on the FAFSA is used to determine the students' eligibility and financial need for the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, (Title IV, HEA Programs).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Whitlock, by fax at (202) 708–7970 or electronically at jerry__ whitlock@ed.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), the Secretary is charged, ''in cooperation with agencies and organizations involved in providing student financial assistance,'' to ''produce, distribute and process free of charge a common financial reporting form to be used to determine the need and eligibility of a student under'' the Title IV, HEA Programs. This form is the FAFSA. In addition, section 483 authorizes the Secretary to include on the FAFSA up to eight non-financial data items that would assist States in awarding State student financial assistance.

Over the past several years, the Secretary, in cooperation with the above described agencies and organizations, has added questions to the form. Those questions were added to accommodate the needs of States that administer State student aid programs, and of institutions of higher education that administer the Title IV, HEA Programs. They were also added to facilitate eliminating or reducing the number of State and institutional forms that a student and his or her family must complete in order to receive student financial assistance.

On the other hand, section 478 of the HEA recognized that it was not necessary for certain types of students to complete all the income and asset questions on the FAFSA to have their expected family contributions (EFC) calculated. Thus, under that section, students whose family income is $12,000 or less and were not required to file an IRS Tax Form 1040 are deemed to have a zero EFC. Consequently, these students should have to answer only a limited number of questions on the FAFSA. Moreover, under that section, students whose family income is less than $50,000 and were not required to file an IRS Tax Form 1040 do not have to report asset information.

In the context of re-engineering the FAFSA and looking at each FAFSA question anew, it appears that a great many of the questions now on the form are not needed to determine a student's need and eligibility for Title IV, HEA Program funds. For example, using the 1996–97 and 1997–98 FAFSAs as reference points, a student does not need to complete the following questions in order to have his or her eligibility and need for Title IV, HEA Program funds determined: 11–14, 18, 20–39, 50, 53–54, 65–66, and 92–105.

Moreover, it appears that many of these questions are of a marginal value, even for State and institutional purposes, and it further appears that the FAFSA does not fully accommodate those students who did not have to fully answer all the questions on the form. Finally, the Department has found that many individuals who complete the form find it difficult to understand and confusing and burdensome to complete.

To assist in reconciling potential conflicting purposes of forms reduction, form simplification, and burden reduction, the Department would appreciate receiving comments that address the following issues:

- To what extent should the FAFSA be viewed as the vehicle to collect information over and above the information needed to determine a student's eligibility and financial need for Title IV, HEA Program funds?
- To what extent should the FAFSA be used to accommodate the additional information needs of States and institutions of higher education?
- What guidelines should the Department use when adding or deleting data elements on the FAFSA? How should the need for data be balanced against the complexity and burden that may result from collecting additional information?
- How much of the current difficulty in completing the FAFSA results from the design/format of the FAFSA, the number of questions, the way the questions are asked, and the length or phrasing of the instructions?

The dates and locations of the three public meetings at which these issues will be discussed appear below. Each is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Individuals who wish to make oral statements should be prepared to limit their remarks to five minutes if the number of speakers will not allow longer presentations. The Department encourages all participants to submit written statements.

Dates, Locations, and Contact Persons for the Public Meetings

Meeting One

Date: Friday, May 2, 1997.

Address: John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Room 200, 899—10th Avenue, New York, New York, 10019.

For Further Information Contact: George Chin or Phil Friedman at (212) 290–5700.

Meeting Two

Date: Monday, May 12, 1997.

Address: Manchester Conference Center, Room 206A, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, California.

For Further Information Contact: Sister Dale Brown at (619) 260–2235.

Meeting Three

Date: Friday, June 6, 1997.

Address: J.C. Penney Building, Room 101, University for Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri.

For Further Information Contact: Jerry Joseph at (314) 516–6397.

Any person who is unable to attend any meeting but wishes to submit written comments on the FAFSA may do so by sending those comments to: Patrick Sherrill, Information Management Team, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C., 20202–4651. You may fax your written comments on the FAFSA to Mr. Sherrill at (202) 708–9346 or send them electronically to pat__ sherrill@ed.gov.

