the waste into low-activity and high-level waste streams, vitrify the waste in separate facilities, package the waste and dispose of the low-activity waste onsite in near-surface vaults and the high-level waste offsite at a geologic repository.

The radioactive cesium and strontium capsules produced from reclaimed materials in tanks are currently classified as waste by-product. The capsules may have potential commercial or other beneficial use. If a beneficial use cannot be found, the capsules would become subject to management and disposal actions as high-level waste. Cesium and strontium capsule alternatives analyzed in the EIS are: *No Action*—Continue existing operations and maintenance in the Hanford Site Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility for 10 years; *Onsite Disposal*—overpack the cesium and strontium in canisters and store onsite indefinitely in a newly constructed dry-well storage facility; *Overpack and Ship*—overpack the cesium and strontium into canisters, which would then be overpacked into larger canisters, and disposed of offsite at a potential geologic repository; and *Vitrify with Tank Waste*—remove capsule contents and vitrify with the high-level tank waste, and dispose of offsite at a potential geologic repository.

The draft EIS identifies and compares the potential environmental impacts associated with these alternatives for managing and disposing of Hanford's radioactive, hazardous and mixed tank waste and encapsulated cesium and strontium.

Preferred Alternatives

DOE's and Ecology's preferred tank waste alternative is the Phased Implementation alternative. DOE and Ecology do not yet have a preferred alternative for the Hanford Site's encapsulated cesium and strontium.

Invitation to Comment

DOE has completed the general distribution of the draft TWRS EIS and has filed it with the Environmental Protection Agency, which will publish a Notice of Availability elsewhere in the Federal Register. The draft TWRS EIS will also be available to the public in the DOE reading rooms and designated information repository locations identified in this notice. DOE plans to issue the final TWRS EIS in July 1996 and a Record of Decision by August 1996.

Persons interested in speaking at the hearings may register at the hearing and will be called on to speak on a first-come first-served basis. Written comments will also be accepted at the meetings, and speakers are encouraged to provide written versions of their oral comments for the record. Oral and written comments will be considered equally in preparing the final EIS.

DOE and the Washington State Department of Ecology will also conduct workshops and meetings in Washington or Oregon on the EIS for organizations during the public comment period. The workshops and meetings will provide an opportunity for interested persons and the public to learn more about the alternatives and analysis presented in the EIS. The dates of the workshops and meetings have not been scheduled at this time. Interested persons should call 1–800–321–2008, to schedule a workshop before May 7, 1996.

Contents of the EIS

Summary: Summary of the alternatives and analysis presented in the EIS
Volume One: Text of the Tank Waste Remediation System EIS
Volume Two: Appendices supporting the analysis presented in Volume One
Appendix A. Waste Inventory
Appendix B. Description of Alternatives
Appendix C. Alternatives Dismissed from Analysis
Volume Three: Appendices supporting the analysis presented in Volume One
Appendix D. Anticipated Health and Ecological Risks
Volume Four: Appendices supporting the analysis presented in Volume One
Appendix E. Accident Risks
Appendix F. Groundwater Modeling
Volume Five: Appendices supporting the analysis presented in Volume One
Appendix G. Air Quality Modeling
Appendix H. Socioeconomic Impact Modeling
Appendix I. Affected Environment
Appendix J. Consultation Letters

The Summary of the EIS is available for review for those who do not want the entire draft EIS. When requesting copies of the draft EIS, please indicate whether you wish to receive only the Summary (52 pages), the Summary and Volume One (620 pages), the entire draft document and associated appendices (2,400 pages), or some combination of these documents.

DOE Public Reading Rooms and Information Repositories

Suzzallo Library, University of Washington, Government Publications Room, Seattle, WA 98195 (206–543–4664).
Foley Center, Gonzaga University, E. 502 Boone, Spokane, WA 99258 (509–328–4220, Ext. 3125).
DOE Reading Room, Washington State University, Tri-Cities Campus, 100 Sprout Road, Room 130, Richland, WA 99352 (509–376–8583).
Bradford Price Millar Library, Science and Engineering Floor, Portland State University, SW Harrison and Park, Portland, OR 97207 (503–725–3690).
DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20585 (202–586–6020).

Issued in Washington, D.C., this day April 9, 1996.

Stephen P. Cowan,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management.

