

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Randolph-Sheppard Act (20 U.S.C. 107d-2(c)) (the Act), the Secretary publishes in the **Federal Register** a synopsis of each arbitration panel decision affecting the administration of vending facilities on Federal and other property.

Background

This dispute concerns the alleged violation by the General Services Administration (GSA) in the termination of the permit of the California Department of Rehabilitation, the State licensing agency (SLA), to operate a cafeteria at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) facility, in Fresno, California. A summary of the facts is as follows: The SLA and GSA entered into an agreement to establish a cafeteria at the IRS Building, 5045 E. Butler Avenue, Fresno, California on November 1, 1995. The facility had been operated by a private vendor under contract to GSA.

Although the vending facility was a cafeteria, the SLA and GSA proposed a permit rather than a contract. GSA proposed that the permit be issued for a limited term of approximately 1 year, subject to renewal or cancellation at the end of that period. While the SLA declined to enter into a limited agreement, the permit that was eventually issued between the SLA and GSA was for an "indefinite period of time subject to suspension or termination on the basis of non-compliance by either party."

The operation of the IRS cafeteria began on December 18, 1995. On September 25, 1996, an inspection of the cafeteria was conducted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA inspector noted numerous unsanitary conditions such as improper food preparation and storage, pest infestation, and employees eating and drinking beverages outside the break area. The violations noted by the FDA inspector were brought to the attention of the cafeteria facility manager. On March 5, 1997, an FDA inspector conducted another inspection at the IRS cafeteria. Again, the FDA inspector observed several violations similar to those noted in the September 25, 1996, inspection. Additional violations were found such as rodent droppings, improper cleaning of the conveyor belt, lack of soap and paper towels at the handwashing sink, and improper cleaning of the floor in the dishwashing area. These violations were pointed out to the cafeteria manager, who allegedly did not dispute any of the FDA inspector's observations. Subsequently, the cafeteria was closed.

The SLA alleged that the closure of the IRS cafeteria violated the Act and the terms of the permit. Additionally, the SLA alleged that GSA violated an agreement to give the SLA revenues from the operation of a portable coffee cart in the cafeteria area.

The SLA filed a request to convene an arbitration panel to hear this complaint. A Federal arbitration hearing on this matter was held on December 15-18, 1998. A second hearing was convened on March 1-5, 1999 to conclude testimony.

Arbitration Panel Decision

The majority of the panel, after considering all of the evidence, concluded that the parties jointly agreed to a permit agreement rather than a cafeteria contract for the vending facility at the IRS building. The panel further found that, while IRS personnel were interested in having a food court at the facility, the SLA furnished the vendor with equipment that essentially provided for multiple serving stations and a broader variety of food similar to the food court concept sought by IRS officials. Thus, the panel ruled that there was no convincing evidence to support the SLA's allegation that GSA caused the termination of the vendor's permit under the pretext of putting in a food court by a private vendor.

Based upon the evidence presented, the majority of the panel further concluded that, throughout the vendor's tenure at the IRS, there were numerous inspections of the cafeteria. Most notable of the inspections were those conducted by FDA on September 25, 1996, and March 4, 1997, which identified numerous sanitation, food preparation, and storage violations. Those inspections resulted in the cafeteria closing.

The panel ruled that the unsanitary conditions created serious health risks to thousands of customers of the cafeteria at the IRS building. Therefore, it was reasonable and proper for GSA to remove the vendor because of the extreme unsanitary conditions. Furthermore, the panel ruled that the SLA's allegation concerning the vendor's removal lacking due process was without merit.

Finally, the majority of the panel ruled that the weight of the evidence indicated that GSA owed some accounting and commissions to the SLA for the coffee cart operation. The panel ordered the parties to jointly determine the formula for the amount owed by GSA to the SLA.

One panel member concurred.
One panel member dissented.

The views and opinions expressed by the panel do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the U.S. Department of Education.

