

Issued at Washington, DC, December 6, 1999.

Thomas F. Gioconda,
Brigadier General, USAF, Acting Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs.
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 00-06; Energy Biosciences

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Basic Energy Sciences of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites preapplications from potential applicants for research funding in the Energy Biosciences program area. The intent in asking for a preapplication is to save the time and effort of applicants in preparing and submitting a formal project application that may be inappropriate for the program. The preapplication should consist of a two to three page concept paper on the research contemplated for an application to the Energy Biosciences program. The concept paper should focus on the scientific objectives and significance of the planned research, and include an outline of the approaches planned, and any other information relating to the planned research. No budget information or biographical data need be included; nor is an institutional endorsement necessary. The preapplication gives us the opportunity to advise potential applicants on the suitability of their research ideas to the mission of the DOE Energy Biosciences program. A response indicating the appropriateness of submitting a formal application will be sent from the Division of Energy Biosciences office in time to allow for an adequate preparation period for a formal application.

DATES: For timely consideration, all preapplications should be received by March 8, 2000. However, earlier submissions will be gladly accepted.

A response to timely preapplications will be communicated to the applicant by April 12, 2000. The deadline for receipt of formal applications is June 13, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice 00-06 should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, SC-17, Division of Energy Biosciences, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown,

MD 20874-1290, Attn: Program Notice 00-06. Fax submissions are acceptable (Fax Number (301) 903-1003).

Formal applications, referencing Program Notice 00-06, must be sent to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grants and Contracts Division, SC-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 00-06. This address must also be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or any commercial overnight delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Pat Snyder, Division of Energy Biosciences, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, SC-17, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, telephone (301) 903-2873; E-mail pat.snyder@science.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Potential applicants should submit a brief preapplication which consists of two to three pages of narrative describing research objectives. These will be reviewed relative to the scope and the research needs of the Energy Biosciences program. The Energy Biosciences program has the mission of generating fundamental biological information about plants and non-medical related microorganisms that can provide support for future energy related biotechnologies. The objective is to pursue basic biochemical, genetic and physiological investigations that may contribute towards providing alternate fuels, petroleum replacement products, energy conservation measures as well as other technologies such as phytoremediation related to DOE programs. Areas of interest include bioenergetic systems, including photosynthesis; control of plant growth and development, including metabolic, genetic, and hormonal and ambient factor regulation, metabolic diversity, ion uptake, transport and accumulation, stress physiology and adaptation; genetic transmission and expression; plant-microbial interactions, plant cell wall structure and function; lignocellulose degradative mechanisms; mechanisms of fermentations, genetics of neglected microorganisms, energetics and membrane phenomena; thermophily (molecular basis of high temperature tolerance); microbial interactions; and one-carbon metabolism, which is the basis of biotransformations such as methanogenesis. The objective is to discern and understand basic mechanisms and principles.

Funds are expected to be available for new grant awards in FY 2001. The

magnitude of these funds available and the number of awards which can be made will depend on the budget process. The awards made during FY 1999 averaged close to \$105,000 per year, mostly for a three-year duration. The principal purpose in using preapplications at this time is to reduce the expenditure of time and effort of all parties.

The research description of the formal application must be 10 pages or less, exclusive of figure illustrations, and must contain an abstract or summary of the proposed research (to include the hypotheses being tested and the proposed experimental design). Attachments include curriculum vitae, a listing of all current and pending federal support, and letters of intent when collaborations are part of the proposed research.

Information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluations and selection processes, and other policies and procedures may be found in the 10 CFR part 605 and the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program. Electronic access to SC's Financial Assistance Guide is possible via the Internet using the following Web Site address: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>. DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of applications if an award is not made.

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

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John Rodney Clark,
Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-34-000]

Algonquin Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Application

December 9, 1999.

Take notice that on November 29, 1999, Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin), 5400 Westheimer Court, Houston, Texas 77056-5310, filed in Docket No. CP00-34-000 an application pursuant to Sections 7(c) and 7(b) of the Natural Gas

Act for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate certain pipeline and metering facilities in Weymouth and Braintree, Massachusetts and approval to abandon and replace certain facilities in Canton and Braintree, Massachusetts, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call (202) 208-2222 for assistance).

Algonquin requests authorization to construct, own, operate and maintain one-half mile, 24-inch diameter pipeline lateral and measurement facilities in Weymouth and Braintree, Massachusetts, in order to render up to 140,000 dekatherms per day (dth/d) of firm transportation service for Sithe Power Marketing, L.P. (Sithe). Algonquin states that the proposed facilities are necessary to provide transportation service for Sithe to the Sithe Energy Fore River Station, a 750 megawatt gas-fired electric power plant being constructed by Sithe Edgar Development, L.L.C., near Weymouth, Massachusetts. Algonquin states that service to Sithe will be provided pursuant to Algonquin's existing open access Rate Schedule AFT-CL. Algonquin further states that Sithe and Algonquin have entered into a 20-year precedent agreement and a service agreement for the proposed transportation service. Algonquin states that its proposed initial rate is an incremental reservation charge rate; therefore, the project is financially viable without subsidies from Algonquin's existing customers.

Algonquin estimates the cost of the proposed project to be \$32.02 million and will be financed through funds on hand and borrowings under short-term financing arrangements.

Algonquin also requests authorization to abandon the existing 6.9 mile, 10-inch diameter I-3 lateral, which extends from Milepost 0.0 in Canton, Massachusetts to Milepost 6.9 in Braintree, Massachusetts, which will be replaced by 6.9 miles of 24-inch diameter pipeline.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Steven E. Tillman, Director of Regulatory Affairs at (713) 627-5113, Algonquin Gas Transmission Company, Post Office Box 1642, Houston, Texas 77251-1642.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before December 30, 1999, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426,

a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 285.211) 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 motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that grant of the certificate and permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Algonquin to appear or be represented at the hearing.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,
Acting Secretary.

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to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before December 20, 1999. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,
Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-518-004]

PG&E Gas Transmission, Northwest Corporation; Notice of Proposed Change in FERC Gas Tariff

December 9, 1999.

Take notice that on December 3, 1999, PG&E Gas Transmission, Northwest Corporation (PG&E GT-NW) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1-A, Fourth Revised Sheet No. 7 and First Revised Sheet No. 7A, with an effective date of December 4, 1999.

PG&E GT-NW states that these sheets are being filed to reflect the implementation of two negotiated rate agreements.

PG&E GT-NW further states that a copy of this filing has been served on PG&E GT-NW's jurisdictional customers, and interested state regulatory agencies.

Any person desiring to protest said filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed as provided in Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Copies of this filing are on file with the

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER00-743-000]

Northeast Generation Company; Notice of Filing

December 9, 1999.

Take notice that on December 8, 1999, Northeast Generation Company (NGC), tendered for filing an amendment to its September 17, 1999, application for market-based rates to ensure that it has blanket approval under Section 204 of the Federal Power Act and Part 34 of the Commission's Regulations to issue securities and assume liabilities.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such filing should file a motion