

telephone (360) 753-6054; facsimile (360) 753-9517.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Districts own and manage three hydroelectric dams and associated facilities on the Columbia River. These dams are used to supply power to the citizens of Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties, as well as other public and private utilities that serve over 7 million customers throughout the Pacific Northwest. Operation of the dams has the potential to impact species subject to protection under the Act. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act contains provisions for issuing incidental take permits to non-federal landowners for the take of endangered and threatened species, provided the following criteria is met:

- (1) the taking will be incidental;
- (2) the applicant will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impact of such taking;
- (3) the applicant will ensure that adequate funding for the Plan will be provided;
- (4) the taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild; and
- (5) any other measures that the NMFS may require as being necessary or appropriate for the purposes of the Plan are met.

The Districts have initiated discussions with NMFS regarding the possibility of securing Permits for their hydroelectric project operations on the Mid-Columbia River, and they have prepared an HCP for each project. The Districts' intention in developing the HCPs was to establish a comprehensive approach to protect federally listed species and their habitats as affected by project operations. Activities proposed for coverage under the Permits include the following:

- (1) Operation and maintenance of the Rock Island Hydroelectric project, FERC No. 943, in accordance with its FERC license, and the Rock Island HCP.
- (2) Operation and maintenance of the Rocky Reach Hydroelectric project, FERC No. 2145, in accordance with its FERC license, and the Rocky Reach HCP.
- (3) Operation and maintenance of the Wells Hydroelectric project, FERC No. 2149, in accordance with its FERC license, and the Wells HCP.

NMFS will conduct an environmental review of the HCPs and prepare an EIS. The environmental review will analyze the proposals in the HCPs as well as a full range of reasonable alternatives and the associated impacts of each.

Comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties to ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action is identified. The review of this project will be conducted according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and policies and procedures of NMFS for compliance with those regulations.

After the environmental review is completed, NMFS will publish a notice of availability and a request for comment on the draft EIS and the HCPs.

Dated: December 31, 1998.

Kevin Collins,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-221 Filed 1-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 102998B]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 895-1450)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Issuance of Permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Ms. Rachel Cartwright, 10 Greave, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 4PU, England, has been issued a permit to take North Pacific humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001); and

Protected Species Program Manager, Pacific Islands Area Office, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 9682-2396 (808/973-2987).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 15, 1998, notice was published in the

Federal Register (63 FR 18378) that a request for a scientific research permit to take North Pacific humpback whales had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR parts 217-227).

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: December 23, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-218 Filed 1-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Proposed Collection

AGENCY: Air Force Medical Operations Agency, DoD.

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, Clinical Quality Management Division, AFMOA/SGOC, announces the proposed reinstatement and the initiation of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received on or before March 8, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to 110 Luke Avenue, Room 405, Bolling AFB, DC 20332-7050, ATTN: Maj Lynn Poppino.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address, or call AFMOA/SGOC at (202) 767-4077.

Title, Associated Forms, and OMB Number: Medical Treatment Facility Incident Statement, AF Form 765, OMB Number 0701-0135

Needs and Uses: The form is used by respondents (hospital employees, including non-governmental personnel and contractors) to report specific incidents that may have resulted in injury. It is not filed in a patient's record, but is kept by the medical treatment facility (MTF) Quality Service/Risk Manager until appropriate actions are completed to analyze the incident and determine whether corrective action is necessary to avoid repeat incidents. After completion, and corrective action if required, the form is retained for one year and then destroyed. Information recorded on the form is concise statements of fact. If the information is not collected as needed, MTFs will lose the opportunity to identify potential risks in the facilities. Possible outcomes for failure to identify risks are medical malpractice, patient injury or death, unnecessary financial expenditure, and poor public perception of the MTF.

Affected Public: All individuals in Air Force Medical Treatment Facilities, to include patients, visitors, contractors, civilian, and military staff members.

Annual Burden Hours: 1,056.

Number of Respondents: 13,200.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency: In the event of an incident resulting in injury or possible injury.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Summary of Information Collection.

Carolyn A. Lunsford,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-212 Filed 1-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-137-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Application To Abandon

December 31, 1998.

Take notice that on December 23, 1998, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 12801 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, filed under Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act, for authority to abandon by removal the Beaver Creek Compressor Station (Beaver Creek), located in Floyd County, Kentucky, effective November 30, 1999. Beaver Creek is comprised of nine compressor units which produce a total of 9,000 hp, two dehydration systems, and associated piping, all as more fully described in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Columbia states that some of the Beaver Creek facilities are more than 70 years old, and that maintenance of the facility is difficult. Columbia states further, that as of November 30, 1999, Beaver Creek will no longer be needed to meet any of Columbia's service obligations.

Any person desiring to be heard or make any protest with reference to said application should on or before January 21, 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 385.214 or 385.211) 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 Protesters parties to the proceeding. 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.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act 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, or if the Commission on its own review of the

matter finds that permission and approval of the proposed abandonment are 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 Columbia to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-259 Filed 1-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-130-000]

El Paso Natural Gas Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

December 31, 1998.

Take notice that on December 21, 1998, El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso), Post Office Box 1492, El Paso, Texas 79978, filed in Docket No. CP99-130-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.212 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 157.212) for authorization to modify an existing metering facility, with appurtenances at the Lone Butte Meter Station Delivery Point located in Maricopa County, Arizona. El Paso states that modification of the metering facility will permit more accurate measurement under various flow conditions for the firm transportation and delivery of natural gas to Southwest Gas Corporation (Southwest). El Paso makes such request under its blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-435-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request on file with the Commission.

El Paso states that it provides firm transportation service for Southwest pursuant to the terms and conditions of an existing Transportation Service Agreement (TSA) dated August 9, 1991, as amended and restated.

El Paso further states that the Lone Butte Meter Station was designed to operate under constant, high-flow conditions, but states that due to the development of substantial variations in gas demand, service at the Lone Butte Meter Station Delivery Point fluctuates causing several low-flow conditions. El