

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Carole A. Faria, Textile Technologist, at
(508) 651-5460.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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Department of the Navy

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Disposal of Decommissioned, Defueled Cruiser, Ohio Class, and Los Angeles Class Naval Reactor Plants

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*] and in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for disposal of reactor plants from U.S. Navy cruisers, OHIO Class submarines and LOS ANGELES Class submarines. The Department of Energy is participating as a cooperating agency and may adopt the Environmental Impact Statement, if appropriate, to fulfill its environmental review obligations under NEPA.

The Department of the Navy invites public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and will hold public hearings on the document.

DATES: The public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ends on October 10, 1995. Written comments regarding the document should be postmarked by this date to ensure consideration in preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Comments sent after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Four public hearings (which will also serve as informational meetings), will be held on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement: September 18 in Bremerton, Washington; September 19 in Portland, Oregon; September 20 in Seattle, Washington; and September 21 in Richland, Washington. Locations for these meetings are identified below.

ADDRESSES: Addresses for the public meeting locations are provided below. Written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, requests for copies of the document, and requests for further information should be directed to Mr. John Gordon (Code 1160), Puget Sound Naval Shipyard,

1400 Farragut Avenue, Bremerton, Washington 98314-5001, telephone (360)476-7111.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Scope of the Draft EIS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the alternative ways for disposing of decommissioned, defueled, reactor compartments from U.S. Navy nuclear-powered cruisers (BAINBRIDGE, TRUXTUN, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA Class and VIRGINIA Class) and submarines (LOS ANGELES and OHIO Classes). The total number of reactor compartments in these classes is expected to be approximately 100. A disposal method for the defueled reactor compartment is needed when a nuclear-powered ship no longer has sufficient military value to justify its continued maintenance, or it is no longer needed. For disposal, the ship can be: (1) placed in protective storage for an extended period followed by permanent disposal or recycling; or (2) prepared for permanent disposal or recycling.

The alternatives examined in detail in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement are the preferred alternative—land burial of the entire defueled reactor compartment at the Department of Energy Low-Level Waste Burial Grounds at Hanford, Washington; the no action alternative—protective waterborne storage for an indefinite period; disposal and reuse of subdivided portions of the reactor compartments; and indefinite storage above ground at Hanford.

Several other alternatives are examined in limited detail. These alternatives include sea disposal; land disposal of entire reactor compartments at other sites; and permanent above ground disposal of entire defueled reactor compartments at Hanford.

Public Scoping Process

On February 24, 1994 the Department of the Navy published a Notice of Intent (59 FR 8915) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Disposal of Decommissioned, Defueled Cruiser OHIO, and LOS ANGELES Class Naval Reactor Plants. Subsequently, the Navy held five public scoping meetings at the following locations:

Bremerton, Washington, March 10, 1994;
Richland, Washington, March 11, 1994;
Olympia, Washington, March 12, 1994;
Portland, Oregon, March 15, 1994; and
Portsmouth, Virginia, March 17, 1994.

The Navy received oral and written comments from individuals and organizations during the scoping process. All of those comments were

considered during preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Background Information

Navy reactor plants constructed prior to the USS LOS ANGELES (SSN 688) (referred to as pre-LOS ANGELES Class submarines) share many common design characteristics with reactor plants from cruisers, OHIO Class submarines and LOS ANGELES Class submarines. Pre-LOS ANGELES Class submarine reactor compartments are currently being disposed of at the Department of Energy Hanford Site in Eastern Washington by the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington, consistent with the Secretary of the Navy's 1984 Record of Decision on disposal of decommissioned, defueled Naval submarine reactor plants. This method of disposal is the preferred alternative for disposal of reactor compartments from cruisers, OHIO Class submarines and LOS ANGELES Class submarines because it has minimal environmental impacts and appears to be preferable from an environmental standpoint to other alternatives.

