

construction, maintenance, operation, and eventual removal of structures and appurtenances required to develop, produce, transport, and treat natural gas from the lower Mobile Bay Field. This includes wells, platforms, pipelines, treating facility, and sulfur depot.

2. Alternatives to the Proposed Action: In responding to this permit application, the US Army Corps of Engineers has available three alternatives. These are: issue the permit, issue the permit with conditions, or deny the permit. Alternatives to the proposed action to be considered would be associated with the proposed drilling program, platforms, pipelines, gas treating facility, sulfur depot, base of operations, mitigation plans, emergency operations, and other development and production related alternatives.

3. Description of the Scoping Process: Public participation in this program has been lively and continuous since announcement of initial drilling plans in 1973. Two public hearings have been held, one in October 1973 and the other in April 1979, in connection with permit applications. Two EIS's have been completed for the program (January 1976, December 1980) with numerous comments being received from agencies, environmental groups, and other interests. The applicant has conducted an extensive program of meetings and tours for agencies and the public. Additionally, news media in the regional and local area has published significant amounts of information on the program.

The DEIS will undergo the public review process as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Significant issues to be addressed will be possible impacts of the proposed action and alternatives to the Mobile Bay estuarine area and surrounding wetlands and the risks of blowouts. A public hearing will be held upon completion of the DEIS. A notice informing the public as to time and location will be issued at least 30 days prior to such hearings.

4. Scoping Meeting: No additional scoping meetings are scheduled.

5. DEIS Preparation. It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public in November 1981.

ADDRESS: Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be answered by Mr. James B. Hildreth, PD-EE, US Army

Engineer District, Mobile, PO Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628.

Dated: July 7, 1981.

Ronald A. Krizman,
Lt. Col., CE, Acting Commander and Acting District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 81-20336 Filed 7-15-81; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-CR-14

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Compliance With the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Amendments to the DOE NEPA Guidelines

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of proposed amendments to the Guidelines adding to and modifying the list of typical classes of action in Section D.

On the basis of experience gained since the issuance of the Department's NEPA Guidelines, the Department of Energy proposes to revise Section D of the Guidelines by adding 11 new typical classes and by modifying 3 existing typical classes of action. Public comment is invited on this proposal. Pending final adoption or rejection of the proposed changes, the Department of Energy will utilize the proposed typical classes of action on an interim basis.

COMMENTS BY: August 17, 1981.

ADDRESS COMMENTS TO: Dr. Robert J. Stern, at the address listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr. Robert J. Stern, Director, NEPA Affairs Division, Office of Environmental Compliance and Overview, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Protection, Safety, and Emergency Preparedness, Forrestal Building, Room 4G-064, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 252-4600

Stephen H. Greenleigh, Esq., Assistant General Counsel for Environment, Forrestal Building, Room 6D-033, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 252-6947

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background. On March 28, 1980 (45 FR 20694), the Department of Energy published in the Federal Register final DOE NEPA Guidelines for implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA as required by the Council on

Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The Guidelines are applicable to all organizational units of the Department except the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission which is not subject to the supervision or direction of the other parts of the Department of Energy. Section D of the Department's NEPA Guidelines identifies typical classes of Department of Energy actions which normally require environmental assessments but not necessarily environmental impact statements, actions which normally require environmental impact statements, or actions which require neither environmental assessments nor environmental impact statements. These classes of actions were identified pursuant to 40 CFR 1507.3(b)(2). Section A.3.(d) of the Guidelines provides that the Department of Energy may add actions to or remove actions from the categories in Section D based on experience gained during the implementation of the CEQ regulations and the Guidelines.

Based on the experience gained operating under the CEQ regulations and the Guidelines, the Department proposes to add 11 new typical classes of action and modify 3 existing typical classes of action. Pursuant to Section C.8 of the Guidelines, the proposed changes are being published for public review.

B. Proposed Changes to Section D of the Department of Energy NEPA Guidelines. This notice proposes to revise Section D of the Department's guidelines and add or modify the typical classes of actions.

C. Comments. Comments concerning the proposed changes to Section D of the Department's NEPA guidelines should be submitted to Dr. Stern as indicated in the "address" section of this notice and should be identified on the outside of the envelope as: "Changes to Section D of DOE's NEPA Guidelines." Two copies should be submitted.

Pending final adoption or rejection of the proposed changes, the Department of Energy will utilize the proposed typical classes of action on an interim basis.

July 9, 1981.

Barton R. House,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Protection, Safety, and Emergency Preparedness.

