

Department of Energy, Albuquerque Operations Office, P.O. Box 5400, Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400 or by telephone at (505) 845-6201. The Site-Wide EIS is available under the NEPA Analyses Module of the DOE NEPA Web Site at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa/>. A Spanish translation of the Summary is also available on the DOE NEPA Web Site. The Site-Wide EIS is available for public inspection at the following locations:

University of New Mexico, Government Document Collection, Zimmerman Library, Main Campus, Albuquerque, New Mexico

U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Reading Room, Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, EH-42, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585. Ms. Borgstrom may be contacted by calling (202) 586-4600 or by leaving a message at (800) 472-2756.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Site-Wide EIS incorporates comments received during the public comment period from April 16, 1999 through June 15, 1999. The Site-Wide EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) [42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*], the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations [40 CFR part 1500], and the DOE NEPA regulations [10 CFR part 1021]. The Department proposes to continue operating the SNL/NM, which is located in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

DOE has identified and assessed three alternatives for the operation of SNL/NM: (1) No Action, (2) Expanded Operations, and (3) Reduced Operations. In the No Action Alternative, DOE would continue the status quo; that is, operating at planned levels as reflected in current DOE management plans. In the Expanded Operations Alternative, DOE would increase activity at SNL/NM to the highest reasonable level that could be supported by current facilities and includes the potential expansion/construction of new facilities specifically addressed in the Site-Wide EIS. Under the Reduced Operations Alternative, activities would be reduced to the minimum level of operations needed to maintain SNL/NM facilities and equipment in an operational readiness mode.

DOE's Preferred Alternative for SNL/NM, as identified in the Final Site-Wide EIS, is the Expanded Operations Alternative, exclusive of the Microsystems and Engineering Sciences Applications (MESA) Complex. In the Final Site-Wide EIS, DOE added discussion of a developing proposal for a new MESA Complex in order to share with the public information being assembled during the ongoing conceptual design. DOE will prepare an environmental assessment for the MESA Complex when the conceptual design is complete, to determine whether an EIS is required.

The analysis in the Site-Wide EIS indicates that all impacts from the Preferred Alternative would be small except water usage, which contributes to the general groundwater drawdown in the city of Albuquerque. There is little difference in the environmental impacts among the alternatives analyzed.

**Subsequent Document Preparation:** DOE intends to issue a Record of Decision no earlier than 30 days following publication in the **Federal Register** of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability of the Final Site-Wide EIS, which appeared in the **Federal Register** on October 29, 1999. DOE will publish the Record of Decision in the **Federal Register**.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 1, 1999.

**Henry Garson,**

*NEPA Compliance Officer, Defense Programs.*

[FR Doc. 99-29153 Filed 11-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP98-206-005]

#### Atlanta Gas Light Company; Notice of Technical Conference

November 2, 1999.

Take notice that a technical conference will be held on November 17, 1999, at 10:00 a.m., in a room to be designated at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426.

All interested parties and Staff are permitted to attend.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-29132 Filed 11-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP00-14-000, CP00-15-000, and CP00-16-000]

#### Buccaneer Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.; Notice of Applications for Certificates

November 2, 1999.

Take notice that on October 28, 1999, Buccaneer Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (Buccaneer or Applicant), Post Office Box 1396, Houston, Texas 77251, filed an application in Docket No. CP00-14-000 pursuant to and in accordance with Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and the optional certificate procedures of Part 157(E) of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline, compression, measuring and other related facilities. On that same date Buccaneer filed in Docket No. CP00-15-000 for a blanket certificate of public convenience and necessity to render firm and interruptible transportation services on an open access basis pursuant to Part 284(G) of the Commission's regulations and for approval of initial rates. Also, Buccaneer requests in Docket No. CP00-16-000 the issuance of a blanket certificate of public convenience and necessity under Part 157(F) of the Commission's regulations authorizing certain facility construction, operation and abandonment,<sup>1</sup> all as more fully set forth in the applications which are on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222).

Pursuant to Section 157.102(b)(1) of the Commission's regulations, Buccaneer (i) requests that the instant application be considered under the optional procedures of Part 157(E) and (ii) agrees to comply with all terms and conditions specified in Section 157.103.

Buccaneer requests that the Commission issue a preliminary determination on the non-environmental aspects of this proposal

<sup>1</sup> On September 30, 1999, Buccaneer previously filed for certificate authorization to construct and operate these same facilities and for blanket authorization under Part 284, Subpart G and Part 157, Subpart F in Docket Nos. CP99-628-000, CP99-629-000, and CP99-630-000, respectively. These applications were rejected because of deficiencies in the environmental exhibits included in Docket No. CP99-628-000.

by February 1, 2000, and a final order granting the authorizations requested herein by December 15, 2000. Buccaneer states that this approval schedule is necessary to allow construction of the project to be completed by April 1, 2002, the proposed in-service date for the project. Buccaneer states that it is not currently engaged in any natural gas transportation operations. Upon commencement of operations proposed in this application, Buccaneer states that it will become a "natural gas company" within the meaning of Section 2(6) of the NGA and, as such, will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. Buccaneer states that its natural gas pipeline project ("Buccaneer Project" or the "Project") is being proposed in response to the rapidly growing market for natural gas service in the State of Florida, where the natural gas requirements are expected to nearly double by the year 2007. It is stated that the Project will be designed to transport up to 900,000 dekatherms (dt) of natural gas per day. Buccaneer estimates that the total cost of the Project will be \$1,455,173,425. Buccaneer is proposing a 75/25 debt to equity capital structure and will seek non-recourse project financing.

