

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. PR98-13-000]

**The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company; Notice of Petition for Rate Approval**

May 21, 1998.

Take notice on May 7, 1998, The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company (Peoples Gas) filed a petition for rate approval, pursuant to Section 284.123(b)(2) of the Commission's regulations, requesting that the Commission approve as fair and equitable rates for firm and interruptible storage and parking and loaning services to be effective June 1, 1998. Peoples Gas has filed, as Exhibit B to its petition for rate approval, a revised Operating Statement that incorporates revisions needed to offer firm and interruptible storage services, limited parking and loaning service and title tracking service. At this time, Peoples Gas is not proposing to charge for the title transfer tracking service.

Peoples Gas states that it is an intrastate gas distribution company serving retail customers in the City of Chicago, Illinois. Peoples Gas states that it is a public utility under the Public Utilities Act of Illinois and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Illinois Commerce Commission. Peoples Gas states that it is authorized to provide interstate services in accordance with Section 284.224 of the Commission's regulations.

Peoples Gas proposes for firm storage service, maximum monthly reservation rate of \$1.6069 per MMBtu of maximum daily withdrawal quantity; a maximum monthly capacity charge of \$0.0643 per MMBtu of maximum storage quantity; and a \$0.0485 commodity charge per MMBtu of gas injected into the shipper's storage account. The minimum charge is based on the variable costs associated with the service and would be \$0.0002 per MMBtu of gas injected into the shipper's storage account. For the interruptible storage service, Peoples Gas proposes a maximum commodity charge, based on a 100% load factor derivation of the firm storage rate, of \$0.0551 per MMBtu of inventory on any day and a minimum charge of \$0.0002 per MMBtu of daily inventory. For the parking and loaning service, which includes embedded transportation, the maximum rate, based on storage and transportation costs, would be \$0.1231 per MMBtu of inventory any day and the minimum rate would be \$0.0002 per MMBtu of

inventory on any day. These proposed maximum rates would be subject to discounting.

Pursuant to section 284.123(b)(2)(ii), if the Commission does not act within 150 days of the filing date, the rate will be deemed to be fair and equitable and not in excess of an amount which interstate pipelines would be permitted to charge for similar transportation service. The Commission may, prior to the expiration of the 150-day period, extend the time for action or institute a proceeding to afford parties an opportunity for written comments and for the oral presentation of views, data, and arguments.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed on or before June 5, 1998. 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. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

**David P. Boergers,***Acting Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 637]

**Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington; Notice of Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County's Request to Use Alternative Procedures in Filing a License Application**

May 21, 1998.

By letter dated May 1, 1998, Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (Chelan PUD) asked to use an alternative procedure in filing an application for a new major license for its Lake Chelan Project No. 637.<sup>1</sup> Chelan PUD has demonstrated that they made a reasonable effort to contact the

<sup>1</sup> The 48-megawatt project consists of a 40-foot high dam on the Chelan River at the lower end of Lake Chelan, a 2-mile long steel and concrete tunnel, and a powerhouse located near the confluence of the Chelan and Columbia Rivers.

resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and others who may be affected by their proposal, and have submitted a communication protocol governing how participants in the proposed process may communicate with each other. Chelan PUD has also submitted several letters of support for their proposal, and it appears that a consensus exists that the use of an alternative procedure is appropriate in this case.

The purpose of this notice is to invite any additional comments on Chelan PUD's request to use the alternative procedure, as required under the final rule for Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects.<sup>2</sup> Additional notices seeking comments on the specific project proposal, interventions and protests, and recommended terms and conditions will be issued at a later date.

The alternative procedure being requested here combines the prefiling consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing the applicant to file an Applicant-Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA) in lieu of Exhibit E of the license application. This differs from the traditional process, in which the applicant consults with agencies, Indian tribes, and NGOs during preparation of the application for the license and before filing it, but the Commission staff performs the environmental review after the application is filed. The alternative procedure is intended to simplify and expedite the licensing process by combining the prefiling consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants. The alternative procedure can be tailored to the particular project under consideration.

**APEA Process and the Lake Chelan Project Schedule**

Chelan PUD has begun working collaboratively with the various interested entities to identify issues that will need to be addressed and studies that will need to be conducted in relicensing the project. Several meetings are scheduled for May and June of this year with initial studies to be conducted during the 1998 summer season. Public scoping meetings are tentatively planned for November 1998. Notice of the scoping meetings will be published at least 30 days prior to the meetings.

Additional studies may be conducted during the summers of 1999 and 2000. Opportunities for requesting additional

<sup>2</sup> 81 FERC 61,103 (1997).