

performance of duties imposed upon the DOE, by law and agreement.

Public Interest Determination:

Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.65(a), DOE is providing a written public interest determination approved by the Secretary of Energy detailing why this committee is essential to the conduct of agency business and that the information to be obtained is not already available through another advisory committee or source within the Federal Government.

1. *Annual budget:* Approximately \$2.9 million (M) (includes costs for the eight field site chapters)

a. Federal personnel on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis—the estimated annual person years of Federal support required is 4 FTE, at an estimated annual cost of \$563,000.

b. Other Federal internal costs—the estimate for other Federal internal costs, which include Federal travel, meeting/ administrative expenses, and contractor costs, is \$2.27M.

c. Proposed payments to members—\$0.

d. Proposed number of members—approximately 160 members.

e. Reimbursable costs—the estimate for reimbursable costs, including members' travel expenses, is \$89,000.

2. *Total dollar value of grants expected to be recommended during the Fiscal Year:* not applicable.

3. *Criteria for selecting members to ensure the committee has the necessary expertise and fairly balanced membership:* The majority of EM SSAB members live or work in counties near eight EM sites located throughout the United States (U.S.) where environmental cleanup is underway to address the legacy resulting from historic nuclear weapons development and testing. Recruitment and outreach for local chapters are conducted by associated EM field offices after an analysis is completed to achieve a balance of community viewpoints. No expertise is needed for Board membership.

4. *Other DOE Federal advisory committees:*

21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board
Advisory Committee for Nuclear Security
Appliance Standards and Rulemaking Federal Advisory Committee
Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee
Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration Federal Lands Permitting Task Force
Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration Non-Federal Lands Permitting Task Force

Electricity Advisory Committee
Electric Vehicle Working Group
Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee
Isotope Research & Development and Production Advisory Committee
Industrial Technology Innovation Advisory Committee
Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee
National Coal Council
National Petroleum Council
National Quantum Initiative Advisory Committee
President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology
Office of Science Advisory Committee
Secretary of Energy Advisory Board
State Energy Advisory Board
Technical Panel on Magnetic Fusion

5. *Justification that the information or advice provided by the Federal advisory committee is not available from another Federal advisory committee, another Federal Government source, or any other more cost-effective and less burdensome source:* The EM SSAB is an established mechanism for members of the public to provide community-based recommendations to DOE, which is responsible for cleaning up contamination from nuclear weapons development and testing near the communities the members represent. The EM SSAB is the only viable mechanism DOE has to obtain recommendations from uncompensated community representatives to help satisfy public participation requirements. Obtaining similar recommendations from community representatives located throughout the U.S. using other means, such as grants, would cost taxpayers more than the already established EM SSAB, and require additional administrative actions and resources.

6. *Summary of the previous accomplishments of the committee and the reasons it needs to continue:* Since 1994, the EM SSAB has provided nearly 1,830 recommendations to DOE, of which 84 percent have been accepted or partially accepted, resulting in cost-savings, gained efficiencies, streamlining, and process improvement. During the past two years, the EM SSAB provided DOE with 42 recommendations, of which 90 percent were either fully or partially implemented.

The recommendations have expedited cleanup at DOE sites throughout the U.S. For DOE sites that have already achieved closure, such as Rocky Flats in Colorado and Fernald in Ohio, the EM SSAB played a vital part in obtaining stakeholder, intergovernmental, and public support, which helped facilitate

completion of the cleanup. The model used for those sites is being used at the other locations that are working toward closure.

7. *Explanation of why the committee is essential to the conduct of agency business:* The EM SSAB helps satisfy public participation requirements outlined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; six Federal Facility Agreements and Consent Orders (signed by the states of Washington, Idaho, Kentucky, Nevada, South Carolina, and Tennessee, and by the Environmental Protection Agency, DOE Office of Legacy Management, the National Nuclear Security Administration, and the Department of Defense); one Consent Decree (Ohio); and one Settlement Agreement (New Mexico).

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on March 19, 2026, by David Borak, Committee Management Officer, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on March 20, 2026.

