

state, and local agencies, Indian Tribes, and other interested private organizations, including environmental interest groups, are invited to comment on the scope of the DEIS. Comments are requested concerning project alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant environmental impacts, and permits or other approvals that may be required. To date, the following impact areas have been identified and will be analyzed in depth in the DEIS: (1) fish and their habitat; (2) water quality; (3) wetlands; (4) riparian habitat; (5) flood control; (6) land use; and (7) public safety. The environmental review process will be comprehensive and will integrate and satisfy the requirements of NEPA (Federal) and SEPA (Washington State), and other relevant Federal, state, and local environmental laws.

4. Scoping Meeting

A notice of the scoping meeting will be mailed to all involved agencies and individuals known to have an interest in this project. A scoping meeting and an open house to receive public comments on restoration program alternatives will be held on January 20, 1999, at the Tukwila Community Center, 12424—42nd Avenue South, Tukwila, Washington. The meeting will occur from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. The meeting will begin with a one-half hour open house to allow the public and agencies to review project information/graphics and ask questions of Corps and King County staff, followed by presentations and then a question and answer period for the proposed alternatives. Verbal or written comments will be accepted at the scoping meeting, or written comments concerning the scope of the analysis may be sent to Patrick Cagney at the above address within 45 days of when this notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

5. Other Environmental Review, Coordination, and Permit Requirements

Other environmental review, coordination, and permit requirements include preparation of a Section 404 (b) (1) evaluation by the Corps of Engineers; and consultation among the Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Washington per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Coordination will also be initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet the requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

6. Availability of the Draft EIS

The draft Programmatic EIS/Restoration Plan is scheduled for release during the spring of 1999 and the Final

Programmatic EIS/Restoration Plan is scheduled for release during the fall of 1999.

Dated: December 9, 1998.

James M. Rigsby,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 98-33996 Filed 12-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-ER-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Financial and Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address *Pat Sherrill@ed.gov*, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Financial and Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection,

grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: December 17, 1998.

Kent H. Hannaman,

Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Financial and Chief Information Officer.

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Advanced Placement Incentive Program.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 4.057.

Burden Hours: 48,684.

Abstract: Grants to states to enable states to cover part or all of the cost of advanced placement test fees to low-income individuals. When applicable, funds can be used for activities related to maintaining the enrollment of low-income students in advanced placement courses and for increasing the number of such courses.

Office of the Under Secretary

Type of Review: New.

Title: Evaluation of the Eisenhower Professional Development Program: State and Local Activities.

Frequency: One time.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 575.

Burden Hours: 793.

Abstract: The Planning and Evaluation Service is conducting a three-year study to evaluate the Eisenhower Professional Development Program and to report on the progress of the program with respect to a set of Performance Indiviators established by the Department of Education. The evaluation will provide information on the types of professional development activities supported by the program, the effects of the program participation on classroom teaching, and the quality of program planning and coordination. Clearance is sought for the Longitudinal Study of Teacher Changes, to be conducted in the Spring of the 1998–1999 school year. Respondents will be teachers.

[FR Doc. 98–33942 Filed 12–22–98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP96–248–009 and CP96–249–009]

Portland Natural Gas Transmission System; Notice of Initial FERC Gas Tariff

December 17, 1998.

Take notice that on December 11, 1998, Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS) filed to place into effect its FERC Gas Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, Original Sheet Nos. 1 through 650 (tariff). PNGTS requests that its tariff be made effective on February 11, 1999, which is the expected in-service date for the PNGTS facilities. The tariff will allow PNGTS to provide interstate transportation service in compliance with the Commission orders issued on July 31, 1996, July 31, 1997, September 24, 1997, and April 23, 1998.¹

PNGTS states that complete copies of this filing are being mailed to potential customers and interested state commissions. However, due to the voluminous nature of this filing, copies of the redlined tariff sheets in Appendix B, will not be included in the mailing. PNGTS states that redlined tariff sheets of this filing will be made available upon request, and complete copies of this filing are on file with the Commission.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file with the Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed as provided in 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.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–33987 Filed 12–22–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99–75–000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed A-Line Abandonment Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

December 17, 1998.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the abandonment of four segments totaling about 51 miles of the Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) A-Line pipeline in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Texas.¹ The A-Line pipeline was constructed in the 1930's. Because of the age and condition of the pipeline, Northern has been forced to inactivate or reduce the operating pressure of most of the segments proposed for abandonment. The application for this project and other supplemental filings in this docket are available for viewing on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us). Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS Menu, and follow the instructions.

This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of additional temporary easement to complete the pipeline removal. The pipeline company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law.

Because the proposed pipeline removal activities would involve some of the same kinds of potential impacts normally associated with pipeline construction, a fact sheet of questions typically asked about pipeline construction, including the use of eminent domain, is attached to this notice as appendix 1.²

Summary of the Proposed Project

Northern requests authorization to:

(1) Abandon approximately 43.9 miles of 26-inch diameter A-Line pipeline beginning at the Macksville Compressor Station in Pawnee County, Kansas, and ending at the Bushton Compressor Station in Rice County, Kansas;

(2) Use the Bushton and Macksville Compressor Station yards for pipe storage and stockpile areas;

(3) Abandon approximately 5.0 miles of 24-inch-diameter A-Line starting in Cass County, Nebraska and ending in Mills County, Iowa;

(4) Abandon approximately 2.4 miles of 20-inch-diameter A-Line in Hancock County, Iowa; and

(5) Abandon approximately 92 feet of the 24-inch-diameter A-Line under Highway 83 in Ochiltree County, Texas.

The majority of the abandoned pipeline would be removed. Sixty farm taps currently occur along the A-Line. Thirty-five of these farm taps would be abandoned and 25 would be relocated to Northern's parallel B, C, D, or E pipelines. The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 2.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction activities would affect about 728 acres of primarily agricultural land and would use a 133-acre pipe storage and staging area. Following construction, the construction right-of-way would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208–1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

¹ See, 76 FERC ¶ 61,123 (July 31, 1996); 80 FERC 61,134 (July 31, 1997); 80 FERC 61,345 (September 24, 1997), and 83 FERC 61,080 (April 23, 1998).

¹ Northern's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.