Dated: May 11, 2001.

Andrew J. Pepin,

Executive Administrator for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. 01-12402 Filed 5-16-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Fossil Energy

National Petroleum Council

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the National Petroleum Council. Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Wednesday, June 6, 2001, 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The Ritz Carlton, Ballroom Salon I, 1150 22nd Street, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margie D. Biggerstaff, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy, Washington, DC 20585. Phone: 202/586-3867.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Purpose of the Committee: To provide advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters relating to oil and gas or the oil and gas industry.

Tentative Agenda

- Call to order and introductory remarks by Archie W. Dunham, Chair of the NPC.
- Remarks by the Honorable Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Energy (invited).
- Consideration of the proposed final report of the NPC Committee on Critical Infrastructure Protection.
- Administrative matters.
- Discussion of any other business properly brought before the NPC.
- Public comment (10-minute rule).
- Adjournment.

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. The chairperson of the Council is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Any member of the public who wishes to file a written statement with the Council will be permitted to do so, either before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Margie D. Biggerstaff at the address or telephone

number listed above. Requests must be received at least five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation on the agenda. This notice is being published less than 15 days before the date of the meeting due to the late resolution of programmatic issues.

Transcripts: Available for public review and copying at the Public Reading Room, Room IE-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, DC, on May 11, 2001.

Belinda Hood,

Acting Deputy Committee Advisory Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-12438 Filed 5-16-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RT01-35-000; Docket No. RT01-15-000]

Avista Corporation, Bonneville Power Administration, Idaho Power Company, Montana Power Company, Nevada Power Company, PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric Company, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., Sierra Pacific Power Company; Avista Corporation, Montana Power Company, Nevada Power Company, Portland General Electric Company, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., Sierra Pacific Power Company; Notice of Technical Conference

May 11, 2001.

Take notice that Commission Staff will hold a technical conference to discuss liability issues presented by the RTO West/TransConnect application on May 24, 2001, beginning at 2 p.m. in a room to be designated at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

All interested persons are permitted to attend.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-12428 Filed 5-11-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP01-262-001]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Compliance Filing

May 11, 2001.

Take notice that on April 30, 2001, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) tendered for filing its responses to the five inquiries made by the Commission in seeking additional information on Columbia's retainage percentages filed on March 1, 2001.

Columbia states that the filing is being made in compliance with the Commission letter order issued on March 28, 2001¹ in the above-referenced proceeding.

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 on or before May 21, 2001. 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 Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). Comments, protests and interventions may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-12397 Filed 5-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PR01-14-000]

Enogex, Inc; Notice of Petition for Rate Approval

May 11, 2001.

Take notice that on May 1, 2001, Enogex, Inc. (Enogex) filed a Petition for

Rate Approval (Petition) pursuant to Section 284.123(b)(2) of the Commission's regulations, 18 CFR 284.123(b)(2). In the Petition, Enogex requests that the Commission approve a rate for interruptible transportation service under Section 311(a)(2) of the Natural Gas Policy Act of \$0.4866 per MMBtu. Enogex states that this combined rate replaces the separate charges for compression and transmission that the Commission had previously approved. No further change is proposed to the fuel retention percentages, since they are currently under consideration by the Commission in Docket No. PR01-6-000.

Pursuant to Section 284.123(b)(2)(ii) of the Commission's regulations, if the Commission does not act within 150 days of the Petition's filing date, the rates proposed therein will be deemed to be fair and equitable and not in excess of an amount that interstate pipelines would be permitted to charge for similar services. 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 the oral presentation of views, data and arguments.

Any person desiring to participate in this rate proceeding must file a motion 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 motions must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission on or before May 29, 2001. This petition for rate approval is on file with the Commission and is available for 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). Comments, protests, and interventions may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.200(a)(1)(iii) and the instruction on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-12398 Filed 5-16-01; 8:45 am]

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¹ 94 FERC ¶61,350 (2001).