David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 97–11270 Filed 4–29–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Strategic Petroleum Reserve; Opportunity for Public Comment

AGENCY: Department of Energy, Fossil Energy, Office of Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

ACTION: Opportunity for Public Comment on Strategic Petroleum Reserve Policy.

SUMMARY: In preparation for the issuance of an Administration Statement of Policy concerning the capacity, size, use, and financing, among other issues, of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the Department of Energy, Office of Strategic Petroleum Reserve, extends this opportunity for interested persons to submit written comments. All submissions in response to this notice will be made available to the public.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments at the address below by June 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Mr. Richard D. Furiga, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Strategic

Petroleum Reserve, FE–40, Room 3G–024 1000 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585.

Comments may also be submitted by use of the Internet by linking to the DOE Fossil Energy web site at: http://www.fe.doe.gov/spr.html

Requests for further information may be addressed to: Mr. John D. Shages, Strategic Petroleum Reserve, FE–432, Room 3G–052 1000 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, Phone: (202) 586–1533, Fax: (202) 586–0835, Internet: john.shages@hq.doe.gov

Opportunity for Public Comment

As a result of changes in the overall energy environment that have occurred since initial authorization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (the Reserve) in 1975 and creation of the International Energy Agency (IEA) in 1974, and agreement by the Department's witness before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on May 15, 1996, that a Statement of Administration Policy on the Reserve would be prepared, the Department intends to prepare, on behalf of the Administration, a statement of policy addressing fundamental issues affecting the future of the Reserve. As an initial step in the development of the Reserve Policy Statement, the Department solicits the views of all interested persons on the issues listed below. After compilation of the public comments, the Administration will conduct an Interagency review of the issues, and develop positions on the major issues of the capacity and inventory of the Reserve, which will be a touchstone for decisions regarding the Reserve, including proposals to use the Reserve's inventory for purposes other than energy supply shortages, interruptions, and international obligations.

Background on U.S. Oil Emergency Response Policy

Creation of the International Energy Agency and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Following the 1973 Arab oil embargo, the United States determined that its vital foreign policy, national security, and economic interests were threatened by our dependence on imported oil and the possibility of recurring severe supply disruptions. As a result, in 1975 the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, Public Law 94–163 (the Act), was enacted, authorizing both American participation in the IEA and creation of the Reserve.

It was intended at the time that the Reserve would serve several functions. It would protect the national economy by providing the capability to supplement oil supplies in the event of disruptions due to political, military, or natural causes. It also would sustain U.S. foreign policy objectives, especially in the Middle East, by providing the President the freedom to take action free of concern for essential oil supplies. The Reserve would provide U.S. military forces with a secure source of oil supplies in a crisis. It would also be a deterrent to countries or parties that might seek political gain by intentionally disrupting world oil exports.

The Reserve also was intended to fulfill a U.S. international obligation. Under U.S. leadership, and drawn together by a common interest in maintaining secure oil supplies, 12 industrialized nations met in Washington in February 1974 to begin a process that would lead to the signing of an Agreement on an International Energy Program. This was the charter of the IEA, which today has 23 members. The member nations of the IEA agree to take common effective measures to develop emergency self-sufficiency in oil supplies and to cooperate in a crisis. Each member of the IEA commits to maintaining the equivalent of 90 days of net oil imports as an emergency reserve. Throughout its 22 year history, the United States has been the IEA's foremost advocate of building and maintaining strategic oil stocks. In establishing the Reserve, it was a U.S. goal to lead by example, setting a high standard for others to follow.

At its origin, the IEA adopted an emergency system based on allocation of available supplies among the oil importing countries. Since then the United States has gained experience with the difficulties and negative consequences of price and allocation regulations, and the Reserve has moved from being merely a plan, to becoming a viable petroleum stockpile. With time, the U.S. position has evolved to aggressively advocate use of free markets even in a disruption. The existence of the Reserve lends credibility to urging by the U.S. to the other member countries that the most efficient response to an emergency would be to allow markets to balance supply and demand.

