

92-463, 86 Stat. 770), requires that public notice of the meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Monday, November 3, 2003, 9:15 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, November 4, 2003, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1489 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Mark Roth, Designated Federal Officer, Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee, U.S. Department of Energy, NE-20, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington DC 20585, Telephone Number 301-903-5501, E-mail: [mark.roth@hq.doe.gov](mailto:mark.roth@hq.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Purpose of the Meeting:* To provide advice to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE) of the Department of Energy on the many complex planning, scientific and technical issues that arise in the development and implementation of the Nuclear Energy research program.

**Tentative Agenda**

*Monday, November 3, 2003*

Welcome Remarks.  
Status of Nuclear Energy's FY 2004 Budget Request.  
Role of Nuclear Power Under the Administration's Climate Change Initiative.  
Subcommittee Reports and Organizational Issues.

*Tuesday, November 4, 2003*

Subcommittee Reports and Organization Issues (continued).  
Open Discussion.  
Public Comment Period.

*Public Participation:* The day and a half meeting is open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis because of limited seating. Written statements may be filed with the committee before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Mark Roth at the address or telephone listed above. Requests to make oral statements must be made and received five days prior to the meeting; reasonable provision will be made to include the statement in the agenda. The Chair of the committee is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

*Minutes:* The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Reading Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m.

and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Issued in Washington, DC on September 29, 2003.

**Rachel M. Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-25006 Filed 10-1-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**[FE Docket No. PP-285]**

**Application for Presidential Permit; Sharyland Utilities, L.P.**

**AGENCY:** Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of application.

**SUMMARY:** Sharyland Utilities, L.P. (Sharyland) has applied for a Presidential permit to construct, connect, operate, and maintain a single-circuit, 138,000-volt (138-kV) alternating current electric transmission line across the U.S. border with Mexico.

**DATES:** Comments, protests, or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before November 3, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, protests, or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Import and Export (FE-27), Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0350.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ellen Russell (Program Office) 202-586-9624 or Michael T. Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-6667.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of facilities at the international border of the United States for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign country is prohibited in the absence of a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038.

On September 11, 2003, Sharyland filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit. Sharyland is a transmission and distribution service provider operating within a 6,000-acre master-planned community called Sharyland Plantation, situated between the cities of McAllen and Mission, Texas, along the border between the United States and Mexico.

Sharyland proposes to develop a single-circuit 138-kV transmission line in two phases. In the first phase Sharyland would tap an existing 138-kV transmission facility also owned by Sharyland, construct a 150-megawatt

(MW) back-to-back alternating current/direct current/alternating current converter station in the immediate vicinity of the tap, and construct approximately one mile of 138-kV transmission line to the Mexico-U.S. border near the southern boundary of the City of Mission, Texas. At the border the facilities would interconnect with similar facilities owned by Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE), the national electric utility of Mexico, and continue an additional five miles to CFE's Cumbres substation located approximately 6 miles from the City of Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico. In the second phase, Sharyland would expand the converter facility to a capacity of 300 MW. Sharyland proposes to operate the transmission line as an "open access" facility available for use by other parties to transfer electric power between the United States and Mexico. Sharyland does not intend to seek an electricity export authorization from DOE.

Since the restructuring of the electric power industry began, resulting in the introduction of different types of competitive entities into the marketplace, DOE has consistently expressed its policy that cross-border trade in electric energy should be subject to the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to transmission in interstate commerce. DOE has stated that policy in export authorization granted to entities requesting authority to export over international transmission facilities. Specifically, DOE expects transmitting utilities owning border facilities constructed pursuant to Presidential permits to provide access across the border in accordance with the principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination contained in the FPA and articulated in Federal Energy Regulation Commission Order No. 888, as amended (Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities). In furtherance of this policy, DOE intends to condition any Presidential permit issued in this proceeding on compliance with these open access principles.

*Procedural Matters:* Any person desiring to become a party to this proceeding or to be heard by filing comments or protests to this application should file a petition to intervene, comment or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each

petition and protest should be filed with DOE on or before the date listed above.

