

opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: October 26, 2000.

John Tressler,

*Leader Regulatory Information Management,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

*Office of Educational Research and
Improvement*

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Public Libraries Survey.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs; Federal Government.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 56.

Burden Hours: 1,680.

Abstract: The Public Libraries Survey is an annual survey of public libraries in the 50 States, D.C. and the Outlying Areas. Data for local public libraries are aggregated at the State and national levels. Federal, state, and local officials use the data for planning, evaluation, monitoring, budgeting, administration, and policy. Other users include librarians, educators, and researchers. The respondents are the 50 States, D.C. and the Outlying Areas.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_IMG_Issues@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information

collection when making your request. Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at her internet address Kathy_Axt@ed.gov.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Draft Long-Term Stewardship Study

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of availability, opportunity to comment and public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the release of the Draft Long-Term Stewardship Study (Draft Study) for public review, comment and public hearing. This Draft Study has been prepared in accordance with the terms of a 1998 Settlement Agreement that resolved a lawsuit brought against DOE by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and other plaintiffs.

The Draft Study examines the institutional and programmatic issues facing DOE as it completes the environmental cleanup program at its sites. In keeping with the requirement that the Draft Study meet certain DOE requirements for public review in 10 CFR 1021.313, made applicable under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, DOE invites the general public, other Federal agencies, Native American Tribes, state and local governments, and all other interested parties to comment on the Draft Study. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive oral and written comments on the Draft Study.

DATES: The public comment period will extend to December 15, 2000.

Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

The public hearing will be held Thursday, November 30, 2000, from 9 am to 1 pm. Submit written notices of participation by November 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Washington, D.C., Room 1E245.

Submit written notices of participation in the public hearing, requests for information about the Draft Study and written comments on the Draft Study to Steven Livingstone, Project Manager, Office of Long-Term

Stewardship (EM-51), Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 45079, Washington, D.C. 20026-5079, phone: 202-586-9280; or submitted electronically to: Steven.Livingstone@em.doe.gov; or submitted by fax to: 202-863-7036.

Copies of the Draft Study can be requested by telephone at 1-800-736-3282 ("1-800-7EM-DATA"). The Draft Study and its supporting technical documents also are available for review at www.em.doe.gov/lts and at the DOE Reading Room addresses referenced in the "Availability of the Draft Study and Related Information" section of this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

DOE has prepared the Draft Study on the possible consequences of long-term stewardship according to the terms of a 1998 settlement agreement that resolved a lawsuit brought against DOE by the Natural Resources Defense Council and 38 other plaintiffs [*Natural Resources Defense Council, et al. v. Richardson, et al.*, Civ. No. 97-936 (SS) (D.D.C. Dec. 12, 1998)]. The Draft Study incorporates input received during a public scoping process and examines the institutional and programmatic issues currently facing DOE as it completes the environmental cleanup program at its sites. Long-term stewardship, under the agreement, refers to:

The physical controls, institutions, information and other mechanisms needed to ensure protection of people and the environment at sites where DOE has completed or plans to complete "cleanup" (e.g., landfill closures, remedial actions, removal actions, and facility stabilization). This concept of long-term stewardship includes, inter alia, land-use controls, monitoring, maintenance, and information management.

Study Goal and Approach

The goal of the Draft Study is to inform decision-makers and the public about the long-term stewardship issues and challenges facing DOE and potential options for addressing such issues.

The Draft Study does:

- Describe DOE's long-term stewardship responsibilities, the status of current and ongoing stewardship obligations, activities and initiatives, and the plans for future activities;
- Analyze the national issues that DOE needs to address in planning for and conducting long-term stewardship activities; and
- Promote information exchange on long-term stewardship among DOE,

Tribal nations, state and local governments, and private citizens.

The Draft Study does not:

- Serve as a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document or its functional equivalent;
- Identify or address site-specific issues, except as examples in the context of presenting national issues; or
- Address issues specific to nuclear stockpile stewardship, other activities related to national security, or the Central Internet Database required by the settlement agreement.

