

ER98-2786, 000, American Electric Power Company and Central and South West Corporation Opinion and Order on Merger.

Oil and Gas Agenda

I. Pipeline Rate Matters

PR-1.

Reserved

II. Pipeline Certificate Matters

PC-1.

Reserved

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-6163 Filed 3-9-00; 11:41 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Revised Landowner Pamphlet

March 7, 2000.

The "most recent edition" of the Commission's pamphlet: "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility on My Land? What Do I Need to Know?", has been issued. It is dated February 2000.

The revised pamphlet is available on the Commission's website. From the home page at www.ferc.fed.us select the link to the Office of External Affairs in the lower right column of links, or enter www.ferc.fed.us/intro/oea directly into your browser. The link to the revised pamphlet (www.ferc.fed.us/intro/oea/6513gpo.pdf) is on this page. This version should be used and may be copied until the full color version of the pamphlet is available through the Government Printing Office (GPO). The Commission will issue a further notice when the pamphlet may be obtained from the GPO.

Questions about the pamphlet should be directed to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of External Affairs, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1088.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-5991 Filed 3-10-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6560-1]

Interim Statement of Policy on Alternative Dispute Resolution

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document publishes the interim statement of policy of the United States Environmental Protection Agency regarding the use of alternative dispute resolution ("ADR"). In addition to publishing the interim statement of policy, this document describes a process for developing and issuing a final EPA policy on ADR. We are also requesting public comment on issues that the Agency should take into consideration in preparing a final ADR policy and comments on how EPA can best encourage the acceptance and use of ADR techniques in appropriate circumstances.

This document is published in the **Federal Register** to affirm the commitment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Agency activities. Nothing in this document creates any right or benefit by a party against the United States.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 12, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please address comments to W. Robert Ward, Dispute Resolution Specialist, by mail at U.S. EPA, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (MC 2310A), Washington, D.C. 20460, or by e-mail at ward.robert@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: W. Robert Ward, Dispute Resolution Specialist, U.S. EPA, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (MC 2310A), Washington, D.C., 20460; (202) 564-2922; ward.robert@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This interim statement of policy is consistent with the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-320, Oct. 19, 1996, 5 U.S.C. 571-583), which requires, in part, that each federal agency adopt a policy that addresses the use of ADR. It is also consistent with provisions of the Civil Justice Reform Act (Public Law 101-650, Dec. 1, 1990, 28 U.S.C. 471-482), Executive Order 12988, "Civil Justice Reform," February 5, 1996; the Regulatory Negotiation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-320, Oct. 19, 1996, 5 U.S.C. 561-570); the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act (Public Law 103-355, Oct. 13, 1994, 41 U.S.C. 405); the Contracts Disputes Act (41 U.S.C. 601-613); the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR 33.204); Executive Order 12979, "Agency Procurement Protests," October 25, 1995; Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regulations (29 CFR part 1614); Presidential Memorandum,

"Designation of Interagency Committees to Facilitate and Encourage Use of Alternative Means of Dispute Resolution and Negotiated Rulemaking," May 1, 1998, and the Report of the National Performance Review, "Creating a Government that Works Better and Costs Less," September 7, 1993.

Interim Statement of Policy on Alternative Dispute Resolution

It is the policy of the Environmental Protection Agency to consider, under guidelines to be established by the Agency for this purpose, the use of ADR techniques in the conduct of Agency activities and to use ADR whenever it is appropriate. For purposes of this interim statement of policy, ADR has the definition given to it by the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act, namely, "any procedure that is used to resolve issues in controversy, including but not limited to, conciliation, facilitation, mediation, fact finding, minitrials, arbitration, and use of ombuds, or any combination thereof." 5 U.S.C. 571. In addition, it is the policy of the Environmental Protection Agency to work to prevent disputes and to use ADR techniques where appropriate to engage stakeholders as a part of the dispute prevention effort. It is furthermore the policy of the Environmental Protection Agency to develop new programs that employ alternative means of dispute prevention and resolution; to provide information and training in alternative dispute resolution methods for Agency staff and managers who may have occasion to use ADR in their work; to enhance its program for providing the services of third-party neutrals on an expedited basis; and to track and report on the use of ADR throughout the Agency.

Alternative dispute resolution techniques are increasingly being used by Federal agencies, private citizens and organizations to prevent and resolve disputes and manage cases. The Environmental Protection Agency already has a long history of encouraging and supporting the use of ADR in Agency practice. In 1981, EPA issued a policy designed to provide guidance and direction on reasonable and effective means of involving the public in program decisions under all of the major environmental statutes. 46 FR 5736, Jan. 19, 1981. In 1983, EPA established the Regulatory Negotiation Project to explore and demonstrate the value of negotiation and other consensus-building techniques for developing regulations. In 1987, the Project expanded its activities to the use of consensus-building in policy