[FR Doc. 96–9270 Filed 4–10–96; 12:57 pm]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

Withdrawal of Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) at the Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS)

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On March 20, 1992, DOE announced its intent to prepare an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a proposed Upgrade of Canyon Exhaust Systems Project at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Due to a substantial reduction in scope of the proposed upgrade, DOE is withdrawing its Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or suggestions on the information provided below under the heading ''Supplementary Information'' should be directed to Mr. A.R. Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer, Environmental Compliance Division, Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box 5031, Aiken, South Carolina, 29804, Phone/FAX: (800) 242–8269, E-Mail: nepa@barmS036.b-r.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, please contact Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH–42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20585. Telephone: (202) 586–4600 or leave a message at (800) 472–2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Beginning in the early 1950's, the SRS served as a

defense materials production facility for DOE and its predecessor agencies. As part of the SRS mission, the chemical separations facilities (''Canyons'') in F- and H-Areas performed, among other functions, the chemical recovery or reprocessing of nuclear materials produced at SRS. The primary facilities for these activities were the F- and H-Area Canyons, which recovered and separated isotopes of uranium, plutonium, and neptunium from spent reactor fuels or from targets irradiated in SRS reactors. The activities performed in the F- and H- Area canyons and their associated facilities produce airborne radioactive offgases and particulates, which have contaminated some parts of the interiors of the facilities. To protect workers from a buildup of radioactivity and to protect the environment from airborne radioactive releases, large ventilation and filter systems control the air flow in the canyons, which must be maintained whether the canyons are in actual operation or not. F- and H-Areas have nearly identical canyon ventilation systems. Each ventilation system consists of ducts, filters, fans, exhaust stack, electrical power supplies, and electrical control centers. The Canyon Exhaust Systems fans in the F- and H-Areas are 20 years old or older. Although they are still operating within the requirements of the F- and H-Canyon Safety Analysis Reports, the exhaust portions of the canyon ventilation systems require replacement to address reliability concerns.

On March 20, 1992, the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health published in the Federal Register the Notice of Intent for the Upgrade Canyon Exhaust Systems (UCES) Project Environmental Impact Statement. The proposed action at that time was a major upgrade of the canyon exhaust systems to meet current or anticipated reliability, capacity, safety, and security criteria. Since then, DOE has performed several technical reviews on the merits of completing the originally envisioned UCES project at the Savannah River Site, considering the potential future missions of the affected facilities. On July 17, 1995, the scope of the activity of the UCES project was changed to include only in-kind replacement for safety and environmental reasons. DOE believes that these particular proposed replacements are necessary regardless of the scope of potential future missions for which F- and H-Canyons may be considered.

The proposed action is now restricted to five removals and four replacement actions, as follows:

(1) Removal of existing diesel generators in 292–F/H buildings,

(2) Removal and replacement of existing 254–5F/H diesel generators,

(3) Removal and replacement of existing motor control centers, A, B, and C in the 292–F/H buildings,

(4) Removal and replacement of 750 kVA and 1000 kVA substations in 292–F/H buildings,

(5) And removal and replacement of Old Canyon Exhaust Fans.

The proposed action now fits within DOE Categorical Exclusion (CX)/B2.5/, for safety and environmental improvements that do not significantly alter life span, capacity, or function of a facility. This CX is further described in Appendix B to Subpart D of the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures and Regulations, 10 CFR 1021, 57 FR 15122, 15154. Therefore, no EIS is required, and DOE hereby withdraws its notice of intent to prepare an EIS.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on April 3, 1996.

John A. Ford,

Director, Savannah River Office.

[FR Doc. 96–9244 Filed 4–12–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP96–299–000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation, Columbia Gulf Transmission Company, Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation; Notice of Application

April 9, 1996.

Take notice that on April 4, 1996, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 1700 Mac Corkle Avenue SE., Charleston, WV 25314; Columbia Gulf Transmission Company (Columbia Gulf), 2603 Augusta STE 125, Houston, TX 77057–5637; and Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (Texas Eastern), 5400 Westheimer Court, Houston, TX 77056–5310, jointly, filed an application with the Commission in Docket No. CP96–299–000 pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for permission and approval to abandon various transportation and exchange services no longer needed by the parties, which were authorized in Docket Nos. CP67–278 and CP76–190,[1] all as more fully set forth in the application which is open to the public for inspection.

Columbia, Columbia Gulf, and Texas Eastern propose to abandon the exchange services authorized in Docket No. CP67–278 and performed under their FERC Rate Schedules X–7, X–3, and X–56, respectively. Columbia and Texas Eastern also propose to abandon the transportation and exchange services authorized in Docket No. CP76–190 and performed under their FERC Rate Schedules X–43 and X–78, respectively. Columbia Gulf, as a party in Docket No. CP76–190, also requests abandonment to the transportation and exchange service authorized therein; however, Columbia Gulf inadvertently never filed a companion rate schedule for this service as required by Ordering Paragraph B of the Commission's order issued July 28, 1976 (56 FPC 660).

The parties assert that the proposed abandonments would not result in or cause any interruption, reduction, or termination of firm natural gas service presently render by the parties to any of their respective customers. No facilities would be abandoned as a result of the proposed abandonments of service.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before April 30, 1996, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it 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 to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the NGA and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

[1] 37 FPC 1,020 (1968) and 56 FPC 660 (1976).