

69-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines (0.26, 0.28, and 0.31 miles in length) and one 2.3-kV transmission line (0.6 miles in length); (9) a developed recreation area known as North Fork Park; and (10) appurtenant facilities. The applicant is proposing certain non-power resource enhancements. The applicant estimates that the total average annual generation is 280,657 megawatt-hours. Power from the project serves the applicant's residential and commercial customers in the communities of northern Jackson County and southern Douglas County, Oregon.

o. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

p. With this notice, we are initiating consultation with the OREGON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER (SHPO), as required by § 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR 800.4.

q. *Procedural schedule and final amendments:* The application will be processed according to the following Hydro Licensing Schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

*Issue acceptance or deficiency letter:* September 2003.

*Request additional information:* September 2003.

*Issue acceptance letter:* December 2003.

*Issue Scoping Document 1 for comments:* January 2004.

*Request additional information (if necessary):* March 2004.

*Issue Scoping Document 2:* April 2004.

*Notice of application ready for environmental analysis:* April 2004.

*Notice of the availability of the draft EA:* October 2004.

*Notice of the availability of the final EA:* January 2005.

*Ready for Commission's decision on the application:* January 2005.

Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of the notice of application ready for environmental analysis.

**Linda Mitry,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-17496 Filed 7-9-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**[Project No. 12155-001]**

#### Arizona Independent Power, Inc.; Notice of Surrender of Preliminary Permit

July 3, 2003.

Take notice that Arizona Independent Power, Inc., permittee for the proposed Starhills Pumped Storage Project, has requested that its preliminary permit be terminated. The permit was issued on November 20, 2002, and would have expired on October 31, 2005. The project would have been located on the Gila River in Pinal County, Arizona.

The permittee filed the request on May 2, 2003, and the preliminary permit for Project No. 12155 shall remain in effect through the thirtieth day after issuance of this notice unless that day is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday as described in 18 CFR 385.2007, in which case the permit shall remain in effect through the first business day following that day. New applications involving this project site, to the extent provided for under 18 CFR part 4, may be filed on the next business day.

**Linda Mitry,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-17492 Filed 7-9-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**[Project No. 11865-002]**

#### Kabatica General Partners; Notice of Surrender of Preliminary Permit

July 3, 2003.

Take notice that Kabatica General Partners, permittee for the proposed Lower Rocky Creek Project, has requested that its preliminary permit be terminated. The permit was issued on April 11, 2001, and would have expired

on March 31, 2004. The project would have been located on Rocky Creek in Whatcom County, Washington.

The permittee filed the request on May 21, 2003, and the preliminary permit for Project No. 11865 shall remain in effect through the thirtieth day after issuance of this notice unless that day is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday as described in 18 CFR 385.2007, in which case the permit shall remain in effect through the first business day following that day. New applications involving this project site, to the extent provided for under 18 CFR part 4, may be filed on the next business day.

**Linda Mitry,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-17491 Filed 7-9-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### Science Advisory Board, Request for Nominations, Bioethics Advisory Committee (BAC), an ad hoc Committee of the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board

[FRL-7526-1]

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces the formation of a new SAB ad hoc Committee, the Bioethics Advisory Committee (BAC), and is soliciting nominations for members of the Committee.

**DATES:** Nominations should be submitted in time to arrive by July 31, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations should be submitted in electronic format through the Form for Nominating Individuals to Panels of the EPA Science Advisory Board provided on the SAB Web site. The form can be accessed through a link on the blue navigational bar on the SAB Web site, <http://www.epa.gov/sab>. To be considered, all nominations must include the information required on that form. Anyone who is unable to submit nominations via this form may contact Mr. Thomas Miller, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) as indicated below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Any member of the public wishing further information regarding this Request for Nominations may contact Mr. Thomas O. Miller, by telephone/voice mail at (202) 564-4558, or via e-mail at

miller.tom@epa.gov, or by mail at: U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office (1400A), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. General information about the SAB can be found on the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Summary

The EPA's SAB Staff Office is announcing the formation of a new ad hoc committee to help provide advice, through the SAB Executive Committee to the Administrator and other officials in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, on ethics issues that might arise in a number of situations involving the generation and/or use of human and animal data. The SAB Staff Office is soliciting nominations to establish the members of the new Committee.

The Board is a chartered Federal Advisory Committee that reports directly to the Administrator. This Committee is being formed to help provide advice to the Agency, as part of the SAB's mission, established by 42 U.S.C. 4365, to provide independent scientific and technical advice, consultation, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on the technical bases for EPA regulations.