In order to formalize this position, the United States enunciated a policy, in the event of an emergency or shortage, to rely on market forces to allocate supply, and to ordinarily supplement supply by the early drawdown of the Reserve in large volumes and in coordination with our allies and trading partners. This policy recognizes that the best way to dampen the price increase associated with an emergency, and mitigate the economic impact resulting from a significant disruption, is to inject additional supplies into the market in a timely manner. It is the U.S. position that the member countries of the IEA, acting in concert, can leverage the impact of their collective actions well beyond the mitigating impacts of independent action by each state acting alone.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Structure

The Act authorized a Reserve up to one billion barrels and provided for a range of policy options such as storage of refined products in regional reserves. The Act also required that the Executive Branch prepare a comprehensive plan for the Reserve that required approval of the Congress, and that substantial changes to the plan be formalized as amendments. The plan was submitted, approved, and implemented. The Reserve, as planned, consists of crude oil stored in salt caverns located on the Gulf Coast. That configuration allows the lowest construction, maintenance, and operations costs; the greatest logistical flexibility; and the lowest cost for procuring and storing petroleum.

Today the Reserve is composed of five oil storage sites with surface facilities consisting of pipes, pumps, motors, meters, and other equipment typical of oil storage facilities. Two of the sites are in Texas and three in Louisiana, with a Project Management Office located in New Orleans. The oil is stored below ground in caverns created within salt domes. The total capacity of the caverns is 750 million barrels, but is being reduced to 680 million barrels by the decommissioning of the Weeks Island, Louisiana, storage site due to structural instability. The peak oil inventory in the Reserve was 592 million barrels during the period July 1994–March 1996. Approximately 18 million barrels of oil were sold in fiscal year 1996, leaving the inventory of the Reserve at 574 million barrels of which one-third is low sulfur (sweet) and two-thirds high sulfur (sour). During fiscal year 1997, the Reserve sold another 10 million barrels of mostly sour oil, to raise $220 million in satisfaction of appropriation law requirements. The resulting current inventory is approximately 564 million barrels of oil.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve Drawdown

The Act provides the President wide latitude to anticipate and react to events that are of an emergency nature, cause petroleum prices to rise, adversely impact the national economy and safety, or trigger United States international obligations. The authority of the President to drawdown the Reserve may not be delegated. Once the President makes a finding of an interruption, shortage, or determines that drawdown is necessary to meet United States obligations under the International Energy Program, the Secretary of Energy has discretion as to the volume and type of oil to draw down, and the administration of sales is preplanned, including periodic exercises. The Secretary also has discretion to draw down and sell up to 5 million barrels of oil to test the distribution systems for oil sales. In fiscal year 1986 Congress directed the Secretary to use the test sale authority to conduct a sale of one million barrels. The Secretary also used the test sale authority in 1990 after the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. There has been only one Presidentially directed drawdown, in January 1991. The United States, simultaneously with commencement of the air war against Iraq, and following activation by the IEA of its coordinated emergency response contingency plan for the Desert Storm war, offered for sale 33 million barrels of oil, and after consideration of the bids, actually sold and delivered 17 million barrels of crude. Whenever Reserve oil is offered for sale, the volume, type, and location of the oil is announced in a Notice of Sale. Awards are made to qualified bidders solely on the basis of price and the availability of drawdown and distribution facilities.

Public versus Private Reserves:

The obligation of the United States to the IEA is to store the equivalent of 90 days of net imports by a combination of Government owned reserves and private reserves. While the Government's Strategic Petroleum Reserve at one time equated to 118 days of net imports, increasing imports, a hiatus in oil acquisition, and the non-emergency sales conducted during FY 1996 and 1997 reduced the days of net import equivalency to 67 by December 1996. Although the United States has urged other members to build government-owned stocks and to move away from the regulation of industry, the United States currently satisfies its obligation by virtue of private inventories even though those stocks are not controlled by the Government for strategic purposes.

Primary Issues

1. Should the United States Continue to Maintain the Strategic Petroleum Reserve?

The International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Reserve were created in response to the market power of the Arab Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, as demonstrated by the international embargo and price increase of 1973–74. Since then, the geographical location of the world's oil reserves, production, and exports have become more diverse. Regardless of their causes, recent price increases appear to be self correcting by attracting increased supply.

