

Area and then turn to a southeastern direction, crossing 2.1 miles of the northwest corner of the Fort Yuma-Quechan Indian Reservation. The route would then continue west between the U.S.-Mexico boundary and the All-American Canal. At the Hemlock Canal, the route would turn south, following the Hemlock Canal alignment for 2.5 miles to the border. The proposed route would cross approximately 25 linear miles of 100-year floodplains.

Project activities would include clearing rights-of-way and access roads, digging tower footings, setting transmission towers, hanging transmission wires, and modifying existing substation(s).

The NRG application, which can be downloaded in its entirety (including maps) from the Office of Fossil Energy's web site (www.fe.doe.gov; choose regulatory, then electricity), states that there are no firm contracts in place for the sale of power to Mexico using the proposed transmission line. Prior to commencing electricity exports to Mexico using the proposed line, NRG, or any other electricity exporter, must obtain an electricity export authorization from DOE pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

Identification of Environmental Issues

A purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and suggestions for consideration in the preparation of the EIS. As background for public comment, this notice contains a list of potential environmental issues that DOE has tentatively identified for analysis. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive or to imply any predetermination of impacts. Following is a preliminary list of issues that may be analyzed in the EIS:

- (1) Socioeconomic impacts of development of the land tracts and their subsequent uses;
- (2) Impacts to protected, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of animals or plants, or their critical habitats;
- (3) Impacts to floodplains and wetlands;
- (4) Impacts to cultural or historic resources;
- (5) Impacts to human health and safety;
- (6) Impacts on air, soil, and water;
- (7) Visual impacts;
- (8) Disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations; and
- (9) Environmental impacts within Mexico.

The EIS will also consider alternatives to the proposed transmission line, including:

(1) No Action Alternative: The EIS will analyze the impacts associated with "no action." Since the proposed action is the issuance of a Presidential permit for the construction of the proposed transmission line, "no action" means that the permit would not be issued. However, not issuing the permit would not necessarily imply maintenance of the status quo. It is possible that the applicant and/or the Mexican government may take other actions if the proposed transmission line is not built. The No Action Alternative will address the environmental impacts that are reasonably foreseeable to occur if the Presidential permit is not issued, to the extent practicable;

(2) Alternative transmission line routes;

(3) Construction of a powerplant in the U.S. closer to the U.S.-Mexico border with a shorter transmission line extending to the border, an alternative concept for supplying electric power to the target region.

Scoping Process

Interested parties are invited to participate in the scoping process both to refine the preliminary alternatives and environmental issues to be analyzed in depth, and to eliminate from detailed study those alternatives and environmental issues that are not significant or pertinent. The scoping process is intended to involve all interested agencies (Federal, state, county, and local), public interest groups, Native American Tribes, businesses, and members of the public. Potential Federal cooperating agencies include the U.S. Department of the Interior (including Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Fish and Wildlife Service) and the International Boundary and Water Commission.

Public scoping meetings will be held at the locations, dates, and times indicated above. These scoping meetings will be informal and conducted as a discussion between attendees and DOE. The DOE presiding officer will establish only those procedures needed to ensure that everyone who wishes to speak has a chance to do so and that DOE understands all issues and comments. Speakers will be allocated approximately 10 minutes for their oral statements. Depending upon the number of persons wishing to speak, DOE may allow longer times for representatives of organizations. Consequently, persons wishing to speak on behalf of an organization should identify that organization in their request to speak. Persons who have not submitted a

request to speak in advance may register to speak at the scoping meeting(s). However, advance requests to speak are encouraged. Should any speaker desire to provide for the record further information that cannot be presented within the designated time, such additional information may be submitted in writing by the date listed above in the DATES section. Both oral and written comments will be considered and given equal weight by DOE. Meetings will commence at the times specified above and will continue until all those present who wish to participate have had an opportunity to do so.

Draft EIS Schedule and Availability

The Draft EIS is scheduled for completion by March 1999, at which time its availability will be announced in the **Federal Register** and public comments again will be solicited.

Those individuals who do not wish to submit comments or suggestions at this time but who would like to receive a copy of the Draft EIS for review and comment when it is issued should notify Mrs. Russell at the address above.

The Draft EIS will be made available for public inspection at several public libraries or reading rooms in Arizona and California. A notice of these locations will be provided in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on October 22, 1998.

