

approximately 48 km (30 miles) west of St. Louis. As part of the overall cleanup of the Weldon Spring Site, the DOE is proposing to remove contaminated sediment from the Southeast Drainage to reduce the levels of environmental contamination and protect human health and the environment. The drainage is a natural 1.5 mi stream channel extending from the southeastern portion of the chemical plant area to the Missouri River, and is located within the State of Missouri Weldon Spring Conservation Area. Flows within the Southeast Drainage result from surface water runoff and groundwater discharge through four springs. Portions of the stream channel contain unvegetated riverine wetlands. The 100-year floodplain of the Missouri River extends into the lower portion of the Southeast Drainage approximately 1,200 feet.

Sediments within the Southeast Drainage became radioactively contaminated as a result of past activities of the U.S. Department of Energy (and its predecessors). The contaminants include uranium, radium, and thorium. Sediments would be excavated from selected locations within the drainage utilizing conventional excavation technologies and existing right-of-way routes. Excavation would be accomplished by the use of tracked equipment, which would operate within the channel as frequently as possible to minimize impacts to the environment. Occasional crossing of the channel by excavation equipment may be necessary. This method would be used to minimize clearing and grubbing of vegetation, and other potential impacts to the drainage. The estimated sediment excavation depth would be 2 to 4 ft below the surface. The anticipated volume of sediment removed would be approximately 2,000 yd<sup>3</sup>. Excavated sediment would be stored temporarily at the chemical plant area before final disposal in the engineered disposal facility planned for the Weldon Spring site.

Water quality within the channel would be protected during excavation to the extent practicable by several measures. Administrative controls would be used to stop work during major storm events. When excavations would remain exposed overnight, erosion controls would be installed to prevent the transport of silt downstream by stormwater flows. Additionally, silt dams will be constructed within the

drainage in areas where the existing right-of-way route deviates significantly from the defined channel. Restoration of excavated areas within the drainage would include grading to avoid steep or vertical slopes, and to minimize ponding and backfilling. Areas of exposed soil outside the stream channel would be mulched and reseeded with an annual grass to minimize erosion and allow the natural seedbank to reestablish vegetative cover.

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR Part 1022), DOE will prepare a floodplain and wetlands assessment for this proposed DOE action. After DOE issues the assessment, a floodplain Statement of Findings will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on April 7, 1997.

**James L. Elmore,**

*Alternate NEPA Compliance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-9805 Filed 4-15-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PR97-8-000]

#### Central Oklahoma Oil and Gas Corporation; Notice of Petition for Rate Approval

April 10, 1997.

Take notice that on April 1, 1997, Central Oklahoma Oil and Gas Corporation (COOG), One Leadership Square, 211 North Robinson, Suite 1510, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102, filed, pursuant to section 311(a)(2) of the Natural Gas Policy Act and section 284.123(b)(2) of the Commission's regulations, a petition for rate approval requesting that the Commission approve as "fair and equitable" market-based rates for firm and interruptible storage services COOG proposes to provide from the Stuart Natural Gas Storage Facility located in Hughes County, Oklahoma. The rates for these storage services will be determined by arms length negotiations between COOG and individual shippers. COOG proposes to retain up to 2.5% of the injection/withdrawal volumes as an allowance for compressor fuel and losses for storage of natural gas.

COOG's petition states that, as owner of the Stuart Natural Gas Storage

Facility, an existing storage facility currently rendering intrastate storage services, it is an intrastate pipeline within the meaning of section 2(16) of the NGPA. At current operating pressures, the Stuart Natural Gas Storage Facility has 8 Bcf of working gas capacity and can achieve a maximum daily withdrawal rate of 300,00 Mcf. The facility also includes ten storage wells, four compressor units and approximately forty miles of pipeline interconnecting the storage facility with Enogex Inc., an intrastate pipeline which furnishes interstate transportation services under Section 311(a)(2) of the NGPA. COOG, although currently provider of intrastate storage services, is a new entrant into the interstate storage market and has not previously offered Section 311 services. COOG proposes to charge market-based rates, subject to refund, effective upon the filing of this petition.

COOG avers that it has no market power in any relevant product or geographic market for storage services of the sort it proposes to furnish. COOG has submitted with its petition for rate approval a study which, according to COOG, supports this conclusion.

COOG has also submitted with its petition a Statement of Interstate Storage Service Terms and Conditions in compliance with 18 CFR Part 284. This Statement would govern COOG's provision of storage services under Section 311.

Pursuant to Section 284.123(b)(2)(ii), if the Commission does not act within 150 days of the filing date, COOG's proposed rates will be deemed to be fair and equitable. The Commission may, prior to the expiration of the 150 day period, extend the time for action or institute a proceeding to afford parties an opportunity for written comments and for oral presentation of views, data and arguments.

Any person desiring to participate in this proceeding must file a motion to intervene in accordance with Sections 385.211 and 385.214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. All motions must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission on or before April 25, 1997. The petition for rate approval is on file with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-9761 Filed 4-15-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M