

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement Notification for Department of Energy (DOE) Permission for the Off-Loading and Transportation of Commercial Low Level Radioactive Waste Across the Savannah River Site (SRS)**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notification of floodplain and wetlands involvement.

**SUMMARY:** DOE proposes to allow Chem-Nuclear Systems, L. L. C. (CNS) to use SRS for landing transport barges at the existing SRS boat ramp and off-loading trailered low-level radioactive waste packages for movement across SRS to the nearby CNS facility. Project activities would include modification of the aforementioned boat ramp on the Savannah River as needed for off-loading activities, and construction of a bridge across Lower Three Runs. These activities would necessitate temporary construction access, excavation of soils to accomplish the widening, and placement of fill material adjacent to the banks of Lower Three Runs to create two bridge entrance ramps. In accordance with title 10 CFR part 1022, DOE will prepare a floodplain and wetlands assessment and will perform this proposed action in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain or wetlands.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed action due on or before September 2, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding this assessment should be addressed to Andrew R. Grainger, SRS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, Building 773-42A, Room 212, Aiken, South Carolina 29802. The fax/phone number is (800) 881-7292. The e-mail address is nepa@srs.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON GENERAL FLOODPLAIN/WETLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS, CONTACT:** Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Oversight (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585. Telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

A location map showing the project sites and further information can be obtained from the Savannah River Operations Office (see ADDRESSES above).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed action entails DOE granting permission to CNS to off-load and

transport two trailered low-level radioactive waste packages across SRS to the nearby CNS facility in Barnwell County, South Carolina. The packages consist of two oversize/overweight steam generators from a Florida Power and Light Company facility located in St. Lucie, Florida. A transport barge carrying a single steam generator at a time would make a landing at the existing SRS boat ramp. Transport dates of the two shipments would be scheduled at least one month apart. Due to the size of the barge required to transport the steam generators on the Savannah River, the ramp would be modified prior to landing. Each steam generator would then be off-loaded and shipped via SRS and state roads to the CNS Barnwell facility. Additionally, in order to establish the most direct route between the SRS boat ramp and the Barnwell facility for the shipment of these steam generators, CNS desires to construct two bridge support structures and associated access roads, adjacent to an existing permanent SRS bridge on SRS Road B below the Par Pond dam.

The modifications to the SRS boat ramp would involve widening the facility for a distance of approximately eight feet downstream and stabilizing the upstream bank which forms the opposite side of the ramp. The widening would involve removal of a small elevated, upland bank bordering the entire downstream side of the boat ramp. The bank is currently dominated by a canopy of mature loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), and a midstory and understory of sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), water oak (*Q. nigra*), southern red oak (*Q. falcata*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*) and scattered herbaceous vegetation. This modification would make the available barge access at the ramp approximately 60 feet wide. Merchantable timber would be salvaged and other vegetative cover removed. The stabilization would entail activities (e.g., removal of the overhanging bank and stabilization with riprap) to arrest ongoing bank erosion present on the upstream side of the ramp. Approximately 3,700 cubic yards of soil would be removed to accomplish the widening and bank stabilization. The entire area in question is located within the 100-year floodplain. Permitting under both Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act would be required to implement the proposed action.

The bridge construction across Lower Three Runs would be necessary to enable use of the shorter transportation route from the off-loading site to the

CNS Barnwell facility. The existing bridges at that stream crossing do not have sufficient load capacity to support the subject trailered shipments. The proposed crossing structure would include construction of graveled access roads and ramps on either side of the stream corridor. These ramps would consist of pre-stressed concrete piles, concrete caps, concrete retaining walls, and riprap. The bridge span would consist of removable beams which would only be placed to support transport of shipments along this proposed route. Placement of fill materials within the existing SRS Road B right-of-way would be necessary to develop the access roads on either side of the stream crossing. Small wetland, drainage features exist within the proposed new access road right-of-way and ramp locations on both sides of Lower Three Runs stream corridor. The total wetland areas on the east and west sides of the stream corridor are approximately 0.5 and 0.8 acres, respectively. These wetlands are characterized by an emergent marsh habitat dominated by cattail (*Typha latifolia*), sedge (*Cyperus* spp.), bulrush (*Scirpus* spp.), rush (*Juncus* spp.), and pickerelweed (*Pontederia* spp.). Hydrology is provided through channeled storm water runoff from the roadway right-of-way and the area below the toe of the Par Pond dam. The soils appear to be largely erosional sediment. Most of the project area on the east side of the stream and approximately one-quarter of the area on the west side are located within the 100-year floodplain. This proposed action would be authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under a CWA Section 404 Nationwide permit.