Peter N. Brush,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Environment, Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 98-28703 Filed 10-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Competitive Financial Assistance for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of competitive financial assistance solicitation.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy announces a competitive solicitation for applications for grants and cooperative agreements for information dissemination, public outreach, training, and related technical analysis and technical assistance activities involving renewable energy and energy conservation. It is estimated that funding of approximately \$5.5 million will be available under renewable energy programs and \$6.5 million will be available under energy conservation programs for awards under this

solicitation in fiscal year 1999. Areas of interest involving renewable energy include biomass, geothermal, hydrogen, photovoltaic, solar building, concentrating solar power, and wind technologies. Conservation areas of interest include energy efficiency in transportation, buildings, industry, and the federal sector. The awards may be for a period of six months to four years. Proposals will be subject to the objective merit review procedures for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

ADDRESSES: The formal solicitation is expected to be issued in late October 1998. It will be available as solicitation number DE-PS01-99EE10649 through the Department of Energy's "Current Business Opportunities at Headquarters Procurement Services" Homepage located at www.pr.doe.gov/solicit.html. Interested applicants that do not have Internet access may request a copy of the solicitation by sending a request with a virus-free diskette and self-addressed, stamped, diskette mailer to U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Headquarters Procurement Services, Attn: Document Control Specialist, HR-543, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, D.C. 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jackie Kniskern, HR-542, Office of Headquarters Procurement Services, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, D.C. 20585, telephone number (202) 426-0046, e-mail at jacqueline.kniskern@hq.doe.gov. E-mail is the preferred method for submission of comments and/or questions.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy supports the Department of Energy's strategic objectives of increasing the efficiency and productivity of energy use, while limiting environmental impacts; reducing the vulnerability of the U.S. economy to disruptions in energy supplies; ensuring that a competitive electric utility industry is in place that can deliver adequate and affordable supplies with reduced environmental impacts; supporting U.S. energy, environmental, and economic interests in global markets; and delivering leading-edge technologies. A key component of this program is the support of information dissemination, public outreach, training and related technical analysis and technical assistance activities to: (1) stimulate increased energy efficiency in transportation, buildings, and industry and increased use of renewable energy; and (2) accelerate the adoption of new

technologies to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. The purpose of this solicitation is to further these objectives through financial assistance in the following areas:

Office of Utility Technologies—The primary mission of this Office is to lead the national effort to develop solar and other renewable energy technologies and to accelerate their acceptance and use on a national and international level. The Office also develops advanced high temperature superconducting power equipment and energy storage systems, addresses advanced technology needs for transmission and distribution systems, and provides information and technical assistance on electric utility restructuring issues. Financial assistance applications will be requested for information dissemination, public outreach, and related technical analysis activities involving specific renewable technologies (e.g., geothermal, concentrating solar power, biopower, photovoltaic, wind, hydrogen) as well as activities that involve multiple technologies within the Office's purview. Proposals also will be requested to perform other activities, such as information dissemination, technical assistance, and outreach relating to electric utility restructuring.

Office of Transportation Technologies—The mission of this Office is to support the development and use of advanced transportation vehicles and alternative fuel technologies which will reduce energy demand, particularly for petroleum; reduce criteria pollutant emissions and greenhouse gas emissions; and enable the U.S. transportation industry to sustain a strong competitive position in domestic and world markets. Financial assistance applications will be requested to support national and regional biomass resource assessments; technical analysis and outreach related to energy and environmental impacts of advanced transportation technologies; and information dissemination and outreach to promote the use of alternative fuel vehicles.

Office of Industrial Technologies—The mission of this Office is to improve the energy efficiency and pollution prevention performance of U.S. industry. The Office has a particular focus on several key industries, including the steel, aluminum, glass, metal casting, forest products, chemicals, petroleum, agriculture, and mining industries. Financial assistance applications will be requested to support specific information

dissemination and related technical analysis activities associated with the development and adoption of energy efficient technologies in the industrial sector. Many of these issues involve the examination of changes in the marketplace; differing needs associated with small and medium-sized businesses; competing technologies; institutional and infrastructure issues; and energy efficiency activities in other countries and their impact or potential for U.S. technologies.

Office of Building Technology, State and Community Programs—The mission of this Office is to develop, promote, and integrate energy technologies and practices to make buildings more efficient and affordable and communities more liveable. Financial assistance applications will be requested to support information dissemination, technical analysis, and outreach activities designed to facilitate the adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy in residential and commercial buildings and communities. For example, proposed projects may include the development and dissemination of educational tools and training programs that educate the general public and stakeholders about the benefits of employing energy efficient technologies and practices in buildings and communities.