Members of the Bioethics Advisory Committee will help provide advice to the Agency through the SAB's Executive Committee. The Committee will comply with the openness provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and all appropriate SAB procedural policies, including the SAB process for panel formation described in the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Panel Formation Process: Immediate Steps to Improve Policies and Procedures—An SAB Commentary (EPA-SAB-EC-COM-002-003), <http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/ecm02003.pdf>.

##### Background

Scientists continue to advance society's ability to understand the many factors that are relevant to the evaluation of risks associated with environmental contamination and change. The scientific study associated with such advances is often accompanied by significant and important debate because it raises new or unique questions of ethics. Therefore, in addition to the EPA's usual practice of evaluating the technical aspects of scientific approaches used to generate data, Agency staff and managers also need to consider the ethical implications of how data are developed and used in support of EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment.

To assist EPA in its consideration of the ethical implications of using various scientific and technical studies in support of its mission, the Agency has asked the SAB Staff Office to form an expert group to advise senior EPA managers on bioethics issues. Therefore, the SAB Staff Office is seeking the public's assistance in identifying and nominating experts to serve on a Bioethics Advisory Committee. Specific projects have not yet been sent to the SAB for consideration by the committee. When specific issues are identified for SAB advice, the initiation of SAB advisory actions will be announced in the **Federal Register**. In order to help the public as it considers appropriate persons to nominate for this committee, this notice describes the Committee's general purview by giving examples of issues that the Committee might be asked to consider. Topics might include: (a) Ethical issues associated with the use of human data obtained using genomics techniques; (b) ethical issues associated with the use of animals to develop data for use in EPA evaluations of risk from environmental agents; and (c) ethical issues associated with intentional dosing of humans to obtain data for use in EPA evaluations of risk from environmental agents. Each of these issues is briefly discussed in the paragraphs that follow. These examples are not intended to be all inclusive and to preclude other types of bioethical issues from being raised to the Committee.

##### *(a) Ethical Issues Associated With the Use of Genomics Data*

As used by EPA, the term genomics “\* \* \* is the study of all the genes of a cell, or tissue, at the DNA (genotype), mRNA (transcriptome), or protein (proteome) levels” (Interim Policy on Genomics, U.S. EPA Science Policy Council, June 25, 2002). The Interim Policy on Genomics acknowledges the potential for genomics information to enhance EPA's assessments in support of policy development. The interim policy states that “[g]enomics approaches have the long term promise to aid in the understanding of an organism's response to stressors and to guide the selection of informative bioindicators for monitoring the impact of stressors on human and ecological health. Thus, EPA believes that genomics will have an enormous impact on our ability to assess risk from exposure to stressors and ultimately improve our risk assessments.”

Although EPA is moving rapidly to take advantage of genomics information in support of its mission, the Agency's interim policy notes the current

limitations in our knowledge, understanding, and use of genomics information. As a result, EPA does not consider genomics information sufficient, in and of itself, to serve as the sole basis for decision-making. To realize the potential for genomics information to reduce uncertainties in its assessments, EPA is encouraging research, methods development and evaluation, and data collection relating to gaps in genomics knowledge. The Agency's interim policy finally states that as the Agency “\* \* \* gains experience in applying genomics information and refines its understanding of the use of such information, it will develop guidance to explain how genomics data can be better utilized in informing decision-making and related ethical, legal, and social implications.” As suggested by the interim policy, EPA foresees that it will face a number of ethical issues as it moves forward in the development and use of genomics data in support of its mission and EPA looks for advice from the SAB in addressing such issues.

##### *(b) Use of Animals to Develop Data for Use in EPA Evaluations of Risk From Environmental Agents*

Concern has been voiced about EPA's heavy reliance on animal testing protocols to generate test data that is needed to support Agency decision-making. EPA is conducting research that will help it to reduce, refine, and replace animal test protocols that now guide the development of such data. EPA is developing the science that will help it to more selectively apply these test protocols. EPA also works with national and international groups [e.g., the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM)] in this regard.

Notwithstanding EPA's current research into approaches that will allow the reduction, refinement, and replacement of certain animal test protocols, ethical issues will continue to be raised over the animal-based test systems to support decision-making. The Bioethics Advisory Committee can provide a venue where the Administrator can ask for consultations and advisory reviews of this important issue.

##### *(c) Intentional Dosing of Humans To Obtain Data To Be Used in EPA Evaluations of Risk From Environmental Agents*

This issue involves the use of data obtained from intentionally dosing

humans with agents that might be found in or released to the environment under different situations. The intent of these studies is to obtain data that can be used in evaluating the human health effects associated with such agents. These studies are often conducted by third parties (not the government itself) and can be used to support decision-making conducted pursuant to a variety of EPA legislative mandates. The SAB might be asked to advise on specific issues that arise in association with the use of such studies.

