

persons. The committee members may be a mixture of Federal and Non-federal experts. Non-federal members will be selected on the basis of their professional qualifications and expertise.

(3) Members of the merit review committee should exclude anyone who, on behalf of the Federal Government, performs any of the following functions:

- (i) Providing substantial technical assistance to the applicant;
- (ii) Approving/disapproving or having any decision-making role regarding the application;
- (iii) Serving as the Contracting Officer (CO) or performing business management functions for the project;
- (iv) Auditing the recipient for the project;

(v) Exercising line authority over anyone ineligible to serve as a reviewer because of the above limitations.

(4) The Selection Official must appoint one member of the merit review committee to serve as chairperson. The chairperson is responsible for:

- (i) Obtaining signed certificates of confidentiality from all committee members;
- (ii) Preparing the written summary of the evaluation and recommendations for the Selection Official for the applicant's file; and

(iii) Performing the merit review duties of a regular committee member.

(5) The nature of EERE's program solicitations will dictate the feasibility of using standing or ad hoc committees. When solicitations are generally being issued to meet specific program objectives with time or subject limitations, EERE program offices will use ad hoc committees. Ad hoc committees are also appropriate under the following circumstances:

- (i) For small numbers of applications received intermittently;
- (ii) For programs of short duration, usually under one year;
- (iii) To supplement review by standing committees when the volume of applications is usually large, and for applications with special review requirements.

(6) The regular use of ad hoc committees does not preclude the use of standing committees under the following circumstances:

- (i) When required by legislation,
- (ii) When a sufficient number of applications on a specific topic are received regularly and there is a sufficient number of qualified experts willing to serve on the committee for a prolonged tenure; and
- (iii) When the legislative authority for the particular program involved extends for more than one year.

(7) Field readers may be used as an adjunct to a review committee. Field readers must be fully briefed by the designated Contract Officer's Representative so as to understand the process, including the review criteria, the weight given each criterion, and the fact that any criteria not specified in the solicitation are not to be used to evaluate the applications. Field readers must sign a certificate of confidentiality, as provided in 10 CFR 600.13(d). Field readers should follow, as closely as possible, the procedures that would have been used by a standing committee.

(e) *Conflict of Interest.* Members of the review committee must act in a manner consistent with 10 CFR 1010.101. Reviewers who do not meet these requirements shall not review, discuss, or make recommendations concerning the application. Review committee members with a conflict of interest shall also absent themselves from all meetings in which the application in question is discussed.

(f) *Authorized Uses of Information.* The review committee must act in a manner consistent with 10 CFR 600.15 when dealing with applications containing trade secrets, privileged, confidential commercial, and/or financial information, unless the information is unrestricted information available from other sources.

(g) *Authority Beyond Evaluation.* The Selection Official may decide not to accept a proposal that receives a favorable recommendation from the merit review committee due to policy program factors. The explanation for the decision not to accept a recommendation from the merit review committee must be documented in writing for the applicant's file and must be prepared and signed by the ASEE or his/her designee.

(h) *Written Evaluation Summary.* Upon request, applicants are to be furnished a written summary of the evaluation of their application.

## V. Deviations

If an EERE program office wants to deviate from these procedures for merit review of an application or a class of applications, but will still follow the rules of 10 CFR 600.13, that office must obtain written permission from the ASEE. Permission to use procedures which deviate from 10 CFR 600 must be requested in writing to the responsible DOE Contracting Officer in accordance with 10 CFR 600.4. The Head of Contracting Activity has the authority to approve such procedures for a single case deviation, while the DAS for Procurement and Assistance

Management has the authority to approve a class deviation. A deviation may be authorized only upon written determination that the deviation is necessary for any of the reasons set forth in 10 CFR 600.4(b).

## VI. EERE Selection Process

Selection of applications for discretionary financial assistance will be based on the Selection Officials' acceptance of the merit review committees' recommendations and the findings of a separate programmatic review of program policy factors relevant to EERE's mission.