Buccaneer states that the Project will consist of a new mainline system which will commence in Mobile County, Alabama, and cross the Gulf of Mexico to the west coast of Florida just north of Tampa. It is stated that onshore, the pipeline will branch out in an easterly direction to serve power generation plants and other markets across the central part of the state. Buccaneer indicates that the pipeline system will include a compressor station in Mobile County and a liquids separation facility in Pasco County, Florida.

Specifically, the Buccaneer states that the Project will consist of 532.67-miles of 36-inch mainline pipeline in three major mainline components: the Alabama Mainline, the Gulf of Mexico Mainline and the Florida Mainline. It is stated that the 36-inch, 16.66 mile Alabama Mainline will begin at Buccaneer's proposed Compressor Station 1 which will be co-located with the existing compressor station of Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) in Mobile County, Alabama and will include a 4.14-mile segment in Mobile County and a 12.52-mile segment in Alabama state waters, and will end at the boundary between the Alabama state waters and federal waters in Mobile Block 822, Offshore Alabama. Buccaneer states that the Gulf of Mexico Mainline will consist of 376.77 miles of 36-inch mainline pipeline beginning in

Mobile Block 822, traversing the Mobile, Pensacola, Destin Dome, Apalachicola, Florida, Middle Ground and Tarpon Springs Areas, and ending at the boundary between federal waters and Florida state waters in Tarpon Springs Block 901. Buccaneer indicates that the Florida Mainline will consist of 139.24 miles of 36-inch mainline pipeline beginning in Tarpon Springs Block 901, traversing Pasco, Polk and Osceola Counties, Florida, and ending at the Project's milepost 20.68 in Orange County, Florida, where the mainline will branch into 16-inch and 30-inch laterals.

Buccaneer states that the 36-inch mainline mileposts are continuous from Compressor Station 1 in Mobile County, Alabama to the liquids separation facility in Pasco County, Florida. It is indicated that the Florida Mainline consists of the Pasco, Polk, Osceola and Orange County Mainlines and has a milepost system that begins at the boundary of each Florida county. Buccaneer states that there will be three major lateral systems and five small laterals which will branch from the Florida Mainline. Buccaneer states that the 30-inch, 37.99-mile Tiger Bay Plant Lateral will begin at milepost 20.58 on the Polk County Mainline and will extend southward, where 20-inch extensions of the Tiger Bay Plant Lateral will be constructed to deliver gas to the Hines, Polk and Payne Creek Plants.

It is stated that the 24-inch, 46.60-mile Leesburg Plant Lateral will begin at milepost 32.87 on the Polk County Mainline and will extend northward into Lake County. It is further stated that the 34.68-mile Oleander Plant Lateral will consist of 30-inch and 24-inch pipeline beginning at milepost 20.68 on the Orange County Mainline and extending to the east into Brevard County. It is also indicated that the 18-inch Indian River and Cape Canaveral Plant Laterals will be extensions of the Oleander Plant Lateral at its eastern end. Buccaneer states that additional 16-inch laterals will be constructed from various portions of the Florida Mainline to deliver gas to the Anclote, Intercession City, Cane Island and Stanton Plants and to the City of Lakeland, Florida.

Buccaneer states that it also will construct a new 75,000 horsepower compressor station (referred to as Buccaneer's Compressor Station 1) which will be co-located with Transco's existing Compressor Station 82 in Mobile County, Alabama, and will include a compressor building with five 15,000 horsepower gas turbine-driven gas compressors. It is stated that a metering and regulating (M&R) station also will be constructed at the station to

measure gas delivered into the Buccaneer mainline.

Buccaneer also proposes to construct a liquids separation facility at Anclote in Pasco County, Florida to collect liquids that have condensed in the pipeline due to temperature and pressure drop. The facility will be sited on a 68-acre tract, immediately north of Florida Power corporation's Anclote Plant, and a 290 foot, single-span bridge will be constructed across the Anclote Power Plant cooling water outflow channel to access the site. Buccaneer also proposes to construct M&R stations at each of the 13 proposed delivery points.