Except for sea disposal, no new legislation or Congressional action would be required to implement any of these alternatives. In all of the alternatives considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement there would be no spent nuclear fuel left in the reactor compartments; all the spent nuclear fuel would be removed before disposal. Management of the naval spent nuclear fuel has been addressed in a separate Department of Energy Environmental Impact Statement. Nevertheless, there would be some other radioactive materials left within the reactor compartments, and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement evaluates disposal of these residual materials. Types of U.S. Navy nuclear-powered ships that are not expected to be decommissioned in the next 20 years (e.g., aircraft carriers, SEAWOLF Class submarines) are not included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been distributed to various federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, elected officials, and special interest groups. Requests for copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be directed to the address listed above. In addition, copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and comments received during scoping are

also available for public inspection in the following libraries:

Kitsap County Public Library, Main Branch, 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton, Washington, (360)377-7601

Public Reading Room for U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, Washington State University, Tri-Cities, 100 Sprout Road, Room 130 West, Richland, Washington, (509)376-8583

Suzallo Library, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, (206)543-9158

Multnomah County Library, 801 Southwest 10th Avenue, Portland, Oregon, (503)248-5234

Information Meetings and Public Hearings

The Department of the Navy will hold public hearings to inform the public of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and to solicit comments. Hearings will be held at the following locations:

September 18, 1995, 7 pm-10 pm
Bremerton, Washington, Bremerton High School, Performing Arts Center, 1500 13th St.

September 19, 1995, 7 pm-10 pm
Portland, Oregon, Red Lion Inn, Jantzen Beach, 909 N. Hayden Island Dr.

September 20, 1995, 7 pm-10 pm
Seattle, Washington, H.M. Jackson Fed. Bldg, 915 2nd Ave.

September 21, 1995, 7 pm-10 pm
Richland, Washington, Shiloh Inn, Rivershore (O'Callahan's), 50 Comstock

The hearings will be conducted by the Navy. Federal, state, tribal and local agencies and interested parties are invited to attend or be represented at the hearings. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the public record. Equal weight will be given to both oral and written comments.

Dated: August 3, 1995.

Michael A. Waters,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP95-652-000]

Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

August 9, 1995.

Take notice that on July 31, 1995, Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (Eastern Shore), P.O. Box 1769, Dover, Delaware 19903, filed in Docket No. CP95-652-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.211) for authorization to construct and operate new delivery point facilities for service to Delaware Division of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (Delaware Division), an existing customer, in New Castle County, Delaware, under Eastern Shore's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83-40-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Eastern Shore proposes to install a meter and appurtenant equipment and approximately 200 feet of 4-inch service line to comprise the Armstrong Corner delivery point. It is stated that Eastern Shore would use the delivery point for the delivery on a firm basis of approximately 1,084 Mcf of gas on a peak day to Delaware Division and approximately 127,730 Mcf on an annual basis. It is further stated that the volumes to be delivered would not exceed Delaware Division's currently authorized firm entitlement from Eastern Shore. It is explained that the construction cost would be paid by Delaware Division. Eastern Shore states that construction of the delivery point would not affect its peak day or annual deliveries to other firm customers. It is asserted that Eastern Shore's tariff does not prohibit the addition of delivery points on behalf of existing customers.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a

protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP95-655-000]

Northwest Pipeline Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

August 9, 1995.

Take notice that on August 1, 1995, Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest), 295 Chipeta Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, filed a request with the Commission in Docket No. CP95-655-000 pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.211 and 157.216(b) of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for permission to, authorized in blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-433-000, all as more fully set forth in the request on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Northwest proposes to remove and retire two existing 8-inch regulators and appurtenances at the North Seattle Meter Station (Meter Station) in Smohomish County, Washington, at the request of Washington Natural Gas Company (Washington Natural). Northwest further proposes to construct and operate appurtenant replacement facilities at the Meter Station which would accommodate a higher delivery pressure and additional delivery capacity. Northwest states that the removal of the regulators will change the design capacity of the Meter Station from 117,500 Dth per day at the 260 psig to approximately 165,000 Dth per day at a minimum of 500 psig, with higher capacities and pressures. The estimated cost of the proposed facility upgrade would be approximately \$75,646 which would be reimbursed by Washington Natural.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after the Commission has issued this notice, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the allowed time, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed