

properties. However, these lands are located within areas already surrounded by urban land uses. As such, there is a high priority to develop these lands prior to developing lands at more remote locations in the Santa Clarita Valley for several reasons: (1) The infrastructure is already present in these areas; and (2) the City and County General Plans emphasize in-filling of such areas within the urbanized portions of the valley in order to prevent scattered and disjoint development of outlying areas.

Development of flood protection features outside the "but for zone" if feasible. Such protection could involve several options: (1) Elevating land development projects above the floodway in accordance with Los Angeles County requirements; or (2) excavating dry land and installing levees and/or bank protection. Hence, the distance of the "but for zone" from the river (105 or more feet) would not represent a constraint on flood protection improvements.

Based on the above considerations, the assumption that the land outside the "but for zone" would be developed with or without the proposed 404 permit is reasonable.

#### Key Environmental Impacts

The key types of environmental impacts to be addressed in the EIS are listed below:

a. Riparian habitat and wetlands—Future flood control projects could result in the permanent or temporary loss or temporary disturbance of riparian and wetland habitat. The Valencia Master Plan includes the creation and restoration of riparian and wetland habitats along the river to compensate for these losses in other portions of the river. The EIS will assess the loss or gain of these resources over the short term and long term based on their acreages, functions, and values.

b. Threatened and endangered species—Portions of the Santa Clara River support the Federally listed endangered unarmored threespine stickleback fish (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*).

In addition, riparian habitat along the river provides potentially suitable habitat for the Federally listed endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*). These species could be affected by loss of wetlands, change in hydrologic conditions, and increased urban runoff. Species Proposed or designated as Candidates for Federal listing will also be addressed in the EIS.

c. Hydraulics, hydrology, and water quality—The EIS will address the effects of bank protection, bridges, and adjacent upland development on the river's hydrology, flood hazard conditions, hydraulic characteristics, sediment transport, and water quality.

d. The EIS will also address impacts of the proposed action (within the scope of analysis) related to air quality,

groundwater, recreation, visual resources, noise, traffic, land use, and cultural resources.

#### Cumulative Impacts

The EIS will address the combined effects of various future flood control facilities and urban development encroaching into the river from Lang Station (7.1 miles upstream of the east end of the project reach) to the Ventura County line 4.1 miles downstream of the west end of the project reach), including major tributaries. The assessment will focus on adverse cumulative impacts to water quality, sediment transport conditions, riparian and wetland habitat, and threatened and endangered species. Other cumulative impacts will also be addressed regarding air quality, groundwater, recreation, visual resources, and cultural resources.

#### Alternatives

The following alternatives will be addressed in the EIS: (1) No action Alternative—denial of a long-term comprehensive permit and lack of any new Section 404 authorizations allowing future development projects; limited authorizations issued by the Corps would be presumed only for emergency work on existing projects and minimal impact maintenance projects; (2) Full Encroachment Alternative—conventional uniform bank protection according to previous Los Angeles County Public Works Department plans, resulting in encroachment into the river at most locations (which would maximize developable land); (3) Complete Avoidance Alternative—placement of levees and bank protection outside of waters at all locations, avoiding the need for a Corps 404 permit except at bridge and side drain locations; (4) Refined Proposed Project Alternative—the proposed project with revisions to the channel alignment and placement to avoid certain site-specific impacts or highly sensitive areas that will be identified in the EIS impact studies; (5) Other Alternatives—other alternatives identified in the public scoping process that are consistent with the project objectives and do not have other new significant impacts; and (6) Permitting Alternatives—a range of permitting process alternatives, including various combinations of general, nationwide, and individual permits and administrative processes.

#### Public Involvement

Interested parties are encouraged to be involved in the scoping process by sending written comments concerning the scope of the EIS to the contact

person noted above. Written comments on the NOI are due to Corps Regulatory at the address noted below no later than October 31, 1995.

In addition, a public scoping meeting is scheduled for October 5, 1995, 7:00 pm to 10 pm, at the Valencia Hilton Garden Inn in the Pacific A and B rooms, 27710 The Old Road, Valencia. Interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Richard J. Schubel,

*Acting Regulatory Branch.*

[FR Doc. 95-24190 Filed 9-28-95; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Environment, Safety and Health

[Notice 96-01]

#### Continuation of Solicitation for Epidemiology and Other Health Studies Financial Assistance Program

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Annual notice of continuation of potential availability of grants and cooperative agreements.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Health Studies within the Office of Environment, Safety and Health of the Department of Energy (DOE) announces its continuing interest in receiving applications for grants and cooperative agreements for occupational and environmental health studies related to nuclear weapons production, research, development, storage and dismantling and energy production, transmission and use. A final program rule, which specifies the general policies and procedures governing the purpose and scope, program areas, eligibility, application requirements, evaluation criteria, solicitation and selection procedures for the Office of Health Studies financial assistance program, was published in the Federal Register (60 FR 5838) on January 31, 1995, effective March 2, 1995. Proposed research applications and pre-applications shall comply with 10 CFR Part 602.