Additional copies of such petitions to intervene or protest also should be filed directly with Mark E. Caskey P.E., General Manager, Sharyland Utilities, L.P., 4403 West Military Highway, Suite 700, McAllen, TX 78503 AND Richard P. Noland, James M. Bushee, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, 1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004-2415.

Before a Presidential permit may be issued or amended, the DOE must determine that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. In addition, DOE must consider the environmental impacts of the proposed action (*i.e.*, granting the presidential permit, with any conditions and limitations, or denying the permit) pursuant to NEPA. DOE also must obtain the concurrence of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense before taking final action on a Presidential permit application.

The NEPA compliance process is a cooperative, non-adversarial process involving members of the public, state governments and the Federal government. The process affords all persons interested in or potentially affected by the environmental consequences of a proposed action an opportunity to present their views, which will be considered in the preparation of the environmental documentation for the proposed action. Intervening and becoming a party to this proceeding will not create any special status for the petitioner with regard to the NEPA process. To apply for the NEPA mailing list now, contact Mrs. Ellen Russell at the address above.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above. In addition, the application may be viewed or downloaded from the Office of Fossil Energy Web site at <http://www.fe.doe.gov>. Upon reaching the Fossil Energy home page, select "Electricity Regulation" and then "Pending Proceedings" from the options menu.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 24, 2003.

**Anthony J. Como,**

*Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal & Power Import/Export, Office of Coal & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.*

[FR Doc. 03-25004 Filed 10-1-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

#### Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Open Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces an open meeting of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee under the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that agencies publish these notices in the **Federal Register** to allow for public participation.

**DATES:** October 23-24, 2003, 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Hilton Crystal City Hotel at National Airport, Crystal Room, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Ferrell, Designated Federal Officer for the Committee, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585; (202) 586-7766.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Purpose of Meeting:* To finalize recommendations concerning the federal biomass R&D portfolio and the direction of the Biomass Initiative, to report on these recommendations to the Biomass R&D Board, and to plan Committee activities for FY 2004.

*Tentative Agenda:* Agenda will include discussions on the following:

- Finalizing recommendations concerning the federal biomass R&D portfolio, reviewing the process and results of the FY 2003 USDA/DOE joint solicitation and providing input on the FY 2004 solicitation, finalizing recommendations to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy, providing recommendations to the Biomass R&D Board on the direction of the Biomass Initiative, and developing a committee work plan for FY 2004.

*Public Participation:* In keeping with procedures, members of the public are welcome to observe the business of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee. To attend the meeting and/or to make oral statements regarding any of the items on the agenda, contact John Ferrell at (202) 586-7766 or Sara Mitcho via e-mail at [sara.mitcho@ee.doe.gov](mailto:sara.mitcho@ee.doe.gov). You must make your request for an oral statement at least 5 business days before the meeting. Members of the public will be heard in the order in which they sign up at the beginning of the meeting.

Reasonable provision will be made to include the scheduled oral statements on the agenda. The Co-Chairs of the Committee will make every effort to hear the views of all interested parties. If you would like to file a written statement with the Committee, you may do so either before or after the meeting. The Co-Chairs will conduct the meeting to facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

*Minutes:* The minutes of the meeting will be available for public review and copying within 60 days of the meeting at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room; Room 1E-190; Forrestal Building; 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, DC on September 29, 2003.

**Rachel M. Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-301-083]

#### ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Compliance Filing

September 24, 2003.

Take notice that on September 15, 2003 subject ANR Pipeline Company (ANR), tendered for filing a service agreement (Agreement) between ANR and Interstate Gas Supply, Inc. pursuant to ANR's Rate Schedule FTS-1.

ANR requests the Commission find that the Agreement contains acceptable material deviations from ANR's Form of Service Agreement and accept the attached tariff sheet which references the Agreement as a non-conforming agreement.

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 § 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed on or before the protest date as shown below. 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. This filing is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the