

**INFORMATION HOTLINE:** (423) 576-3610.

Issued in Washington, D.C., December 3, 1996.

Marc Chupka,

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs.*

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**Bonneville Power Administration****Delivery of the Canadian Entitlement**

**AGENCY:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of Record of Decision (ROD).

**SUMMARY:** The United States Entity (the Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration [BPA] and the Division Engineer, North Pacific Division of the US Army Corps of Engineers [Corps]) has decided to fulfill its obligation under the Columbia River Treaty (Treaty) between the United States of America (United States) and Canada by delivering Canada's Entitlement under the Treaty to points on the border between Canada and the United States near Blaine, Washington and Nelway, British Columbia (BC). Delivering the full Entitlement at existing interconnections at those locations will require no new transmission facilities in the United States or in Canada. However, construction of cross-Cascades transmission in the United States would be accelerated, to as early as 2005. Delivery of the Canadian Entitlement will begin April 1, 1998.

The Treaty, signed in 1961, led to the construction of three storage dams on the Columbia River system in Canada and one in the United States. Under the Treaty, Canada and the United States equally share the benefits of the additional power that can be generated at dams downstream in the United States because of the storage at the upstream Treaty reservoirs. Canada's half of the downstream power benefits, the Canadian Entitlement (Entitlement), is calculated to be approximately 1,200 to 1,500 megawatts (MW) of capacity and 550 to 600 average megawatts (aMW) of energy. Canada sold its share of the power benefits for 30-year periods to a consortium of United States utilities. The 30-year sale will begin to expire in 1998, when the first installment of the Entitlement must be delivered to Canada. The Treaty specifies that the Entitlement must be delivered to Canada at a point on the border near Oliver, BC, unless the parties agree to other arrangements. An

interim agreement, signed in 1992, allowed the Entitlement to be delivered over existing facilities between 1998 and 2003.

In the Delivery of the Canadian Entitlement Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0197, issued in January 1996), the United States Entity evaluated the potential environmental impacts of a range of alternatives for delivering the Entitlement to Canada, including various combinations of delivery points, power purchases, and resource development. Over a period of several years, the United States and Canadian Entities made a concerted effort to find a mutually agreeable alternative to delivery at Oliver on commercially reasonable terms. To comply with the Treaty, the United States Entity needed to be able to deliver the full Entitlement to Canada by March 31, 2003, when the interim agreement expired. In a Record of Decision (ROD) issued March 12, 1996, the United States Entity documented its decision to deliver the full Entitlement to Oliver. That decision reflected the inability of the United States and Canadian Entities to agree to an alternative arrangement to the Treaty-specified delivery point.

Delivery at Oliver would have required the construction and operation of a new single circuit, 500-kilovolt line from Grand Coulee or Chief Joseph Substation to the border. The United States Entity issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the Oliver Delivery Project EIS on March 25, 1996, and began scoping activities to support that EIS.

Subsequent discussions have led to a mutually agreed upon alternative for Entitlement delivery. The United States and Canadian Entities are prepared to execute an Entity Agreement that would replace delivery of the Entitlement to Oliver with delivery of the Entitlement at existing transmission interconnections between the United States and Canada in the vicinity of Blaine, Washington and Nelway, BC.

The proposed Entity Agreement will supersede and terminate the interim agreement. The proposed Agreement does not address delivery of the Entitlement in the United States. If the United States and Canadian Entities propose delivery in the United States, the United States Entity will review the Delivery of the Canadian Entitlement EIS to ensure that the impacts are adequately analyzed. A decision to dispose of the Entitlement in the United States would be the subject of an additional United States Entity ROD.

This new ROD replaces the March 12, 1996 ROD and withdraws the NOI for the Oliver Delivery Project EIS.

**ADDRESS:** Copies of the ROD and Environmental Impact Statement may be obtained by calling BPA's toll-free document request line: 1-800-622-4520.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Katherine Semple Pierce—EC, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon, 97208-3621, phone number (503) 230-3962, fax number (503) 230-5699.

Issued by the United States Entity in Portland, Oregon, on November 8, 1996.

Randall W. Hardy,

*Chair.*

Bartholomew B. Bohn, III,

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

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**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. RP97-99-000]

**Algonquin LNG, Inc.; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff**

December 3, 1996.

Take notice that on November 26, 1996, Algonquin LNG, Inc. (Algonquin LNG) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1, the following Revised tariff sheets, with an effective date of December 31, 1996:

Second Revised Sheet No. 32

Third Revised Sheet No. 36

Second Revised Sheet No. 47

Algonquin LNG states that this filing is being made in order to comply with the regulations promulgated by Order Nos. 581 and 582, Docket Nos. RM95-3-000 and RM95-4-000 issued on September 28, 1995, FERC Stats 7 Regs.

Algonquin states that copies of this filing were mailed to all customers of Algonquin and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest this filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with 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