

procedures are intended to reduce redundancies in the licensing process by combining the pre-filing consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants. The alternative procedures can be tailored to the particular project under consideration.

#### **Alternative Procedures and the Lewis River Projects**

The licensees intend on preparing a PDEA for the projects to: consolidate and streamline the licensing process; provide for the early identification of environmental impacts; take into account cumulative project impacts and evaluate alternatives for addressing those impacts; and promote early, comprehensive settlement discussions. The licensees propose a watershed approach to studies of potential cumulative project-related environmental effects in the Lewis River Basin. The watershed studies would serve as the scientific basis for the PDEA, including pre-filing consultation, and would facilitate scoping of environmental issues under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The studies would also provide scientific data and information to support the licensees' applications for individual new licenses for the projects and to facilitate comprehensive settlement negotiations.

The licensees plan on submitting a PDEA in lieu of Exhibit E in the project license applications. Each application would include a common multi-project PDEA adapted, as necessary, to each individual application.

#### **Yale License Application and Interim Measures**

PacifiCorp intends on submitting a license application for the Yale Project when it is due on April 30, 1999. The pre-filing consultation process for the Yale Project is currently at the draft application stage. The draft application calls for the near-term implementation of several environmental measures that are also listed in PacifiCorp's request to use the alternative procedures (Attachment 1). PacifiCorp proposes to implement those measures, and to consider reasonable proposals for other resource enhancement measures (i.e., measures to be implemented during the current license period and any subsequent annual licenses before issuance of a new project license) that relate to the Yale licensing and do not "prejudge" the results of the watershed studies or comprehensive settlement discussions.

#### **Merwin License Term**

PacifiCorp's request includes an application to amend the Merwin Project license to accelerate the license expiration date from December 11, 2009 to April 30, 2006 to coordinate the Merwin license expiration with the expiration of the Swift No. 1 and No. 2 Project licenses. Therefore, applications for new licenses on all three projects would be due on April 30, 2004.

PacifiCorp's application to accelerate the Merwin license is predicated on: (1) the Commission approving the licensees' request to use the alternative procedures; (2) the Commission deferring action on the Yale application until the Merwin, Swift No. 1 and Swift No. 2 applications are filed; and (3) the effective date of all four new licenses being no sooner than May 1, 2006.

#### **Comments**

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on the licensees' proposal to use the alternative procedures to file applications for the Yale, Swift No. 1, Swift No. 2, and Merwin Projects, including the request to delay action on the Yale application, and accelerate the termination date for the Merwin license. The licensees request may be viewed on the web at [www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us). Call 202-208-2222 for assistance.

#### **Filing Requirements**

Any comments must be filed by providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, Dockets—Room 1A, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All comment filings must bear the heading "Comments on the Alternative Procedure," and include the project names and numbers (Yale Hydroelectric Project, No. 2071, Swift No. 1 Hydroelectric Project, No. 2111, Swift No. 2 Hydroelectric Project, No. 2213, and the Merwin Hydroelectric Project, No. 935). For further information, please contact Vince Yearick at (202) 219-3073 or e-mail at [vince.yearick@ferc.fed.us](mailto:vince.yearick@ferc.fed.us).

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-3212 Filed 2-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

#### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP99-180-000]

#### **Williams Gas Pipelines Central, Inc.; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization**

February 4, 1999.

Take notice that on January 28, 1999, Williams Gas Pipelines Central, Inc. (Williams), P.O. Box 3288, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101, filed in Docket No. CP99-180-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.216) for authorization to abandon by reclaim facilities used for the receipt of transportation gas from Williams Field Services (WFS) at the Gate interconnect, located in Beaver County, Oklahoma, under Williams' blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-479-000, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Williams proposes to abandon a meter setting and appurtenant facilities used for the receipt of transportation gas from WFS at the Gate interconnect, located in Section 28, Township 5 North, Range 28 ECM, Beaver County, Oklahoma. The facilities were originally installed in 1995 to receive transportation gas from WFS.

Williams asserts that this setting has been blinded for some time and that WFS has agreed to the reclaim of facilities. Williams states that the cost to reclaim the meter setting and appurtenant facilities is \$1,175.

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.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-3211 Filed 2-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Intent To Eliminate the Bulletin Board System

February 3, 1999.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the Commission), hereby gives notice that it intends to eliminate the Commission's Bulletin Board System (BBS) effective on or about April 9, 1999. The BBS currently consists of four parts, the Commission Issuance Posting System (CIPS), the Electric Power Data (EPD), the FERC Form No. 1 Forum, and the Gas Pipeline Data (GPD). As explained further below, the majority of the data from the BBS has been relocated to the Commission's internet site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us>. The Commission does not plan to move the remainder of the data.