Proposed Changes to Section D.—Department of Energy NEPA Guidelines

| Normally do not require either EA's or EIS's | Normally require EA's but not necessarily EIS's | Normally require EIS's |
|---|--|---|
| Classes of Actions Generally Applicable to all of DOE | | |
| General Plant Projects such as road and parking area resurfacing, modifications to heating-ventilating-air conditioning systems, minor alterations of existing buildings, and other similar projects where: (1) the projects are located within previously developed areas and will not affect environmentally sensitive areas such as floodplains, wetlands, archeological sites, and critical habitats; and (2) the projects are not part of a proposed action that is or may be the subject of an EA or EIS. | DOE actions which enable or result in engineering development activities, i.e. detailed design, development, fabrication, and test of energy system prototypes. (NOTE: Changes existing class of action by adding the word "fabrication".) | DOE actions which are expected to result in the construction and operation of a large scale project. (NOTE: Modifies an existing class of action by substituting "large scale project" for "full-scale energy system project".) |
| Installation of meteorological towers and associated activities to assess potential wind energy resources where the installation has no impacts on environmentally sensitive areas such as archeological sites, critical habitats, etc., and where the installation does not prejudice future site selection decisions for large wind turbines. | | |
| Classes of Actions Applicable to Power Marketing Administrations (PMA) | | |
| Emergency repair of transmission lines including replacement or repair of damaged equipment as well as the removal and replacement of downed transmission lines. | Construction and operation of wind resource, low-head hydro, and solar energy pilot projects. | |
| Additions or modifications to transmission facilities which do not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area, including tower modifications, changing insulators, replacement of poles and crossarms, and similar actions. | The allocation of power resources to customers in a manner differing from existing contractual arrangements. | |
| Grant or denial of requests for multiple use of DOE transmission line rights-of-way, such as grazing permits and crossing agreements including electric lines, water lines, and drainage culverts. | Implementation of an erosion control program that is systemwide. | |
| Execution of contracts for the short-term or seasonal allocation of excess power resources to customers who can receive these resources over existing transmission systems. | | |
| The renewal of existing power contracts in kind. | | |
| Classes of Actions Applicable to Nuclear Waste Management Program | | |
| | The demonstration or implementation of intermediate-depth burial of low-level waste at DOE sites. | DOE actions resulting in the site selection, construction, or operation of major treatment, storage and/or disposal facilities for transuranic and high level nuclear waste and/or spent nuclear fuel such as spent fuel storage facilities and geologic repositories. (NOTE: Clarifies an existing class of action.) |

[FR Doc. 81-20856 Filed 7-16-81; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

National Petroleum Council, Economics Task Group of the Committee on Arctic Oil and Gas Resources; Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Economics Task Group of the Committee on Arctic Oil and Gas Resources will meet in July 1981. The National Petroleum Council was established to provide advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters relating to oil and natural gas or the oil and natural gas industries. The Committee on Arctic Oil and Gas Resources will analyze the various issues bearing on expeditious resource development of this promising frontier

area. Its analysis and findings will be based on information and data to be gathered by the various task groups. The time, location and agenda of the Economics Task Group meeting follows:

The fourth meeting of the Economics Task Group will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 1981, starting at 9:00 a.m., in the 26th Floor Conference Room, Hamilton International Oil Company, 1600 Broadway, Denver, Colorado.

The tentative agenda for the meeting follows:

1. Introductory remarks by the Chairman and Government Cochairman.
2. Review of the revised computer runs on economics.
3. Discussion of the Task Group's draft report.
4. Discussion of any other matters pertinent to the overall assignment from the Secretary.

The meeting is open to the public. The Chairman of the Economics Task Group is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will, in his judgement, facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Any member of the public who wishes to file a written statement with the Economics Task Group will be permitted to do so, either before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements should inform G. J. Parker, Office of Oil and Natural Gas, Fossil Energy, 202/633-8383, prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made for their appearance on the agenda.

Summary minutes of the meeting will be available for public review at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, Room 1E-190, DOE, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, D.C. on July 8, 1981.

Roger W. A. LeGassie,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy,
July 8, 1981.

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BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. GP81-12-000]

State of Mississippi, Section 107 NGPA Determination, Tomlinson Interests, Inc., Charles W. Cavanaugh No. 1 Well; Preliminary Finding

March 30, 1981.

On February 13, 1981, the State of Mississippi Oil and Gas Board (Mississippi) filed with the Commission notice of its determination that Tomlinson Interests, Inc.'s Charles W. Cavanaugh No. 1 Well (JD No. 81-17507) qualifies as a "high-cost natural gas" well under section 107 of the natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA) (15 U.S.C. 3301 *et seq.*). The Commission published notice of the Mississippi determination in the Federal Register on March 5, 1981.

Although Mississippi did not cite the applicable subsection under section 107 for which the well was determined to be eligible,¹ review of the record submitted

¹There are five categories of high cost gas established in section 107(c). They are: Gas produced from a well spudded on or after February 18, 1977 from a completion location below 15,000 feet (section 107(c)(1)); gas produced from geopressed brine (section 107(c)(2)); occluded gas

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