

Biofuels Program in the FY 2003—FY 2005 timeframe. The DOE/GO anticipates issuing the initial solicitation in early FY 2003 for the research and development of a demonstration plant conceptual design, process research, and detailed design of an enzymatic hydrolysis demonstration plant to convert lignocellulosic biomass to transportation fuels (biofuels) and/or chemicals. The purpose of the demonstration plant is to provide engineering data to reduce risk, enable process guarantees, and assure commercial development of the technology. For the initial FY 2003 solicitation, DOE anticipates awarding cost-shared cooperative agreements to one or two industry-led teams. Subject to the availability of funds, DOE intends to issue a subsequent solicitation in FY 2004 for the construction and initial operation of the demonstration plant. Expressions of interest in these solicitations is requested at this time.

DATES: Please provide expressions of interest and comments by May 1, 2002, to the DOE Golden Field Office.

ADDRESSES: Submit the expressions of interest to the U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, Andrew R. Trenka, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401-3393.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew R. Trenka, DOE Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401-3393, via facsimile at (303) 275-4753, or electronically at andy_trenka@nrel.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE is sponsoring the demonstration of an enzyme sugar platform. This demonstration project is a concentrated effort to use a conversion process based on the low-cost enzymes being developed under major DOE cost-shared projects by Genencor International and Novozymes Biotech Inc., to convert a large volume of biomass into cost-effective alternative transportation fuels and/or chemicals. The initial commercialization of the platform technologies may use biomass wastes and residues. The demonstration plant will provide engineering data to reduce risk, enable process guarantees and assure commercial development of the technology. Each firm, partnership, or consortia may, at its option, utilize, via a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA), the DOE laboratories active in the DOE Biofuels research program, *i.e.* National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), *etc.* These laboratories could contribute specialized capabilities, facilities, or equipment to the project that would

complement the partnership's capabilities. The winning team or teams will be expected to carry out multi-year technology development and demonstration efforts, including the construction and operation of the platform demonstration plant at a scale sufficient to prove the technical and economic feasibility of feedstock handling, biomass fractionation, enzymatic cellulose hydrolysis, and product fermentation(s) to products. Initial discussions suggest this scale may need to be 40–50 tons per day of input biomass feedstock (dry basis), with corn stover identified as the most plentiful agricultural residue feedstock. The scale of the plant, the feedstock, and the slate of end products will be open to the results of the initial conceptual design and technology research. However, the final products must be based on sugar fermentation and whatever feedstock is chosen should have the potential to lead to significant reductions of imported petroleum, *e.g.*, several billion gallons per year.

DOE expects the industrial partners' cost-share contribution to the initial solicitation to be at least 50% of the initial costs; however, if lower, the rational should be fully explained. Higher cost-shares will be encouraged. DOE intends to share the cost of the FY 2004 and FY 2005 demonstration plant construction efforts, with the industrial partners' contribution being at least 50% of the construction and operating costs (statutory requirement). DOE intends that its partners will have demonstrated experience in the design, construction, and operation of transportation fuels, chemicals, and/or biomass processing facilities, in addition to demonstrated access to financial markets to facilitate eventual commercialization of these technologies. Interested parties should include the following in their expressions of interest:

- (1) Experience;
- (2) Types of partner organizations (private, public, non-profit) with which they contemplate teaming (including anticipated DOE laboratory involvement);
- (3) Any plans to co-locate the demonstration plant with an existing facility;
- (4) The types of financial resources they would use to fund their cost-share of the design, process research, construction, and operation phases of the project;
- (5) How they will integrate the ongoing research being undertaken by Genencor International and/or

Novozymes Biotech, Inc., to produce low-cost cellulases;

(6) The approach to be followed for the planned solicitations;

(7) The approximate budget required to design, construct, and initially operate the demonstration plant;

(8) The approximate size and cost of the demonstration plant to prove the commercial viability of the conversion processes; and

(9) Any additional information or comments to assist in drafting the solicitation.