### Request for Nominations

#### Background

The EPA SAB Staff Office requests nominations of individuals who are regarded as national level experts in the issues described in this notice. In soliciting these nominations, the SAB recognizes that in questions of ethical development and use of scientific information, relevant issues and expertise come from many disciplines and not just those disciplines associated with human health and environmental risk assessment. Examples of areas of expertise that reflect domains of knowledge possessed by individuals who have commonly been involved in the consideration of bioethics issues include at least the following: medicine in many specialties, human toxicology and pharmacology; ecology; risk assessment; statistics; clinical and epidemiology studies; genetics; occupational and public health; human subjects protection; ethics; religious studies; sociology; public policy; tribal health; health policy; law; psychology; technology studies; and animal welfare.

### Process and Deadline for Submitting Nominations

Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals for the Committee who have expertise as discussed above.

The nominating form requests contact information about the person making the nomination; contact information about the nominee; the disciplinary and specific areas of expertise of the nominee; the nominee's resume; and a general biosketch of the nominee indicating education, expertise, past research, recent service on other advisory committees or with professional associations, and recent grant and/or contract support.

Anyone who is unable to submit nominations through the SAB Web site or has any question concerning any aspect of the nomination process may contact Mr. Thomas O. Miller as indicated above in this FR notice.

Nominations should be submitted in time to arrive no later than July 31, 2003.

The EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office will acknowledge receipt of nominations. From the nominees identified by respondents to this **Federal Register** notice and through other sources (termed the "Widecast"), the SAB Staff Office will develop a smaller subset (known as the "Short List") for more detailed consideration. Criteria used by the SAB Staff in developing this Short List are given at the end of the following paragraph. The SAB Staff Office will contact individuals who are considered for inclusion on the Short List to determine whether they are willing to serve on the Committee. The Short List will be posted on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab> and will include, for each candidate, the nominee's name and their biosketch. The Short List also will be available from Mr. Miller at the address listed above. Public comments will be accepted for 21 calendar days on the Short List. During this comment period, the public will be requested to provide information, analysis or other documentation on nominees that the SAB Staff should consider in evaluating candidates for the Committee.

For the EPA SAB, a balanced committee is characterized by inclusion of candidates who possess the necessary domains of knowledge, the relevant scientific perspectives (which, among other factors, can be influenced by work history and affiliation), and the collective breadth of experience to adequately address the charge. Public responses to the Short List candidates will be considered in the selection of the Committee members, along with information provided by candidates and information gathered by the EPA SAB Staff Office independently on the background of each candidate (e.g., financial disclosure information and computer searches to evaluate a nominee's prior involvement with and statements on the topic under review). Specific criteria to be used in evaluating an individual committee member include: (a) Scientific and/or technical expertise, knowledge, and experience (primary factors); (b) absence of financial conflicts of interest; (c) scientific credibility and impartiality; (d) availability and willingness to serve; and (e) ability to work constructively and effectively in committees.

Those Short List candidates ultimately chosen to serve on the Committee will be appointed as Special Government Employees. Therefore, all Short List candidates will also be required to fill-out the "Confidential

Financial Disclosure Form for Special Government Employees Serving on Federal Advisory Committees at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency" (EPA Form 3110-48). This confidential form allows Government officials to determine whether there is a statutory conflict between that person's public responsibilities as a Special Government Employee and private interests and activities, or the appearance of a lack of impartiality, as defined by Federal regulation. The blank form may be viewed and downloaded from the following URL address: <http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/epaform3110-48.pdf>. Committee members will likely be asked to attend two to three public meetings and public conferences per year over the anticipated course of the advisory activity.

Dated: July 2, 2003.

**Vanessa T. Vu,**

*Director, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.*

[FR Doc. 03-17511 Filed 7-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-2003-0247; FRL-7318-8]

### Transition Work Group of the EPA-USDA Committee to Advise on Reassessment and Transition; Notice of Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Transition Work Group of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-U.S. Department of Agriculture Committee to Advise on Reassessment and Transition (EPA-USDA CARAT) will hold a public meeting on July 17 and 18, 2003. This meeting will focus on recent case studies for the following selected commodities: Almonds, carrots, cranberries, peaches, potatoes, and walnuts. This first round of case studies was selected because of current pest management problems either from regulatory action, pest resistance, or a lack of adequate control measures. The Work Group intends to develop recommendations for EPA and USDA which will be presented to the full Committee to Advise on Reassessment and Transition at a future meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 17, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday, July 18, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hilton Crystal City, 2399 Jefferson