The three offices within the Office of Health Studies, the Office of Epidemiologic Studies, the Office of International Health Studies, and the Office of Occupational Medicine and Medical Surveillance, promote studies to identify and assess the health risks associated with occupational or environmental exposures to ionizing radiation or toxic chemicals in the following populations: Employees of DOE and of DOE contractors

(particularly those at high-risk for exposure to ionizing radiation or toxic chemicals), residents of communities near DOE facilities, and populations throughout the world at high-risk for exposure to ionizing radiation or toxic chemicals resulting from accidental exposures or proximity to nuclear or other energy-related facilities. Deliberate exposure of human subjects in ongoing radiation experiments is outside the scope of this announcement. Access and use of information for conducting studies under this notice will comply with the Amendment to the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 regarding Existing Systems of Records, published June 28, 1995, effective August 7, 1995 (60 FR 33510).

**DATES:** Deadlines for applications or pre-applications will be contained in separate Notices of Availability to be published at a later time in the Federal Register that will address specific program areas to be funded by the Office of Health Studies in fiscal year 1996. However, all applications accepted under this notice must be received by the Office of Health Studies on or before September 30, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** After the issuance of a Notice of Availability, applicants may obtain additional information from Dr. Paul Seligman, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Studies (EH-6), U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290; facsimile: 301-903-3445; telephone: 301-903-5926.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For fiscal year 1996, the Office of Health Studies estimates that approximately \$2.5 million will be available for grants in occupational and environmental health studies. The number of awards made will depend on the number of applications received for which the results of competitive merit review are favorable. Of this total, the Office of International Health Studies anticipates that approximately \$500,000 will be available to support research to improve an understanding of the health effects and to assess the health risks of exposures to ionizing radiation in workers and populations throughout the world with potential radiation exposures. Of the remainder, the Office of Occupational Medicine and Medical Surveillance anticipates that approximately \$2 million will be available in the form of a cooperative agreement to identify and assess former workers at DOE facilities at risk for occupational diseases. Separate Notices of Availability will be issued in the Federal Register for these two programs.

The Office of Epidemiologic Studies does not anticipate having funds available to support either cooperative agreements or grants during fiscal year 1996.

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between DOE and the Department of Health and Human Services (56 FR 9701), published March 7, 1991, additional funds to study (1) occupational health and safety issues arising from exposures to radiation and toxic chemicals at nuclear and other energy-related facilities and (2) methodology for risk assessment and epidemiologic research may be available through the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); see Federal Register Announcement 521 (60 FR 4916), published January 25, 1995, or contact Richard Hornung, Associate Director for Energy-Related Health Research, NIOSH, Mail Stop R-44, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226; telephone: 513-841-4400.

The National Center for Environmental Health of CDC previously awarded funds for radiation-related research, including dose reconstruction studies, but does not anticipate any additional funds for fiscal year 1996. (For current information contact Paul Renard, Chief, Radiation Studies Branch, NCEH, 4770 Buford Highway, NE., Atlanta, GA 30341; telephone: 404-488-7040.)

DOE is under no obligation to pay for any cost associated with the preparation or submission of any application. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this notice. Results of studies carried out as grants or cooperative agreements with the Office of Health Studies will be made available to DOE workers, to the public, and to managers responsible for protecting worker health and safety.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 15, 1995.

Paul J. Seligman,  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Studies.  
[FR Doc. 95-24266 Filed 9-28-95; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP95-762-000, et al.]

#### Northern Natural Gas Company, et al.; Natural Gas Certificate Filings

September 21, 1995.

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

1. Northern Natural Gas Company  
[Docket No. CP95-762-000]

Take notice that on September 18, 1995, Northern Natural Gas Company (Natural), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124-1000, filed in Docket No. CP95-762-000 a request pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) for authorization to install and operate a new delivery point to accommodate natural gas deliveries to Western Gas Utilities, Inc. (WGU), located in Hennepin County, Minnesota, under Natural's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-401-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Northern states that WGU has requested the proposed delivery point to accommodate service due to expansion of its distribution system into new areas. Northern states further that the estimated volumes to be delivered to WGU are 2,000 MMBtu on a peak day and 601,920 MMBtu on an annual basis. It is said that the estimated cost to install the delivery point would be \$60,000.

*Comment date:* November 6, 1995, in accordance with Standard Paragraph G at the end of this notice.

2. Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation, ANR Pipeline Company, Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation

Docket No. CP95-753-000

Take notice that on September 13, 1995, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco), P. O. Box 1396, Houston, Texas 77251, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR), 500 Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan 48243, and, Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (TETCO), P. O. Box 1642, Houston, Texas 77251-1642, collectively referred to as Applicants, filed in Docket No. CP95-753-000 a joint application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act for permission and approval to abandon a natural gas transportation and exchange service which was authorized in Docket No. CP80-82, all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

The Applicants state that they entered the agreement on September 25, 1979 wherein Transco was to receive almost 10,000 Mcf/d for TETCO's account from ANR at (1) the tailgate of the Mobil Cameron Meadows Plant near Johnson's Bayou, Louisiana, and/or (2) the interconnect between ANR's pipeline