With the advent of the Commission's internet site, use of the BBS has dropped dramatically. Registered users have declined from over 3000 to 395 in a continuing downward trend. Calls per day to the BBS have dropped from a high of 867 per day to less than 100 a day. This contrasts with the average number of user visits per day to the Commission's website of approximately 1590. The software used to operate the BBS is not year 2000 compliant. In view of the increasing popularity of the Commission's website and decline in use of the BBS, the Commission has decided to reduce duplication and costs by discontinuing the BBS.

The Commission will move files of continuing interest to the public from the BBS to the Commission's internet site. Specifically, the data being moved to the Commission's Internet site is listed in Appendix A of this notice and described below.

The internet version of CIPS, CIPS on the Web, became available on November 10, 1997. Based on input from users of CIPS on the Web, an upgrade was completed on January 6, 1999. The upgrade added new features such as the ability to do a combined search; to download multiple files; to find files loaded since the last time the user accessed the system; and improved Help screens. These new features provide

much of the functionality available on CIPS.

All data available on the Electric Power Data portion of the BBS has been to the Commission's internet site. This data may be found on the portion of the internet site dedicated to the electric industry. The Form No. 1 data and submission software found in the FERC No. 1 may also be found at this location.

For this 1998 report to be filed in April 1999, the Commission is upgrading the submission software it provides electric utilities to complete Form No. 1. Details of this upgrade were provided in the notice issued in Docket No. RM93-20-000 on January 13, 1999 (64 Fed. Reg. 3074). The new submission software requires the data to be submitted in a new data format, a format consistent with the Commission's Form No. 1 database. To provide consistency and ease of use, the Commission plans to make available for viewing and printing the Form No. 1 data in its database via the Internet. Upon availability of the database, Form No. 1 data will no longer be made available by the Commission in the old format. The Commission does not have plans to maintain the old submission software used to view and print the historical data in the old format. Until the Form No. 1 database is available through the Internet, the data and submission software historically available for download from the BBS will be available on the Internet.

The majority of the data available on the GPD has been relocated to the Commission's internet site. Form No. 8, the Underground Gas Storage Report, will not be moved from the BBS to the internet site. By Order No. 581,<sup>1</sup> the Commission discontinued Form No. 8. No Form No. 8 data was filed after October 1995. While the electronic data collected in the form will not be available through the website, a paper version of the forms may be ordered from the Records Information Management System (RIMS). RIMS can be accessed from the Commission's website.

An area was established within the GPD for communications relating to the work being done by the working groups established pursuant to the orders issued in Docket Nos. RM95-3-000<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Revisions to Uniform System of Accounts, Forms, Statements, and Reporting Requirements for Natural Gas Companies, Order No. 581, 60 Fed. Reg. 53,019 (October 11, 1995), 72 FERC ¶ 61,301 (1995), order on reh'g, Order No. 581-A, 74 FERC ¶ 61,223 (1996).

<sup>2</sup> Filing and Reporting Requirements for Interstate Natural Gas Company Rate Schedules and Tariffs, Order No. 582, 60 Fed. Reg. 52,960 (October 11, 1995), 72 FERC ¶ 61,300 (1995), order on reh'g,

and RM95-4-000.<sup>3</sup> The tasks set for these working groups have been completed. The files found in this area will not be transferred to the Internet.

Some of the files which relate to reporting periods pre-dating January 1, 1996 relating to Form 2 and Form 11 will not be transferred to the Internet. These files are now obsolete, no longer supported, or in insufficient demand. These include the print software, user manual, edit check software, company contacts, and data in the SAS format.<sup>4</sup>

#### Comment Procedures

The Commission invites interested persons to submit written comments on the matters and issues in this notice. The original and 14 copies of such comments must be received by the Commission before 5:00 p.m. [insert date 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**]. Comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426 and should refer to Public Access to the Commission's Bulletin Board System.

In addition to filing paper copies, the Commission encourages the filing of comments either on computer diskette or via Internet E-Mail. Comments may be filed in the following formats: WordPerfect 6.1 or lower version, MS Word Office 97 or lower version, or ASCII format.

For diskette filing, include the following information on the diskette label: Public Access to Commission's Bulletin Board System; the name of the filing entity; the software and version used to create the file; and the name and telephone number of a contact person.

For Internet E-Mail submittal, comments should be sent to "comment.rm@ferc.fed.us" in the following format. On the subject line, specify "Public Access to Commission's Bulletin Board System" In the body of the E-Mail message, include the name of the filing entity; the software and version used to create the file, and the name and telephone number of the contact person. Attach the comment to the E-Mail in one of the formats specified above. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgment to the sender's E-Mail address upon receipt. Questions on electronic filing should be directed to Brooks Carter at

Order No. 582-1, 61 Fed. Reg. 9613 (March 11, 1996), 74 FERC ¶ 61,224 (1996).

<sup>3</sup> See, n.1.

<sup>4</sup> SAS format is a proprietary format used by SAS, an integrated computer applications system, formerly used by the Commission to process selected electronic filings.