In addition, the existence of Government owned strategic reserves may dampen or eliminate incentives for private industry to carry inventories in excess of immediate operational needs. Within the context of this question the Department solicits views on private sector inventory behavior and the private sector's likely inventory response to decommissioning the Reserve.

The cost of the Reserve is approximately $200 million per year for operations, maintenance, construction, and management, exclusive of any costs of acquiring oil. The Reserve is currently in the fourth year of a seven year Life Extension Program to extend the useful operating life of all critical Reserve systems to the year 2025. After completion of the Life Extension (construction) projects, the annual budget for operations, maintenance, and management of the Reserve will be approximately $150 million per year. The United States is unique among oil stockpiling countries in assigning all of the cost of the Reserve to the general taxpayer. Most other stockpiling countries partially shift the cost burden to the oil industry by requiring that their oil companies maintain inventories in excess of working needs. The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (the Act) provides authority to the Secretary of Energy to require private companies to create an Industrial Petroleum Reserve. If it is desirable to maintain a Reserve, the Department solicits views on whether the Government should privatize the management and cost of strategic stockpiling. Alternatively, if the Government continues to manage the nation's oil stockpiles, the Department solicits views on whether the cost should be borne by oil importers, refiners, or consumers rather than the general public.

2. What Should be the Size and Composition of the Reserve Facilities and Oil Inventory?

The United States' international obligation (under the Agreement on an International Energy Program) is, as a Nation, to maintain petroleum stocks equal to 90 days of net imports. Based on calculations by the International Energy Agency in the Spring of 1996, the United States has 157 days of imports, approximately 74 of which are provided by the Reserve. The remainder are private inventories that are calculated by the International Energy Agency to be stocks available during an emergency. However, the Federal Government has no control over these private stocks.

As of November 1, 1996, the Reserve had an effective capacity of 680 million barrels, and an inventory of 571 million barrels of crude oil. After completion of the sales directed by the FY 1997 appropriations act, the Reserve will have an inventory of approximately 564 million barrels of oil. The Act authorizes a Reserve of up to 1 billion barrels, and had an initial target of 90 days of net imports.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Plan, which contains the configuration of the Reserve, provides only for crude oil storage. Although regional, refined product storage was authorized in the Act, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Plan concluded that centralized crude oil storage was preferrable both in the interests of cost reduction and in the belief that crude oil is the most flexible form of petroleum for responding to emergencies. In addition to questions regarding size and inventory, the Department solicits views on (1) whether the philosophy of private inventory managers of refined products regarding stock maintenance has changed permanently within the last few years, (2) whether other circumstances that bear on the analysis of regional and refined product storage have changed with time, and (3) the option of storing refined products either centrally or regionally.

In 1990, the Reserve capacity reached 750 million barrels. However, due to geologic instability the Department is decommissioning the Weeks Island, Louisiana site and its 70 million barrels of capacity. In 1992, the Act was amended to require the Administration to prepare an amendment to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Plan for an expansion of the Reserve to one billion barrels. The Administration has postponed submitting this amendment to reflect the reality that the inventory of the Reserve is not increasing, and in

1994 and 1995 proposed an amendment to the Act that would require the preparation of its expansion plan only when it becomes likely that funding sufficient to fill the existing Reserve facilities becomes available.

The Act also requires that inventory be added to the Reserve at the rate of 75,000 barrels of oil per day. This requirement has been waived for many years in annual appropriations acts, and the volume of crude oil acquired has been determined by the spending limits contained in that legislation.

If desired, additional crude oil storage capacity could be added to the existing Big Hill and Bayou Choctaw sites. By using the existing infrastructure, approximately 100 million barrels could be added at those sites at an incremental site development cost of approximately $2.00 per barrel. If expansion were desired above 750 million barrels, a new site(s) would be required and the cost would be approximately $5.00 per barrel. Creation of a new salt dome storage site, requiring a National Environmental Policy Act review process for site selection, land acquisition, construction, and leaching would require approximately nine years.

