

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 23, 1997.

Joseph Arango,

Acting Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

December 12, 1997.

The Honorable John T. Conway,
Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Dear Mr. Chairman: We are pleased to forward the Department's Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 97-2, Criticality Safety. This Plan addresses the need for improved criticality safety practices and coherent programs to alleviate the potential adverse impacts on safety and productivity of Department of Energy operations. It builds upon the successful actions taken in response to Board Recommendation 93-2, The Need for Critical Experiment Capability, which is being implemented through the Nuclear Criticality Predictability Program. Because the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 97-2 incorporates ongoing Nuclear Criticality Predictability Program activities, I propose closure of Recommendation 93-2.

To continue successful implementation of Recommendation 93-2 and implement Recommendation 97-2 in an integrated fashion, the Department is taking steps to ensure stable funding for these important crosscutting safety activities now and in the outyears. We have established a responsible line manager and identified necessary funding for fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

The Implementation Plan was prepared by a cross-organizational response team reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs in coordination with other affected Headquarters and Field offices. Dr. Robin Staffin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Development, Office of Defense Programs, will be the responsible manager for implementing this plan. He can be reached at (202) 586-7590.

Sincerely,

Federico Peña.

[FR Doc. 97-34196 Filed 12-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Advisory Board

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), notice is hereby given of the following Advisory Committee meeting:

Name: Environmental Management Advisory Board.

Date and Times: Wednesday, January 21, 1998, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Place: U.S. Department of Energy/Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence

Avenue, S.W.; Room 1E-245, Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-4400.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James T. Melillo, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management; Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB), EM-22, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4400. The Internet address is: James.Melillo@em.doe.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Purpose of the Board. The purpose of the Board is to provide the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) with advice and recommendations on issues confronting the Environmental Management program, from the perspectives of affected groups and state, local, and tribal governments. The Board will help to improve the Environmental Management Program by assisting in the process of securing consensus recommendations, and providing the Department's numerous publics with opportunities to express their opinions regarding the Environmental Management Program.

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, January 21, 1998

- 8:30 a.m. Co-Chairmen Open Public Meeting
- 8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
- 9:00 a.m. Technology Development and Transfer Committee Report
- 9:30 a.m. Privatization Committee Report
- 10:00 a.m. Science Committee Report
- 10:45 a.m. 2006 Strategic Planning Committee Report
- 11:15 a.m. Long-Term Stewardship Committee Report
- 11:45 a.m. Worker Health and Safety Committee Report
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Board Business
- 2:15 p.m. Public Comment Session
- 3:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourns

A final agenda will be available at the meeting.

Public Participation

The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should either contact James T. Melillo at the address or telephone number listed above, or call 1-(800) 736-3282, the Center for Environmental Management Information and register to speak during

the public comment session of the meeting. Individuals may also register on January 21, 1998 at the meeting site. Every effort will be made to hear all those wishing to speak to the Board, on a first come, first serve basis. Those who call in and reserve time will be given the opportunity to speak first. The Board Co-Chairs are empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

Transcripts and Minutes

A meeting transcript and minutes will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, DC on December 23, 1997.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-34195 Filed 12-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-149-000]

El Paso Natural Gas Company; Notice of Application

December 24, 1997.

Take notice that on December 19, 1997, El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso), Post Office Box 1492, El Paso, Texas 79978, filed in Docket No. CP98-149-000 an application pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate the Bondad Expansion Project to alleviate a capacity constraint on El Paso's system north of the Blanco plant in San Juan County, New Mexico, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

El Paso states that it proposes to construct and operate additional compression facilities, with appurtenances, at the existing Bondad compressor station located on the Ignacio to Blanco Line and Loop Line (Line Nos. 1205 and 1218, respectively) (Ignacio Lines), in La Plata County, Colorado, in order to restage the three existing Solar Centaur centrifugal compressor units and to replace each of the three gas turbine engines comprising