

p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The Department had earlier announced (60 FR 19899, April 21, 1995) that this meeting would be held in the Carolina Power and Light Visitors Center, Southport, North Carolina.

Issued in Washington, DC on May 3, 1995.

**Jill E. Lytle,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, Environmental Management.*

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### Notice of Noncompetitive Financial Assistance for Cooperative Agreement Award

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE), announces that pursuant to the DOE Financial Assistance Rules 10 CFR 600.7(b)(2), it is pursuing a noncompetitive financial assistance award to Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation for the continuation of Phase II of the High Pressure Heat Exchange Project.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan Borthwick, U.S. Department of Energy, Chicago Operations Office, 9800 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, IL 60439, (708) 252-2377.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The objective of Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation's High Pressure Heat Exchange System (HiPHES) project is to develop an advanced high pressure heat exchanger using ceramic tubes for a convective steam/methane reformer. Under this continuation of Phase II of the Cooperative Agreement the Participant will conduct the research necessary to resolve key R&D issues identified and prioritized in Phase I, participate in the testing of candidate ceramic material and candidate joints under simulated reformer conditions, bring the technology and design to the point where a prototype unit can be built and operated in Phase III, if funded, and temporarily redirect the project toward the use of ceramic tubes for ethylene production.

DOE's purpose for continuing the cooperative agreement is to enable Stone & Webster to satisfactorily complete an activity presently being funded by DOE. There are significant engineering and design challenges associated with the development of a 30 foot long ceramic-tubed steam/methane reformer. Since ethylene cracking at higher temperatures is similar to the present work in some respects, and is an easier development problem to solve, the information generated during this intermediate step will be used to help

guide the development of a steam/methane reformer.

Stone & Webster is an integrated provider of ethylene technology for the world's ethylene market. Because of Stone & Webster's leading position in the ethylene industry, new technology development, such as a more efficient furnace design, and advanced ceramic reactors, can expeditiously be incorporated into new and/or revamped ethylene plants in the U.S. and worldwide. The Stone & Webster effort is supported by a complex team of Participants (including various monolithic and ceramic composite manufacturers and consultants) with the necessary expertise, and the company has been working with DOE in the development of a higher temperature ceramic-tubed steam/methane reformer since 1988.

Eligibility for continuation of the cooperative agreement award is being restricted to Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation because of its past experience with the DOE and its unique institutional ties and expertise. The estimated cost to complete Phase II is \$1.8 million dollars. The award date is on or about May 15, 1995.

Issued in Chicago, Illinois on April 21, 1995.

**Timothy S. Crawford,**

*Assistant Manager for Human Resources and Administration.*

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### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 1962-000-CA]

#### Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment and to Conduct a Site Visit and Two Scoping Meetings for the Rock Creek—Cresta Project

May 5, 1995.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has received an application for a new license (relicense) from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E or applicant) for the constructed and operating Rock Creek—Cresta Project, located on the North Fork Feather River near the towns of Quincy and Oroville, in Butte, Plumas, Sutter, and Yuba Counties, California.

Upon review of the application and supplemental filings, the Commission staff has concluded that relicensing the two developments that comprise the existing project would not constitute a

major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Consequently, staff will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) that describes and evaluates the probable impacts of implementing the applicant's proposed and alternative; operational and maintenance procedures; environmental enhancement measures; and improved public recreational access and facilities at the Rock Creek and Cresta Developments.

The staff's EA: will consider both site specific and cumulative environmental impacts of relicensing the project; and will include economic and financial analyses of applicant's proposed and alternative environmental enhancement measures and sediment management procedures.

A Draft EA will be issued and circulated for review by all interested parties. All comments filed on the Draft EA will be analyzed by the FERC staff and considered in a final EA.

One element of the EA process is scoping and a site visit. These activities are initiated early to:

- Identify reasonable alternative operational procedures and environmental enhancement measures that should be evaluated in the EA;
- Identify significant environmental issues related to the operation of the existing project;
- Determine the depth of analysis for issues that will be discussed in the EA; and
- Identify resource issues that are of lesser importance and, consequently, do not require detailed analysis in the EA.

#### Site Visit

A site visit to the Rock Creek and Cresta Developments will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 1995, starting at 9:00 A.M. at PG&E's Rodgers Flat operational headquarters, located off Highway 70 in Storrer, California. The purpose of the visit is for interested persons to observe existing area resources and site conditions, learn the locations of proposed new recreational facilities, and discuss project operational procedures with representatives of PG&E and the Commission.

For details concerning the site visit, please contact Bill Zemke of PG&E in San Francisco, California at (415) 973-1646.

#### Scoping Meetings

The FERC staff will conduct two scoping meetings: the evening meeting is designed to obtain input from the general public, while the morning meeting will focus on resource agency