Issued in Washington, DC.

**David K. Garman,**

*Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PR02-9-000]

### Consumers Energy Company; Notice of Petition for Rate Approval

December 14, 2001.

Take notice that on November 30, 2001, Consumers Energy Company (Consumers) filed, pursuant to Section 284.123(b)(2) of the Commission's Regulations, a petition for rate approval requesting that the Commission approve an initial interruptible transportation service rate on Consumers system of \$0.01065 per Dth, and an interruptible transportation service rate of \$0.01357 per Dth following Commission approval in Docket No. CP02-22-000 of the roll-in of the facilities of Michigan Gas Storage Company to Consumers' facilities. These rates will be applicable to the transportation of natural gas under Section 311(a)(2) of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA).

Pursuant to section 284.123(b)(2)(ii), if the Commission does not act within 150 days of the date of this filing, the rates will be deemed to be fair and equitable and not in excess of an amount which interstate pipelines would be permitted to charge for similar transportation service. 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 December 31, 2001. This petition for rate approval is on file with the Commission and is 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). 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.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-31313 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. RP00-407-002 and RP00-619-003]

#### High Island Offshore System, L.L.C., Notice Compliance Filing

December 14, 2001.

Take notice that December 7, 2001, High Island Offshore System (HIOS) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Third Revised Volume No. 1, the tariff sheets listed on Appendix A to the filing, with an effective date of January 7, 2002.

HIOS states that the filing is being made in compliance with the Commission's November 8, 2001, Order in the above-referenced proceeding, which relates to compliance with the Commission's Order No. 637.

HIOS states that copies of the filing has been mailed to each of the parties who have intervened in this 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 in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. 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. 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). 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.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-31316 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PR02-8-000]

#### Hill-Lake Gas Storage, L.P.; Notice of Petition for Rate Approval

December 14, 2001.

Take notice that on November 30, 2001, Hill-Lake Gas Storage, L.P. (Hill-Lake) tendered for filing pursuant to Section 284.123(b)(2) of the Commission's regulations, a petition for rate approval requesting that the Commission approve as fair and equitable, market-based rates for firm and interruptible storage services performed under Section 311(a)(2) of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA). The rates for the individual storage services will be negotiated between Hill-Lake and various shippers. Hill-Lake does not propose to have established any maximum or minimum rate for any generic service.

Hill-Lake states that it operates as an intrastate natural gas pipeline company within the meaning of Section 2(16) of the NGPA in the State of Texas. Hill-Lake owns storage facilities in the State of Texas, which are the subject of this petition and which are located in Eastland County, Texas (Storage Facility). Hill-Lake indicates that it will provide the proposed storage services using the excess natural gas storage capacity of its Storage Facility.

Pursuant to section 284.123(b)(2)(ii), if the Commission does not act within 150 days of the date of this filing, the rates will be deemed to be fair and equitable and not in excess of an amount which interstate pipelines would be permitted to charge for similar transportation service. 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 December 31, 2001. This petition for rate approval is on file with the Commission and is 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). 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.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-31312 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-518-024]

#### PG&E Gas Transmission, Northwest Corporation; Notice of Negotiated Rate

December 14, 2001.

Take notice that on December 3, 2001, PG&E Gas Transmission, Northwest Corporation (GTN) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1-A, Seventeenth Revised Sheet No. 7, Eighth Revised Sheet No. 7A, Third Revised Sheet No. 7B, and Fifth Revised Sheet No. 7C, with an effective date of December 1, 2001.

GTN states that these sheets are being filed to reflect the implementation of two negotiated rate agreements and to remove negotiated rate agreements that have expired. GTN notes that the capacity sold under these negotiated rates contracts was posted as available on GTN's website, and that the shippers executing the negotiated rate contracts have affirmatively acknowledged that they had the option to acquire the capacity at GTN's maximum recourse rate. GTN further indicates that a copy of this filing has been served on GTN's