

CARBON IN POWER SOURCE APPLICATIONS; filed 25 March 1996./Patent application 08/624,833: ULTRA-BROADBAND HYDROPHONE; filed 22 March 1996./Patent application 08/624,835: ACOUSTIC ELEMENT TESTER FOR AN ARRAY OF HYDROPHONES; filed 22 March 1996./Patent application 08/641,018: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DATA COMPRESSION; filed 15 April 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. R.J. Erickson, Staff Patent Attorney, Office of Naval Research (Code 00CC), Arlington, VA 22217-5660, telephone (703) 696-4001.

Dated: December 6, 1996.

D.E. Koenig,

*LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-31922 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### DOE Implementation Plan for Recommendation 96-1 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, In-Tank Precipitation System at the Savannah River Site

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board published Recommendation 96-1, concerning the In-Tank Precipitation System at the Savannah River Site, in the Federal Register on August 23, 1996 (61 FR 43534). Section 315(e) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2286d(e) requires the Department of Energy to transmit an implementation plan to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board after acceptance of the Recommendation by the Secretary. The Department's implementation plan was sent to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board on November 12, 1996, and is available for review in the Department of Energy Public Reading Rooms.

**DATES:** Comments, or views concerning the implementation plan are due on or before January 16, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send Comments, data, or views concerning the implementation plan to: Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, Road 1, Aiken, South Carolina 29801.

Attention: Mr. Lee Watkins, Assistant Manager for High Level Waste.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Lee Watkins, Assistant Manager for High Level Waste, Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations

Office, Road 1, Aiken, South Carolina 29801.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on November 26, 1996.

Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.,

*Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.*

November 12, 1996.

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: This letter forwards the Department's implementation plan for addressing the issues raised in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 96-1.

The implementation plan presents a comprehensive strategy to resolve the safety issues related to the benzene generation at the In-Tank Precipitation Facility. The implementation plan addresses three major areas of investigation regarding the chemical and physical mechanisms of benzene generation, retention, and release. The consolidation and evaluation of the specific laboratory tests will provide the information necessary to revise the Authorization Basis and indicate any modifications needed to resume full operation of the facility.

The implementation plan was prepared by Mr. Lee Watkins, Assistant Manager for High Level Waste, Savannah River Operations Office, in coordination with senior Department managers and Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board staff. We appreciate your staff's dedication and support of the development of this plan.

Sincerely,

Hazel R. O'Leary

[FR Doc. 96-31960 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-M**

### DOE Response to Recommendation 96-1 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, In-Tank Precipitation System of the Savannah River Site

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board published Recommendation 96-1, concerning the In-Tank Precipitation System at the Savannah River Site, in the Federal Register on August 23, 1996 (61 FR 43534). Section 315(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2286d(b) requires the Department of Energy to transmit a response to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board by October 7, 1996. The Secretary's response follows:

**DATES:** Comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the Secretary's response are due on or before January 16, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the

Secretary's response to: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Lee Watkins, Assistant Manager for High Level Waste, Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, Road 1, Aiken, South Carolina 29801.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 8, 1996.

Mark B. Whitaker,

*Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.*

September 16, 1996.

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: Thank you for your August 14, 1996, letter transmitting the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 96-1. The Department accepts Recommendation 96-1.

Safe operation of the In-Tank Precipitation System is vital to the success of the entire high-level waste system at the Savannah River Site, and an adequate understanding of benzene generation and release is necessary for safe operation. We appreciate your offer to allocate priority resources to join in the expedited development of a mutually acceptable Implementation Plan, and we look forward to your assistance in this matter.

The Savannah River Operations Office has directed that necessary modifications are completed and approval of a revised safety basis be obtained prior to resuming process operations of the In-Tank Precipitation System. Discussions between the Board, Board staff members, and Savannah River personnel on August 28, 1996, were beneficial in clarifying expectations for:

- The identification of catalysts that contribute to benzene generation in the facility;
- Investigation of the chemical and physical mechanisms that could influence the retention or release of benzene in the waste slurry;
- Adequacy of safety measures, including the Authorization Basis, for in-plant testing and full operation of the system; and
- Laboratory testing to improve the understanding of the tetraphenylborate chemistry in the waste slurries.

As stated in the Recommendation, the Department and Westinghouse Savannah River Company have brought substantial expertise to bear on understanding the science of the In-Tank Precipitation System process, and we will continue to do so as we work to ensure a successful resolution of this Recommendation.

