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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program was started in FY 1997. A principal goal of this program is to identify exceptionally talented plasma faculty members early in their careers and assist and facilitate the development of their research programs. Eligibility for awards under this notice is, therefore, restricted to tenure-track regular academic faculty investigators who are conducting experimental or theoretical plasma physics research. Applications from Junior Faculty involved in any areas of plasma physics research, not only magnetic fusion, are welcomed and encouraged. Emphasis is to be placed on basic plasma science research. For applications to be considered for funding, certification of the status of the applicant as a tenure-track regular academic faculty member by the head of the applicant's academic department or other university/college certifying official will be required before the grant is awarded. Awards made under this program will help to maintain the vitality of university plasma physics research and assure continued excellence in the teaching of plasma physics and related disciplines.

It is anticipated that annual funding levels up to \$150,000 per award may be made available for grants under this notice during FY 1999, contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Funding for equipment above this level will be considered on a case-by-case basis. DOE may make up to three awards during FY 1999, depending on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds. Multiple year funding of grant awards is expected, with funding provided on an annual basis subject to availability of funds. These grants will not normally be renewed after the project period is completed; grantees may, however, submit new grant applications to continue their research using the usual Office of Energy Research grant application process. Applications will be subjected to formal merit review and will be evaluated against the following criteria, which are listed in descending order of importance as set forth in 10 CFR Part 605:

1. Scientific and/or technical merit of the project;
2. Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach;
3. Competency of applicant's personnel and adequacy of proposed resources; and
4. Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget.

General information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluations and selection processes, and other policies and procedures are contained in the Application Guide for the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program and 10 CFR Part 605 which is available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>

The Catalog Of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR Part 605.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 1, 1998.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director for Resource Management, Office of Energy Research.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP98-203-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

October 19, 1998.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in this proceeding commencing at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 1998 and continuing on Tuesday, October 27, 1998, if necessary, at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., 20426, for the purpose of exploring the possible settlement of the above-referenced docket.

Any party, as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(c), or any participant as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(b), is invited to attend. Persons wishing to become a party must move to intervene and receive intervenor status pursuant to the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 385.214).

For additional information, please contact Sandra J. Delude at (202) 208-0583, Bob Keegan at (202) 208-0158, or Edith A. Gilmore at (202) 208-2158.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-15-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

October 19, 1998.

Take notice that on October 13, 1998, Northern Natural Gas Company, (Applicant), P.O. Box 3330, Omaha, Nebraska, 68103-0330, filed in Docket No. CP99-15-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.212, and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.212, and 157.216) for approval to upgrade an existing delivery tap for service to Alliant-IES (Alliant), under Applicant's blanket certificate issued in Docket Nos. CP82-401-000, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Applicant proposes to upgrade an existing delivery tap, located in Hamilton County, Iowa, to accommodate increased natural gas deliveries to Alliant under currently effective throughput service agreements. Applicant states that the upgrade includes the replacement of the existing meter and regulators with no anticipated ground disturbance. Applicant asserts that Alliant has requested the upgrade of the existing delivery point to provide increased natural gas service to the Ellsworth #1 town border station to serve additional interruptible volumes. Applicant further asserts that the estimated peak day volume at the upgraded delivery point will change from 650 MMBtu to 1040 MMBtu and that the estimated annual volume at the upgraded delivery point will change from 76,000 MMBtu to 96,444 MMBtu. It is indicated that the total estimated cost to upgrade this delivery point is \$25,000, which Alliant will reimburse Applicant.

It is asserted by Applicant that the proposed activity is not prohibited by Applicant's existing tariff and that Applicant has sufficient capacity to accommodate the changes proposed herein without detriment or disadvantage to any of Applicant's other customers.

Any person or the Commission's Staff may, within 45 days of the issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214), a motion to