A number of mitigation activities would be implemented to minimize potential impacts to the floodplain and wetlands. Operation of construction equipment in the wetland and floodplain areas would be minimized. Temporary access for construction vehicles and equipment would entail the placement of mats on the wetland areas. Silt fences and other erosion control structures as needed would be installed to ensure there is no deposition in the downslope wetland areas. Wetland acreage that is impacted as a result of the aforementioned fill activities adjacent to Lower Three Runs will require permitted mitigation.

Additionally, an erosion control plan would be developed so that the proposed action complies with applicable State and local floodplain protection standards and further to ensure that no additional impacts to wetlands will occur due to erosion and

sedimentation. Best management practices would be employed during construction and maintenance activities associated with this proposed action.

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetland environmental review requirements (title 10 CFR part 1022), DOE will prepare a floodplain and wetlands assessment for this proposed DOE action. The assessment will be included in the environmental assessment (EA) being prepared for the proposed action in accordance with the requirements of NEPA. A floodplain statement of findings will be included in any finding of no significant impact that is issued following the completion of the EA or may be issued separately.

Issued in Aiken, SC, on August 4, 1997.

**Lowell E. Tripp,**

*Director, Engineering and Analysis Division, Savannah River Operations Office.*

[FR Doc. 97-21793 Filed 8-15-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Oak Ridge Reservation

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) notice is hereby given of the following Advisory Committee meeting: Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Oak Ridge Reservation.

**DATES:** Friday, August 28, 1997, 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Comfort Inn, 433 South Rutgers Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sandy Perkins, Site-Specific Advisory Board Coordinator, Department of Energy Oak Ridge Operations Office, 105 Broadway, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, (423) 576-1590.

**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**

This Board meeting has been specially called and will focus on approval to spend Board funds to have an independent consultant review the

permitting and operations of the Toxic Substances Control Act incinerator.

**Public Participation**

The meeting is open to the public and comments will be taken during the meeting. 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 Sandy Perkins 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 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.

**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 9:00 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available at the Department of Energy's Information Resource Center at 105 Broadway, Oak Ridge, TN between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 8:30 am and 7:00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday; and 9:00 am and 1:00 pm on Saturday, or by writing to Sandy Perkins, Department of Energy Oak Ridge Operations Office, 105 Broadway, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, or by calling her at (423) 576-1590.

Issued at Washington, DC on August 12, 1997.

**Rachel M. Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-21794 Filed 8-15-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-U

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-165-006]

#### Alabama-Tennessee Natural Gas Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

August 12, 1997.

Take notice that on August 6, 1997, Midcoast Interstate Transmission, Inc. (formerly Alabama-Tennessee Natural Gas Company, hereinafter MIT), tendered for filing as part of its FERC

Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheet to be effective June 1, 1997.

Second Substitute First Revised Sheet No. 154

MIT states that the tariff sheet is filed in compliance with the July 29, 1997 letter order issued in the captioned proceeding.

MIT states that copies of its filing were served on all affected entities.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. All such protests should be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Copies of this filing are on file and available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-21767 Filed 8-15-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP94-158-008]

#### Columbia Gas Transmission; Notice of Compliance Filing

August 12, 1997.

Take notice that on August 8, 1997, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia Transmission) tendered for filing to become part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheet bearing an effective date of September 8, 1997.

Second Revised Sheet No. 96

Columbia Transmission states that it is making the submission to comply with the letter order issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on July 11, 1997, in Docket No. RP94-158-007. Therein, Columbia Transmission was requested to file to remove certain tariff sheets which detailed certain direct bill amounts associated with its Account No. 191, which are no longer necessary.

Columbia Transmission states further that copies of this filing have been mailed to all of its customers, affected