

subject to withdrawal from consideration for proof-of-concept testing prior to completion of the EIS.

Preliminary Identification of Environmental Issues

The following issues have been tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS. This list is neither intended to be all inclusive nor a predetermined set of potential impacts but is presented to facilitate public comment on the scope of the EIS. Additions to or deletions from this list may occur as a result of the scoping process. The issues include:

- (1) Potential air, surface water, and noise impacts produced during facility modification or construction, and operation;
- (2) Potential transportation impacts produced during facility modification, construction, and operation;
- (3) Pollution prevention and waste management practices, including potential solid waste impacts, during facility modification, construction, and operation;
- (4) Potential socioeconomic and environmental justice impacts to the surrounding communities as a result of implementing the proposed action;
- (5) Potential cumulative or long-term impacts from the proposed action and other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions;
- (6) Potential irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources;
- (7) Compliance with all applicable Federal, state, and local statutes and regulations; and
- (8) Safety and health of workers and the public during construction and operation of the proposed facility.

Public Scoping Process

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposal is addressed, DOE will conduct an open process to define the scope of the EIS. The public scoping period will run for 45 days following publication of this NOI. Interested agencies, organizations, and the general public are encouraged to submit written comments or suggestions concerning the scope of the issues to be addressed, alternatives to be analyzed, and the range of environmental impacts to be addressed. Scoping comments should clearly describe specific issues or topics that the EIS should address. Comments or suggestions to assist DOE in identifying significant issues and the scope of the EIS will be considered in preparing the EIS and should be communicated within 45 days following publication of this NOI.

In addition to receiving comments in writing and by telephone on the 800 number, DOE will conduct public

scoping meetings. The public is invited and encouraged to attend one or more scoping meetings which will be scheduled in or near the following cities where construction or operation of a new facility, or a major modification of an existing facility, would be required: Richmond, Indiana; and Elkhart, Illinois. Notices of the dates, times, and specific locations of the scoping meetings will be announced in the local media at least 15 days before the meetings.

DOE will begin each meeting with an overview of LEBS technology. The DOE contractor involved in cost-shared development of LEBS technology and offering to conduct proof-of-concept testing at each site indicated above will be available to provide additional information. Following the overview, all interested persons will be provided opportunities to speak concerning (1) the content and scope of the EIS, (2) issues the EIS should address, and (3) the alternatives that should be analyzed. While the meetings will be conducted in an informal manner to enhance opportunities for public participation, DOE recognizes that individuals, representing themselves or other parties, may desire to address all participants at the meeting. DOE requests that anyone who wishes to speak at one or more of the scoping meetings contact Mr. Lloyd Lorenzi, either by phone or in writing, at the address or phone numbers provided in the section of this Notice entitled **ADDRESSES**. A presiding officer will be designated by DOE to chair the meeting. The meeting will not be conducted as an evidentiary hearing, and speakers will not be cross-examined. However, speakers may be asked to clarify their statements to ensure that DOE fully understands the comments or suggestions. The presiding officer will establish the order of speakers and provide any additional procedures necessary to conduct the meeting. Speakers who wish to make presentations longer than five minutes should indicate the length of time desired in their response. Depending on the number of speakers, it may be necessary to limit speakers to five minute presentations initially, with the opportunity for additional presentation as time permits. Speakers can also provide additional written information to supplement their presentations. Individuals who do not make advance arrangements to speak may request time to speak at the meetings, after all previously scheduled speakers have been provided the opportunity to make their presentations. Written comments will also be accepted at the meeting.

Issued in Washington, D.C., this 13th day of December 1996.

Peter N. Brush,

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Environment, Safety and Health.*

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-144-000]

Aquila Gas Systems Corporation; Notice of Petition for Declaratory Order

December 13, 1996.

Take notice that on December 9, 1996, Aquila Gas Systems Corporation (Aquila), 8805 Indian Hills Drive, Suite 125, Omaha, NE 68114, filed a petition under Rule 207 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, for an order declaring that Aquila's Moorland System is a gathering facility exempt from the jurisdiction of the Commission under Section 1(b) of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Aquila states that it owns and operates the Moorland System which is a natural gas pipeline facility located in Ellis, Woodward, Woods, Roger Mills and Harper Counties in Oklahoma.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before January 3, 1997, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20426, a petition 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 Natural Gas Act (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 the 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 petition to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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CNG Transmission Corporation; Notice of Application

[Docket No. CP97-142-000]

December 13, 1996.

Take notice that on December 6, 1996, CNG Transmission Corporation (CNG)