It is stated that the facilities will be constructed and operated by Buccaneer's affiliate, Buccaneer Operating Company. Buccaneer states that the construction and operation of the Buccaneer pipeline system will have no significant impact on the quality of human health or the environment. Buccaneer certifies that the proposed facilities will be designed, constructed, operated and maintained in accordance with all applicable safety standards and plans for maintenance and inspection.

Buccaneer proposes to provide a firm transportation service under Rate Schedule FTS, an interruptible transportation service under Rate Schedule ITS and a parking and lending service under Rate Schedule PAL, under rates, terms and conditions in its pro forma tariff included with the application. Buccaneer states that the shippers subscribing to its firm transportation service will be given the option of paying a negotiated rate or a cost-based recourse rate for service under its firm rate schedule. Buccaneer proposes that the initial recourse rate for its firm transportation service under Rate Schedule FTS will be a daily reservation rate of \$0.7690 per dt, which is based on the straight fixed-variable rate design methodology. It is stated that the initial recourse rate for interruptible transportation service under Rate Schedule ITS and parking and loan service under Rate Schedule PAL will be a commodity rate of \$0.7690 per dt. Buccaneer states that its customers also will be charged fuel and retainage and the ACA surcharge as set forth in its tariff.

Buccaneer states that it is proposing a capital structure consisting of 75 percent debt and 25 percent equity. Buccaneer indicates that it assumes that the debt will bear interest at the rate of 4.0 percent for a term of 25 years. Buccaneer states, however, that it plans to seek the most favorable financing terms available in the marketplace at the time the project is financed. Buccaneer

proposes that the equity component of its capital structure earn a return of 14 percent, producing an overall after-tax return of 9.88 percent on Buccaneer's proposed capital structure. Buccaneer states that its proposed return on equity and capital structure are consistent with recent Commission orders on major construction projects, two of which (Vector Pipeline L.P. and Alliance Pipeline L.P.) involve optional certificate applications.

Buccaneer asserts that approval of the instant application is required by the public convenience and necessity for the following reasons:

A. As one of the fastest growing states in the country, Florida projects that it will need over 10,000 megawatts of additional electricity in the state by the year 2007 to keep up with its growing population. Additional power generation capacity will be required to meet this need and to avoid the electricity curtailments that Florida experienced during the summer of 1998. It is expected that a vast majority of this additional power generation will be fueled by natural gas, thus placing natural gas in a pivotal, growing role in the development of Florida's new and existing electric power generation plants. For natural gas to fulfill that role, the Florida Peninsula will require approximately twice the 1.5 million dt per day of pipeline capacity currently provided by its only existing interstate pipeline. The Buccaneer Project will help serve that requirement by providing 900,000 dt per day of new pipeline capacity to the state.

Moreover, the need for compliance with the Clean Air means that existing industrial and commercial plants, which are now coal or oil fueled, will be encouraged to switch to natural gas as their primary fuel source. An increased supply of clean burning natural gas can displace massive amounts of coal and heavy oil that would otherwise be required for heating, cooling and generating electricity. The environmental benefits are clear.

Natural gas emits virtually no sulfur dioxide or particulate matter, very little nitrogen oxides and much less carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels.

B. Section 157.104(c) of the Commission's regulations establishes a rebuttable presumption that an optional certificate applicant's project is required by the public convenience and necessity. Specifically, if an applicant complies fully with the requirements of Sections 157.102 and 157.103 of the regulations, it is presumed that:

(1) The applicant is qualified to perform all the activities for which certificate authorization is requested;

(2) The applicant is willing and able to perform acts and provide service, as proposed, and to comply with the NGA and any applicable regulations thereunder; and

(3) The proposed new service is or will be required by the present or future public convenience and necessity.

Buccaneer states that it has complied with the filing requirements of Section 157.102 and has satisfied the terms and conditions of Section 157.103. In addition to satisfying these specific requirements of the optional certificate regulations, Buccaneer indicates that the Buccaneer Project furthers the Commission's goals of the optional certificate program, which sought (1) to provide the full benefits of competition to consumers by facilitating easier entry and exit from services, (2) to ensure the most efficient scale of facilities by removing certification as a barrier to entry, and (3) to provide incentives for competition where none exists by maximizing the use of alternative market access for producers and consumers. Buccaneer states that it will promote these goals as a new market entrant, providing additional markets for producers and enhancing competition in the State of Florida.

It is further indicated that the Project will further enhance the security of natural gas supplies to Florida, given that Buccaneer has complied with the requirements and furthers the goals of optional certificate regulations.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make protest with reference to said application should on or before November 23, 1999, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 or 385.214) and the regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that protestors provide copies of their protests to the party to parties directly involved. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's rules.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service last maintained by the Commission and will

receive copies of all documents filed by the Applicant and by every one of the intervenors. As intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order. However, an intervenor must submit copies of comments or any other filing it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a federal court.

The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters or those requesting intervenor status.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to jurisdiction conferred upon the Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the NGA and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Buccaneer to appear or be represented at the hearing.

**David P. Boergers,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-29101 Filed 11-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M