Study Development Process

The terms of the settlement agreement stipulate that DOE follow the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) procedures for public scoping, 40 CFR 1501.7(a)(1)–(2) for this study, even though it is not a NEPA document or its functional equivalent. Therefore, DOE conducted a scoping process during October 1999–February 2000 to gather comments on the scope of the Draft Study. The scoping period was initially intended to run from October 1999 to January 2000, but was extended by request to February 2000. The scoping process provided DOE with input about the topics and issues that should be included in the Draft Study, within the general parameters established by the settlement agreement. DOE developed the overall scope and issues that are addressed in the Draft Study based on comments received through the scoping process, ongoing work on long-term stewardship being conducted by DOE and non-DOE organizations, and requirements of the settlement agreement. DOE is soliciting comments on the Draft Study during a public comment period that begins on the date of publication of this notice and ends on December 15, 2000. Similarly, a public hearing will be held to receive oral and written comments from the public on the Draft Study. Comments received during the public comment period will be used by DOE to complete the final study. DOE's responses to comments received during the public comment period will be presented in a public comment summary document to be issued as part of the final study.

Availability of the Draft Study and Related Information

DOE released a background document, From Cleanup to Stewardship, a Companion Report to "Paths to Closure" and Background Information to Support the Scoping Process Required for the 1998 PEIS Settlement Study in October 1999. In producing the background document and the Draft Study, DOE used the same

data set used to develop the 1998 Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure report. DOE used this information to identify sites where contaminated facilities, water, soil, and/or engineered units would likely remain after cleanup is complete to estimate the scope of long-term stewardship activities. Both the Draft Study on long-term stewardship and the background document are the best available information sources to date on the issue of DOE's long-term stewardship responsibilities. Copies of the Draft Study and the background document or other related information can be obtained by contacting:

- The Internet Web Site at www.em.doe.gov/lts, which contains information on long-term stewardship related issues produced by DOE and outside sources.
- The Center for Environmental Management Information, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, North, SW, Suite 8200, Washington, D.C. 20024, 1-800-736-3282 ("1-800-7EM-DATA").
- DOE Reading Rooms (for locations of the DOE Reading Rooms or other public information repositories containing background information, please contact the Center for Environmental Management Information at the above address and telephone).

Issued in Washington D.C., October 24, 2000.

James D. Werner,

*Director, Office of Long-Term Stewardship,
Office of Environmental Management.*

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP01-17-00]

Algonquin Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

October 25, 2000.

Take notice that on October 18, 2000 Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin), 5400 Westheimer Court, Houston, Texas 77056-5310, filed in Docket No. CP01-17-000, a request pursuant to § 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission's regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 175.211). Algonquin requests authorization to install, own, operate and maintain a new point of delivery and short spur lateral along its existing 6-inch and 12-inch laterals in New

London County, Connecticut, to make natural gas deliveries to Phelps Dodge Copper Products Company (Phelps Dodge), an industrial end user near Norwich, Connecticut.

Algonquin requests this authorization pursuant to its blanket facilities certificate of public convenience and necessity, as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This application may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). The name, address, and telephone number of the applicant's representative, to whom correspondence and communications concerning this application should be addressed is: Steven E. Tillman, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Algonquin Gas Transmission Company, P.O. Box 1642 Houston, Texas 77251-1642, (713) 627-5113 (Phone) or (713) 627-5947 (Fax).

Algonquin proposes to construct and install dual 6-inch tap valves, 6-inch check valves and 6-inch insulating flanges near Mile Post 17.0 of its existing E-1L 12-inch Lateral and the E-1 6-inch Lateral in New London County, including all piping between such tap valves, check valves and insulating flanges or above ground riser piping. The short spur lateral from the above delivery tap to the Phelps Dodge plant would be located between the Yantic River and Otrobando Avenue and will consist of about 1,565 feet of buried 6-inch pipe and an electric gas measurement meter station at the plant. Algonquin says that Phelps Dodge will reimburse Algonquin for 100% of the projects cost, about \$1,450,000.

Algonquin says that the related transportation service for Phelps Dodge of up to 3,800 Dth per day will be rendered pursuant to Algonquin's open access rate schedules. Further, Algonquin says that the transportation service for Phelps Dodge will be performed using existing capacity on Algonquin submits that its proposal will be accomplished without detriment or disadvantage to its other customers.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the this notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and, pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205), a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefore, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a