DOE held a preview technology review in Golden, Colorado, on January 30–31, 2002, and is scheduling a second pre-solicitation meeting in Golden, Colorado in May 2002 (specific date to be determined), for all interested parties to discuss the planned solicitation(s), DOE contracting procedures, intellectual property, the use of government-owned facilities, cost-sharing principles, and other issues.

Information about the platform project, DOE's cost-shared enzyme cost reduction activities, current NREL enzymatic hydrolysis research efforts and technology assessment, the DOE Biofuels program, and the pre-solicitation meeting can be found at the following URL: http://www.ott.doe.gov/biofuels/enzyme_sugar_platform.html.

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on February 14, 2002.

Matthew A. Barron,

Contracting Officer, Office of Acquisition and Financial Assistance.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Oak Ridge Reservation

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Oak Ridge. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Wednesday, April 10, 2002, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Garden Plaza Hotel, 215 South Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pat Halsey, Federal Coordinator, Department of Energy Oak Ridge

Operations Office, P.O. Box 2001, EM-922, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. Phone (865) 576-4025; Fax (865) 576-5333 or e-mail: halseypj@oro.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

Tentative Agenda

1. To be determined.

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Pat Halsey at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of five minutes to present their comments at the end of the meeting.

Minutes: Minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Department of Energy's Information Resource Center at 105 Broadway, Oak Ridge, TN between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by writing to Pat Halsey, Department of Energy Oak Ridge Operations Office, P.O. Box 2001, EM-922, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, or by calling her at (865) 576-4025.

Issued at Washington, DC, on March 20, 2002.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-7073 Filed 3-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP02-114-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Application

March 19, 2002.

Take notice that on March 14, 2001, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 12801 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-0146, filed in Docket No. CP02-114-000 an

application pursuant to section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for permission and approval to abandon its Well No. 6764 and associated appurtenances located in Richland County, Ohio, in Columbia's Lucas Storage Field, all as more fully set forth in the application.

Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "Rims" link, select "Docket#" and follow the instructions (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Columbia states that the physical condition of the facilities proposed for abandonment have deteriorated to the extent that an expensive repair or abandonment is required. Columbia further states that it has determined that repairs would be uneconomic due to the poor performance of the well.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Fredric J. George, Senior Attorney, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation, P.O. Box 1273, Charleston, West Virginia 25315-1273 at (304) 357-2359.

There are two ways to become involved in the Commission's review of this project. First, any person wishing to obtain legal status by becoming a party to the proceedings for this project should, on or before April 9, 2002, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.10). A person obtaining party status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by all other parties. A party must submit 14 copies of filings made with the Commission and must mail a copy to the applicant and to every other party in the proceeding. Only parties to the proceeding can ask for court review of Commission orders in the proceeding.

However, a person does not have to intervene in order to have comments considered. The second way to participate is by filing with the Secretary of the Commission, as soon as possible, an original and two copies of comments in support of or in opposition to this project. The Commission will consider these comments in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but the filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party

to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that persons filing comments in opposition to the project provide copies of their protests only to the party or parties directly involved in the protest. However, the non-party commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission (except for the mailing of environmental documents issued by the Commission) and will not have the right to seek court review of the Commission's final order.

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 under the "e-filing" link.

If the Commission decides to set the application for a formal hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, the Commission will issue another notice describing that process. At the end of the Commission's review process, a final Commission order approving or denying a certificate will be issued.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Deputy Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP96-389-045]

Columbia Gulf Transmission Company; Notice of Compliance Filing

March 19, 2002.

Take notice that on March 13, 2002, Columbia Gulf Transmission Company (Columbia Gulf) tendered for filing, as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheets with an effective date of March 1, 2002:

Sixth Revised Sheet No. 20
Fifth Revised Sheet No. 20A
Fifth Revised Sheet No. 20B

Columbia Gulf states that it is filing the tariff sheets to comply with the Commission's October 24, 2001 orders approving negotiated rate agreements in Docket Nos. RP96-389-031, and -032.

Columbia Gulf states that it has served copies of the filing on all parties identified on the official service list in Docket No. RP96-389.

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