Given the site-specific nature of the Recommendation, I have designated Mr. Lee Watkins, the Assistant Manager for High Level Waste, Savannah River Operations Office, as the responsible manager for the preparation of the Implementation Plan. Mr. Watkins can be reached on (803) 208-6053.

Sincerely,  
 Hazel R. O'Leary  
 [FR Doc. 96-31961 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]  
 BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

## Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

### Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting of the Advisory Committee on Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (the Department or DOE) will hold a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Appliance Energy Efficiency. The Department will consider the information and comments received at this meeting in preparation of its rulemakings. All persons are hereby given notice of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee on Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards.

**DATES:** The first meeting of the advisory committee will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The Advisory Committee meeting will be held at the Embassy Row Hotel, 2015 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20036, (202)265-1600. Rooms are available at the discounted government rate.

Copies of the Committee's charter and this notice may be viewed at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-6020 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathi Epping, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Forrestal Building, Mail Station EE-43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-7425

Michael McCabe, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Forrestal Building, Mail Station EE-43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-9127

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as

amended by the National Energy Policy Conservation Act, the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act, the National Appliance Energy Conservation Amendments of 1988, and the Energy Policy Act of 1992, prescribes energy conservation standards for certain major appliances and equipment and requires the Department of Energy to administer an energy conservation program for the products. Recent appliance rulemakings have highlighted the need to address a number of complex issues concerning the impact of standards on consumers and manufacturers. In response to these issues, the Department initiated a comprehensive process improvement effort to examine, through a series of stakeholder meetings and interviews, issues surrounding the appliance standards program. On March 19-20, 1996, the Department held a workshop to discuss the initial findings from these meetings and interviews. Discussion topics included the planning and prioritization process, data collection and analysis, and decision making criteria. On June 14, 1996, the Department held the first prioritization public workshop to discuss criteria to be used in planning and prioritizing future rules. On July 15, 1996, DOE issued 10 CFR Part 430 Procedures for Consideration of New or Revised Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Products final rule (interpretive rule) resulting from the process improvement effort.

The establishment of an Advisory Committee was one of the primary recommendations of this effort. The Committee will serve to improve the quality of the Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards rulemaking process and serve as a vehicle for evaluation and refinement of the appliance standards rulemaking process. The Committee will provide an official, organized forum for a diverse set of interested stakeholders to provide the Department with advice, information, and recommendations on the appliance standards rulemaking process. Some of the major objectives of the process improvement are to seek early involvement of stakeholders, increase predictability of the rulemaking timetable, increase use of technically adept individuals, eliminate impractical or problematic designs early in the process, consider alternatives to standards, support consensus rulemaking, reduce the time and cost of developing standards, and enhance the analysis of the standards' impacts.

The Committee will evaluate the development, implementation, and workability of the new rulemaking

process. The Committee will serve as the focal point for discussion of the desirability of making changes to the procedures, interpretations, and policies set out in the interpretative rule and on cross cutting analytical issues affecting all product standards.

The Committee members were chosen to ensure an appropriately balanced membership to bring into account a diversity of viewpoints, including representatives from manufacturer trade associations, energy conservation advocates, utilities, state energy offices, consumers, and others who may significantly contribute to the deliberations of the committee.

The first advisory committee meeting will be professionally facilitated. Copies of the draft agenda are available upon request by calling one of the individuals listed below.

A copy of the workshop transcript will be available in the DOE public reading room approximately 10 days after the workshop.

Please notify either Kathi Epping, (202)586-7425, or Sandy Beall, (202)586-7574 of your intention to attend the advisory committee meeting.

Issued in Washington, DC, December 11, 1996.

Brian T. Castelli,

*Chief of Staff, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.*

[FR Doc. 96-31962 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-138-000]

### Columbia Gulf Transmission Company; Notice of Application

December 11, 1996.

Take notice that on December 5, 1996, Columbia Gulf Transmission Company (CGT), 2603 Augusta, Suite 125, Houston, Texas 77210-4621, filed in Docket No. CP97-138-000, an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act for permission and approval to abandon an exchange interconnection and related facilities with Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee), which were authorized in Docket No. CP64-141, all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

CGT proposes to abandon an exchange interconnection with Tennessee located in La Salle Parish, Louisiana. CGT states that the facilities proposed for abandonment were constructed in 1965 as an emergency