

materials technology, structural biology, medicine, and chemistry.

On December 21, 1996, the HFBR was shut down for refueling and maintenance. Before the reactor returned to scheduled scientific operations, monitoring indicated that a plume of tritiated water was contaminating the groundwater in excess of drinking water standards south and down gradient of the reactor, within the site boundary. Data collection and analysis identified the HFBR spent fuel pool as the likely source of the tritium plume. Cleanup of this contamination has been incorporated into the site's overall cleanup program. All fuel was removed from the reactor and the pool and shipped off-site. The pool was drained and decontaminated to eliminate the source of the tritium to the groundwater beneath the HFBR.

After analysis of the time and expense to restart the HFBR, the Department has decided to permanently close the HFBR. This decision is categorically excluded under DOE's NEPA regulations. Therefore, preparation of the draft EIS has been stopped. Additional NEPA review will be necessary in the future for a proposal to decontaminate and decommission the reactor.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of November, 1999.

Patricia M. Dehmer,

Associate Director of the Office of Science for the Office of Basic Energy Sciences.

[FR Doc. 99-31016 Filed 11-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Los Alamos

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Los Alamos. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Wednesday, December 15, 1999, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: New Mexico Oil and Gas Conservation Service, 2040 Pacheco Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann DuBois, Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board, 1640 Old Pecos Trail, Suite H, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Phone: 505-989-1662; Fax: 505-989-1752; E-

mail: adubois@doeal.gov; or Internet <http://www.nmcab.org>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

Tentative Agenda

1. Public Comment, 6:30 p.m.-7 p.m.
2. Committee Reports:
Environmental Restoration
Monitoring and Surveillance
Waste Management
Community Outreach
Budget
3. Other Board business will be conducted as necessary.

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Ann DuBois at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received 5 days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Official is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of 5 minutes to present their comments at the beginning of the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available at the Public Reading Room located at the Board's office at 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Hours of operation for the Public Reading Room are 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday through Friday. Minutes will also be made available by writing or calling Ann DuBois at the Board's office address or telephone number listed above.

Issued at Washington, DC on November 24, 1999.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-31025 Filed 11-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6405-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Paducah

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Paducah. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, December 16, 1999: 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Paducah Information Age Park Resource Center, 2000 McCracken Boulevard, Paducah, Kentucky.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John D. Sheppard, Site Specific Advisory Board Coordinator, Department of Energy Paducah Site Office, Post Office Box 1410, MS-103, Paducah, Kentucky 42001, (270) 441-6804.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board

The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration and waste management activities.

Tentative Agenda

- 5:30 p.m. Call to order/Discussion
- 6:00 p.m. Approve Meeting Minutes
- 6:05 p.m. Public Comments/Questions
- 6:30 p.m. Presentations
- 7:15 p.m. Sub Committee Reports
- 8:15 p.m. Administrative Issues
- 8:30 p.m. Adjourn.

Public Participation

The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact John D. Sheppard at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received 5 days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Official is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of 5 minutes to present their comments at the end of the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying

at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday–Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available at the Department of Energy's Environmental Information Center and Reading Room at 175 Freedom Boulevard, Highway 60, Kevil, Kentucky between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday–Friday or by writing to John D. Sheppard, Department of Energy Paducah Site Office, Post Office Box 1410, MS-103, Paducah, Kentucky 42001 or by calling him at (270) 441-6804.

Issued at Washington, DC on November 24, 1999.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-31026 Filed 11-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER99-4166-001]

Mid-Continent Area Power Pool; Notice of Filing

November 23, 1999.

Take notice that on November 8, 1999, Mid-Continent Area Power Pool (MAPP), tendered for filing motion to withdraw its filing changes to its Restated Agreement filed with the Commission on August 20, 1999, in the above-referenced docket.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before November 29, 1999. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine 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. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/>

online/rims.htm (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-30983 Filed 11-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP99-392-000, CP00-17-000 and CP00-19-000]

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corp., South Carolina Public Service Authority; Notice of Site Visit

November 22, 1999.

On November 30, 1999 through December 3, 1999, the Office of Pipeline Regulation staff and representatives of Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corp. will conduct a site visit of facilities proposed for the SouthCoast Expansion Project in Choctaw, Marengo, Coosa, and Coweta Counties, Alabama and Chilton, Walton, Gwinnett and Henry Counties, Georgia. The staff and representatives of South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper) will also visit Santee Cooper's proposed facilities in Hart County, Georgia and Anderson County, South Carolina.

All interested parties may attend. Those planning to attend must provide their own transportation.

For further information, please contact Paul McKee at (202) 208-1088.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-30984 Filed 11-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6482-1]

Review of Environmental Protection Agency Public Participation Policies

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The EPA Administrator, in EPA Report 100-R-99-006, dated July 1999, entitled "Aiming for Excellence—Actions to Encourage Stewardship and Accelerate Environmental Progress, Report of the EPA Innovations Task Force," pledges the Agency to, "Evaluate and update EPA's public participation requirements. We will assess how well our regulations and

policies ensure public participation in decision making. We will report on what we find and develop an action plan to upgrade requirements and fill gaps." EPA has convened an internal workgroup to conduct a review of EPA public participation regulations and policies in accordance with this pledge.

The workgroup is scheduled to give a report to the Administrator by January 31, 2000, which will contain an inventory of EPA regulations and policies regarding public participation and an initial assessment of how well these regulations and policies ensure public participation in decision making. The report will also contain an action plan to update requirements and fill gaps.

One of the primary policies being reviewed is the Final EPA Policy on Public Participation (**Federal Register**/Vol. 46/no. 12/Monday, January 19, 1981), herein referred to as the 1981 Policy. The statements in the 1981 Policy have been the basis for many of EPA's public participation requirements in the nineteen years since its initial publication.

The workgroup is seeking public comment on two issues at this time:

1. What changes need to be made to the 1981 Policy on Public Participation?

(1a) What is working well, and how does the experience of the past nineteen years suggest the need for improvements in the general procedures for involving the public in EPA programs and decisions?

2. How can we further engage the public in the effort to revise the 1981 Policy and other EPA regulations and policies which may need to be updated in regard to public participation?

(2a) What are the suggested elements of a strategy to further engage the public in updating requirements and filling gaps in EPA's regulations and policies concerning public participation?

Comments received within the 30-day period designated in this notice will be taken under consideration as the workgroup writes the initial report to the Administrator in January 2000. Comments received after the 30-day period will be reviewed as the Agency further develops and implements an action plan to update the 1981 policy and, as necessary, other regulations and policies.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 30, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Dalton at EPA by fax at (202) 260-5478, by email at: stakeholders@epa.gov. The 1981 Policy on Public Participation, without the responsiveness summary and preamble,