Federal Energy Management Program—The mission of this Program is to assist agencies in achieving the Federal energy management goals and to disseminate information to States, local governments, and the public on innovative approaches to the use of energy. Financial assistance applications will be requested to support several specific program areas, such as a national lighting certification program for lighting professionals.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy has overall management responsibility for the entire Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, including the Office of Utility Technologies, the Office of Transportation Technologies, the Office of Industrial Technologies, the Office of Building Technology, State and Community Programs, and the Federal Energy Management Program. Financial assistance applications will be requested to support information dissemination, outreach, training, and related technical analysis and technical assistance activities involving: (1) multiple energy efficiency sectors; (2) both renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors; (3) international efforts; and (4) other projects which stimulate increased energy efficiency

and increased use of renewable energy or accelerate the adoption of new technologies to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Additional information about the programs of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy can be obtained at the Office's Internet site at www.eren.doe.gov/ee.html.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 600.9, a draft solicitation, which will include greater detail about specific program areas of interest, application instructions, and evaluation criteria, is expected to be issued in late October 1998. Comments will be accepted for two weeks after the release of the draft solicitation.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on October 20, 1998.

Carol M. Rueter,

*Acting Director, Program Services Division,
Office of Headquarters Procurement Services.*

[FR Doc. 98-28592 Filed 10-23-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EG99-6-000]

Bear Swap I LLC; Notice of Extension of Time

October 20, 1998.

The Notice of Filing in the above-mentioned case was issued on October 8, 1998 (63 FR 56020, October 20, 1998) with a deadline for filing protests and interventions of October 19, 1998. Since the publication of this notice was after the deadline, we are extending the time to file protests and interventions to October 30, 1998.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-28573 Filed 10-23-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-538-000]

Midwestern Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Site Visit

October 20, 1998.

On October 28, 1998, the staff of the Office of Pipeline Regulation will be conducting an environmental site visit of Midwestern Gas Transmission Company's Grain Processing Corporation Sales Tap Project in Knox

and Daviess Counties, Indiana. All parties may attend. Those planning to attend must provide their own transportation.

For further information about where the site inspection will begin, please contact Paul McKee at (202) 208-1088.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-28577 Filed 10-23-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-17-000]

Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

October 20, 1998.

Take notice that on October 13, 1998, Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company (Panhandle), P.O. Box 1642, Houston, Texas 77251-1642, filed in Docket No. CP99-17-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.211 and .216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.211 and 157.216) for authorization to upgrade the Central Illinois Public Service (CIPSCO) Quincy M&R Station, an existing delivery point located in Adams County, Illinois, under Panhandle's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83-83-000, 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.

Panhandle states that it proposes to replace the regulators associated with the existing M&R Station with short lengths of pipe so as to allow an increase in pressure from 90 psig to 240 psig. Panhandle also states the upgrade facilities will enable the above-ground meter runs to deliver natural gas supplies to CIPSCO at a pressure sufficient to accommodate CIPSCO's increased customer pressure requirements, and that the maximum capacity of the Quincy M&R Station will not change as a result of these proposed modifications. Panhandle further states that the proposed upgrade of the Quincy M&R Station will not increase the existing firm entitlement of CIPSCO under its currently effective service agreements, but will better enable CIPSCO to provide its customers with requested delivery pressures.

Panhandle states the estimated cost to upgrade the existing facilities is

\$11,600, and the CIPSCO will reimburse Panhandle for the cost of modification.

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 National 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.

[FR Doc. 98-28574 Filed 10-23-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER99-193-000, et al.]

Entergy Services, Inc., et al.; Electric Rate and Corporate Regulation Filings

October 19, 1998.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. Entergy Services, Inc.

[Docket No. ER99-193-000]

Take notice that on October 14, 1998, Entergy Services, Inc., on behalf of Entergy Arkansas, Inc., Entergy Gulf States, Inc., Entergy Louisiana, Inc., Entergy Mississippi, Inc., and Entergy New Orleans, Inc., (collectively, the Entergy Operating Companies), tendered for filing a Short-Term Firm Point-to-Point Transportation Agreement between Entergy Services, Inc., as agent for the Entergy Operating Companies, and PG&E Energy Trading—Power, L.P.
Comment date: November 6, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

2. California Power Exchange Corporation

[Docket Nos. EC96-19-037 and ER96-1663-038]

Take notice that on October 13, 1998, the California Power Exchange Corporation (PX), filed revised sheets to its tariff in compliance with the Commission's September 28, 1998, order in the captioned dockets.