

implement compensatory action on the ORNL reservation. Periodic degradation of the long-term environmental monitoring program on the Walker Branch Watershed is undesirable, but engineering solutions to reduce or eliminate those impacts are readily available.

#### Other Decision Factors

In addition to environmental factors, DOE considered the existing infrastructure for neutron science, cost of construction, and community support for the proposed action.

ORNL provides a unique and comprehensive set of scientific research infrastructure that will function in synergy with the SNS facility. The High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) has long been a dominant location for thermal neutron scattering research; and that facility is currently being upgraded to provide cold neutron research capability. The combination of HFIR and SNS will provide the full spectrum of neutron research tools at one laboratory, thus allowing scientists to optimize on-site research during their time in Oak Ridge. ORNL maintains a staff of world-class neutron scattering scientists continuing the base neutron research programs initially developed at the laboratory in the early 1950's. The current cadre of technicians supporting neutron research at the HFIR will provide an experienced pool from which to develop that same capability for the SNS facility as it is brought into operation. In addition, ORNL also provides an important physical plant infrastructure to support the SNS. This includes a large reservation without significant adjoining population centers; ready availability of utilities and services to support facility operation and waste stream handling; and regional availability of a low-cost skilled labor pool for construction and operation of the SNS.

Construction on the ORNL reservation would require the least infrastructure upgrades and only minimal site specific environmental mitigation measures. At Los Alamos, it would be necessary to upgrade electric power supply and water supply/distribution systems to satisfy the incremental SNS needs. At Argonne, the limited space would require immediate restoration of an old Argonne waste burial ground, upgraded facility safety systems to ensure adequate protection to residents located very close to the facility, and extensive surface mitigation actions to address wetlands, floodplains, and a major traffic pattern disruption. At Brookhaven, close proximity of the sole-source aquifer and the highly permeable

soil would require design modifications to ensure continuing separation of ground water from activated soil/shielding around large portions of the facility. The construction cost advantage at ORNL, due to lower upgrade and mitigation costs, could be offset to some degree by the possible application of Tennessee state sales and use taxes to the SNS construction project. Thus, based on construction costs, the preferred site at ORNL is at least as attractive as any of the alternative sites.

Tennessee State and local governments, as well as the local community, have expressed broad support for locating the SNS at Oak Ridge. Tennessee is actively demonstrating their support of neutron science activities in Oak Ridge by building a guest user facility, the Joint Institute for Neutron Science, on the ORNL reservation, and has committed to developing a neutron science program at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

#### Project Commitments and Mitigation Measures

The DOE shall use all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the construction and operation of the SNS and will document specific steps to achieve this end in a Mitigation Action Plan (MAP). The Department will monitor its progress against the MAP to help ensure that it is properly implemented. Copies of the MAP will be made available in the local public reading rooms for information.

With ORNL having been selected as the site for the SNS, DOE will perform three-season surveys there to confirm the presence/absence of threatened and endangered species and archeological investigations to locate any historically sensitive areas. These studies will be performed before major land disturbance begins. The Department will fully assess any species or areas of concern that it identifies and will act to mitigate any adverse impacts to the extent practicable in compliance with governing regulatory agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Tennessee).

Construction of the SNS on the ORNL reservation will result in damage or destruction of three small [a total of 0.23 acres (0.09 ha)] wetland areas to accommodate the facility access road. As conventional facility design evolves, the amount of impacted wetland shall be held to a minimum. During construction, DOE will comply with the requirements of the appropriate regulatory authority (the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the State of

Tennessee) with respect to the affected wetlands. The Department will use runoff and siting controls during construction to restrict unnecessary damage to remaining wetland areas.

As changes evolve in facility design or as facility upgrade actions are proposed, the DOE shall revisit requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to ensure continued compliance by the SNS.

Issued in Washington, D.C. this 18th day of June, 1999.

**Bill Richardson,**

*Secretary of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 99-16603 Filed 6-29-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-562-000]

#### Destin Pipeline Company, L.L.C.; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

June 23, 1999.

Take notice that on June 15, 1999, Destin Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (Destin), P.O. Box 2563, Birmingham, Alabama 35202-2563, tendered for filing in Docket No. CP99-562-000 a request pursuant to sections 157.205, 157.208, and 211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.208, and 157.211) for authorization to construct, install and operate a lateral pipeline and appurtenant facilities under Destin's blanket certificate issued in Docket Nos. CP96-657-000 and 001, 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).

The lateral would accommodate the transportation of natural gas production from a new production platform to be located in Main Pass Block 283 (Main Pass 283 Platform) for connection into Destin's 24-inch lateral line in Main Pass Block 279 (Main Pass 279) for ultimate delivery to downstream pipeline interconnections in southern and central Mississippi.

Specifically, Destin is proposing to construct, install and operate (i) approximately one thousand three hundred fifty (1,350) feet of 12-inch OD lateral pipeline from the Main Pass 283 Platform to a subsea tap on Destin's existing 24-inch lateral in Main Pass 279, in Federal Waters, Gulf of Mexico;

(ii) one (1) receipt measurement facility located on the Main Pass 283 Platform through which Destin will receive the natural gas produced from the Main Pass 283 Platform; and (iii) one (1) delivery measurement facility located on the Main Pass 283 Platform through which Destin will deliver natural gas to the Main Pass 283 operator for start-up and gas-lift needs.

The estimated cost of the construction and installation of the facilities in \$4.6 million. However, out of an abundance of caution and concern for possible cost overruns that may cause the project to exceed the \$7.2 million limit for automatic authorization, Destin elected to request authorization, Destin elected to request authorization pursuant to the Commission's prior notice procedures.

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. 99-16552 Filed 6-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-342-000]

#### EL Paso Natural Gas Company; Notice of Proposed Changes In FERC Gas Tariff

June 23, 1999.

Take notice that on June 18, 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., with an effective date of July 1, 1999:

Fourth Revised Sheet No. 118  
Second Revised Sheet No. 314

EL Paso states that the tariff sheets are being filed to increase the Billing Determinant for Pemex Gas by

Petroquimica Basica to 23,000 dth per day and to revise the related revenue crediting threshold.

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, NE., Washington, DC 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).

**David P. Boergers,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-16559 Filed 6-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. GT99-40-000]

#### Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.; Notice of GRI Refunds

June 23, 1999.

Take notice that on June 18, 1999 Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P. (Iroquois), tendered for filing a report of Gas Research Institute (GRI) refunds to Iroquois for the period from January 1, 1998 to December 31, 1998.

Iroquois states that the refund credits have been based on the total refund from GRI to Iroquois of \$623,699 and that credits or refunds were given to all eligible firm customers.

Iroquois states that copies of its filing were served on all jurisdictional 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, NE., Washington, DC 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 June 30, 1999. 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).

**David P. Boergers,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-16554 Filed 6-29-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-126-016]

#### Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.; Notice of Surcharge Report

June 23, 1999.

Take notice that on June 18, 1999, Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P. (Iroquois), tendered for filing a surcharge and interest report covering the period from August 31, 1998 to April 30, 1999.

Iroquois states that its surcharge mechanism is in compliance with the Commission's May 24, 1999 letter order in Docket Nos. RP97-126-011 and RP97-126-012.

Iroquois states that copies of its filing were served on all jurisdictional customers, interested state commissions and all parties in Docket No. RP97-126.

Any person desiring to protest said filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed on or before June 30, 1999. 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. 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. 99-16555 Filed 6-29-99; 8:45 am]

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