Jennifer Hartzell,

*Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,
U.S. Department of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2026–05693 Filed 3–23–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission**

Combined Notice of Filings

Take notice that the Commission has received the following Natural Gas Pipeline Rate and Refund Report filings:

Filings Instituting Proceedings

Docket Numbers: RP26–649–000.
Applicants: Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC.

Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing; LSS, SS–2, and Firm and Interruptible

Transportation Fuel Effective 4/1/2026 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/18/26.

Accession Number: 20260318–5106.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/30/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–650–000.

Applicants: Northern Natural Gas Company.

Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing:

20260318 Negotiated Rate Filing to be effective 3/19/2026.

Filed Date: 3/18/26.

Accession Number: 20260318–5144.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/30/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–651–000.

Applicants: Equitrans, L.P.

Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing:

Formula Based Negotiated Rates—4/1/2026 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/19/26.

Accession Number: 20260319–5027.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–652–000.

Applicants: Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC.

Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing: Rate Schedule GSS/LSS Fuel Retention Percentage Tracker Filing 2026 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/19/26.

Accession Number: 20260319–5088.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Any person desiring to intervene, to protest, or to answer a complaint in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211, 214, or 206 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214, or 385.206) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

Filings in Existing Proceedings

Docket Numbers: RP26–565–001.

Applicants: Viking Gas Transmission Company.

Description: Tariff Amendment: Amendment to Semi-Annual Fuel and Loss Retention Adjustment—Summer 2026 Rate to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/19/26.

Accession Number: 20260319–5023.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Any person desiring to protest in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rule 211 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system (<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp>) by querying the docket number.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing

requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502–6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

Dated: March 19, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05703 Filed 3–23–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. DI26–3–000]

Chugach Electric Association, Inc.; Notice of Declaration of Intention and Soliciting Comments, Protests, and Motions To Intervene

Take notice that the following application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

a. *Application Type:* Declaration of Intention.

b. *Docket No.:* DI26–3–000.

c. *Date Filed:* February 17, 2026.

d. *Applicant:* Chugach Electric Association, Inc.

e. *Name of Project:* Boulder Creek Hydropower Project.

f. *Location:* The proposed Boulder Creek Hydropower Project would be located on Boulder Creek, in Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska. The project would not occupy federal land. All lands associated with the proposed project are owned by the state of Alaska, Cook Inlet Region, Inc., or Chickaloon-Moses Creek Native Association Lands.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Section 23(b)(1) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 817(b)(1).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Samantha Owen, McMillen, Inc., 1471 Shoreline Drive, Suite 100, Boise, ID 83702; (305) 409–5201; owen@mcmillen.com.

i. *FERC Contact:* Rebecca Martin, (202) 502–6012, or rebecca.martin@ferc.gov.

j. *Deadline for filing comments, protests, and motions to intervene is:* April 20, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments,

protests, and motions to intervene using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208–3676 (toll free), or (202) 502–8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number DI26–2–000. Comments emailed to Commission staff are not considered part of the Commission record.

k. *Description of Project:* The proposed project would consist of a dam (height is undetermined) located within the Boulder Creek Canyon immediately upstream of its confluence with the Chickaloon River. The dam would impound Boulder Creek to a maximum elevation of 1,555 feet, forming a reservoir with a maximum surface area of 270 acres. The proposed dam would be built and operated as a storage-based generation facility and create impoundment capacity suitable for capturing and storing large runoff events in the summer and fall. This would provide stable baseload generation during winter months when precipitation occurs as snow and natural inflows are minimal. An 8-foot diameter concrete lined horseshoe tunnel would extend approximately 8,000 feet from the dam downhill before transitioning to a smaller 5-foot diameter steel penstock for approximately 1,000 feet to the proposed powerhouse. The tunnel and penstock would convey flow through an elevation drop of approximately 440 feet to the powerhouse site located along the Chickaloon River at an elevation of approximately 980 feet. The powerhouse would contain two Francis-type turbine-generator units with a rated capacity of 4.2 megawatts (MW) each for a total powerhouse capacity of 8.5 MW. The potential annual energy generation would be 29 gigawatt-hours (GWh).