3. How Should Reserve Oil be Distributed?

The Department maintains the Reserve in a state of readiness that allows for delivering oil within 15 days of notice to the field office to proceed. The primary means of distributing oil is by competitive sale, i.e., oil is sold to the highest responsible bidders. The bids are made in response to an offer of specific types and volumes of oil available at each Reserve location. The basic terms and conditions of a competitive sale are available in a document titled, ''Standard Sales Provisions.'' The bidders must accept all terms and conditions of the offer, and bid only on price, volume, location, delivery mode, and delivery date. The current Reserve Drawdown and Distribution Plan provides the Secretary of Energy with the option to direct sales of up to 10 percent of the oil to be sold by means other than competitive bid, although the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Office has no plans to implement the allocation authority.

4. What Should be the Drawdown and Distribution Capability for the Reserve?

In the initial 1976 Strategic Petroleum Reserve Plan for a 500 million barrel Reserve, drawdown and distribution capability was designed to equal 60 percent of daily imports, implying a drawdown rate of 3.3 million barrels per day and complete drawdown of the Reserve in 150 days. When the planned size of the Reserve increased to 750 million barrels, the initial drawdown and distribution rate was increased to 4.5 million barrels per day, which in 1990 was equal to 63 percent of imports. If the Reserve were expanded to one billion barrels with a drawdown and distribution capability of 6.0 million barrels per day, that capability would be the equivalent of 60 percent of projected imports in the year 2000. Due to decommissioning the Weeks Island site, drawdown and distribution capability will be reduced to 3.9 million barrels per day, although the rate eventually will be restored to 4.5 million as part of the Reserve's Life Extension Program. The drawdown and distribution rate of 4.5 million barrels per day will decline as a percentage of net imports as imports rise. In the years 2000, 2005, and 2010, the percentage will be 45%, 39%, and 38% respectively, based upon projections by the Energy Information Administration.

5. What Is an Appropriate Policy for Revenue Raising Sales From the Reserve?

Under the Act, the oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve may only be drawn down in the event of a Presidential finding of a shortage, interruption, or international obligation, with the exception of limited test sales. Aside from test sales (after which the Reserve is required by the Act to replace the oil sold), the Department has advocated a non-emergency sale only once, in FY 1996, to fund the cost of decommissioning the Weeks Island site. However, beginning in 1992, Congress has applied outlay caps to the funds available for oil acquisition, thereby severely limiting oil purchases and making those funds subject to transfer for other purposes. In addition, the Administration agreed with Congress on a deficit reduction sale of $227 million worth of oil in FY 1996, and an additional sale of $220 million worth of oil in FY 1997. These proposals, which lower the level of oil inventory in the Reserve, are in conflict with the provisions of the Act, discussed above, which require plans for oil fill and facility expansion. The Department of Energy has also advised against any further sales of oil for revenue generation purposes.

6. Should the Reserve's Facilities Be Available for Alternative Uses?

Initially the Reserve facilities are exclusively dedicated to the storage and distribution of Government-owned oil. However, the surface pipelines and docking facilities which were built by the Government in conjunction with the storage sites could be used by the private sector. The Act provides authority for the Department to ''use, lease, maintain, sell or otherwise dispose of storage and related facilities.'' Beginning in 1994, the Department proposed a ''commercialization'' program to lease or sell its underutilized or idle distribution pipelines and marine terminaling facilities for commercial crude oil operations, while retaining priority use of these facilities to distribute Reserve crude oil in the event of a national emergency. In October 1996, the Reserve leased the St. James terminal and the Bayou Choctaw pipeline, and sold the Weeks Island pipeline. The Department expects the commercialization program to reduce the maintenance costs of the Reserve by transferring those costs to the lessees, generate revenue from unutilized facilities, and assist industry.

The Department's current policy regarding commercialization is to lease or sell the off-site facilities provided that their capabilities are maintained and available to the Reserve in the event of a drawdown. The Department would also be willing to lease certain on-site facilities that may, in the future, be attractive as lease candidates.

The Reserve also has almost 100 million barrels of underutilized storage capacity. Other member countries of the International Energy Agency and non-member countries need capacity to store their oil, and the United States could lease the underutilized space to those countries. In 1995, the Administration proposed a lease program to the other member countries of the International Energy Agency. The Administration's policy is to explore the possibility of leasing storage capacity to foreign countries in order to generate revenues, preserve Reserve capacity for future use, and to promote stockpiling by other nations.

