

RFP that requested comments on all aspects of its proposed contracting approach embodied in that draft document. In February 1997, OCRWM held another presolicitation conference to receive additional comments and questions on the first draft RFP. The draft RFP has been extensively revised to reflect the public review and comments received as a result of these activities. Comments and suggestions included input from industry, utilities, and other interested parties.

DOE is seeking further comments on all aspects of the proposed contracting approach embodied in this revised draft RFP to use the innovative powers of the marketplace for meeting DOE's mission objectives.

**DATES:** Comments in response to this Notice should be received by the Department no later than February 13, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to: Contracting Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Attn: HR-542, Draft RFP Number DE-RP01-98RW00320, Washington, DC 20585.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contracting Officer (DOE HR-542), (202) 426-0067 or (202) 426-0076, (fax) 202-426-0168.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Comments**

OCRWM is interested in receiving comments relating to this revised draft RFP, especially with regard to the following areas:

1. Contracting refinements concerning financing and business aspects, as in structuring the procurement to provide sufficient financial incentive and appropriate risk balancing mechanisms between DOE and contractors in order for industry to provide efficient waste acceptance and transportation services.
2. Mitigation of delays which may occur during Phase C that are beyond the control of the contractor and/or the Department.
3. Technical details associated with the logistics of waste acceptance and transportation services.
4. Potential extensions of the contract durations of Phase A and Phase B for up to one year each.
5. Mechanisms and refinements for economic price adjustments over the duration of the contract period.
6. Any other areas, terms or conditions that DOE should consider in formulating this acquisition.

DOE will consider and may utilize all information, recommendations, and suggestions provided in response to this Notice. Respondents should not provide

any information that they consider to be privileged or confidential or which the respondent does not want disclosed to the public. DOE does not intend to respond to comments, either to individual commentors or by publication of a formal Notice. Several RFP reference documents have been placed in the DOE Forrestal Building Public Reading Room that are listed in the revised draft RFP. Also, copies of all comments received as a result of this notice will be placed in the DOE Public Reading Room at the end of the comment period, as were copies of previous comments received on the December 1996 draft RFP. Each submittal should consist of one original and three photocopies.

This Notice should not be construed as: (1) a commitment by the Department to enter into any agreement with any entity submitting comments in response to this Notice, (2) a commitment to issue any RFP concerning the subject of this Notice, or (3) an RFP.

DOE anticipates that the revised draft RFP will be available on the internet within two weeks of the date of this Notice on the "Current Business Opportunities at Headquarters Procurement Operations" Home Page located at address <http://www.pr.doe.gov/solicit.html>. It will also be available on the OCRWM Home Page, Waste Acceptance, Storage and Transportation Section, located at <http://www.rw.doe.gov/>. Interested parties that do not have the electronic capability to download the revised draft RFP may submit a written request to the Contracting Officer at the address listed above. Offerors who have previously submitted written comments on the December 1996 draft RFP or placed their names on the mailing list at the OCRWM Spent Nuclear Fuel Transportation Workshop held on August 12-13, 1997, in Reston, Virginia, will be mailed a copy of the revised draft RFP.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 24, 1997.

**Lake H. Barrett,**

*Acting Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP98-80-000]

**NorAm Gas Transmission Company, Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization**

November 20, 1997.

Take notice that on November 14, 1997, NorAm Gas Transmission Company (NorAm), 1600 Smith Street, Houston, Texas 77002, filed in Docket No. CP98-80-000 a request pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) to abandon and construct certain facilities in Union County, Arkansas, under NorAm's blanket certificates issued in Docket Nos. CP82-384-000 and CP82-384-001 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

NorAm states that it would abandon 6,647 ft. of 2-inch plastic pipe on Line HM-2, 7,401 ft. of 2 to 8-inch coupled steel pipe on Line HM-1 and three inactive delivery taps. NorAm states further that it would reconfigure its delivery facilities to Arkla at Smackover, Arkansas and abandon deteriorated and unreliable facilities.

NorAm indicates that the estimated cost of the facilities to be abandoned is \$49,721 and the estimated cost of the new facilities to relocate the delivery meter is \$59,513.

No service, it is said, would be abandoned as a result of the proposal.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

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