipelines Central, Inc. (Williams), P.O. Box 3288, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101, filed in Docket No. CP99-317-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.216, of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 157.216) for authorization to abandon in place by sale to ONEOK, Inc. D.b.a. Kansas Gas Service Company (KGS) facilities and related services in Shawnee County, Kansas, under the

¹ Facilities for this project also include 5,200 feet of 16-inch line, which Koch plans to construct under Section 157.208(a) of the Commission's Regulations.