7. Should the Reserve Attempt To Raise Funds Through Alternative Financing, Innovative Financial Instruments, or Buying and Selling Inventory?

Part C of the Act authorizes the acquisition of oil for the Reserve that would remain the property of another person provided the Government controls the drawdown of the oil. This authority was added to the Act in 1990, in hopes of reducing carrying costs of the oil in inventory. Since passage of the legislation the Department has not had any success at ''leasing'' or otherwise acquiring alternatively financed oil, and in recent years has abandoned the initiative due the overall budget situation. Nevertheless, the Department is willing to store non-Government oil for long-term storage in the Reserve if oil acquisition is resumed. The Department solicits views on the use of alternative financing for oil acquisition.

The Department also solicits views on the use of financial options, futures and other financial instruments. The Department would have to become active in the oil markets if it wished to sell options for the purchase and sale of Reserve oil. The intent of this activity would be to generate funds for the Government and provide an automatic mechanism for the release of oil. Additionally, the oil industry could be provided a hedging instrument backed by oil. The Administration has not taken a position on whether Reserve oil should be offered for trade on public markets.

In addition, the Department seeks views on whether it should sell and repurchase Reserve inventories on a continuous basis to take financial advantage of market anomalies, such as high current prices and low future prices.

The operating, maintenance and management expenses of the Reserve are approximately $200 million per year currently, and are expected to decline to approximately $150 million per year over time. The Department seeks views on other alternatives for funding these expenses other than appropriations from general revenues.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on April 24, 1997.

Robert S. Kripowicz,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 97–11146 Filed 4–29–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER97–1630–000]

Brennan Power Inc.; Notice of Issuance of Order

April 25, 1997.

Brennan Power Inc. (Brennan) submitted for filing a rate schedule under which Brennan will engage in wholesale electric power and energy transactions as a marketer. Brennan also requested waiver of various Commission regulations. In particular, Brennan requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR Part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability by Brennan.

On April 9, 1997, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Applications, Office of Electric Power Regulation, granted requests for blanket approval under Part 34, subject to the following:

Within thirty days of the date of the order, any person desiring to be heard or to protest the blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liability by Brennan should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214).

Absent a request for hearing within this period, Brennan is authorized to issue securities and assume obligations or liabilities as a guarantor, endorser, surety, or otherwise in respect of any security or another person; provided that such issuance or assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of the applicant, and compatible with the public interest, and is reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

The Commission reserves the right to require a further showing that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by continued approval of Brennan's issuances of securities or assumptions of liability.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing motions to intervene or protests, as set forth above, is May 9, 1997. Copies of the full text of the order are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20426.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–11179 Filed 4–29–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER97–1968–000]

Colonial Energy, Inc.; Notice of Issuance of Order

April 25, 1997.

Colonial Energy, Inc. (Colonial) submitted for filing a rate schedule under which Colonial will engage in wholesale electric power and energy transactions as a marketer. Colonial also requested waiver of various Commission regulations. In particular, Colonial requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR Part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability by Colonial.

On April 9, 1997, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Applications, Office of Electric Power Regulation, granted requests for blanket approval under Part 34, subject to the following:

Within thirty days of the date of the order, any person desiring to be heard or to protest the blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liability by Colonial should 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).

Absent a request for hearing within this period, Colonial is authorized to issue securities and assume obligations or liabilities as a guarantor, endorser, surety, or otherwise in respect of any security of another person; provided that such issuance or assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of the applicant, and compatible with the public interest, and is reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

The Commission reserves the right to require a further showing that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by continued approval of Colonial's issuances of securities or assumptions of liability.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing motions to intervene or protests, as set forth above, is May 9, 1997. Copies of the full text of the order are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–11180 Filed 4–29–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97–279–001]

Gasdel Pipeline System, Inc.; Notice of Motion To Withdraw Tariff Sheet of Gasdel Pipeline System, Inc.

April 24, 1997.

Take notice that on April 21, 1997, Gasdel Pipeline System, Inc. (Gasdel) filed a motion to withdraw Origin Tariff Sheet No. 45, Index of Customers, from its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1–A, filed as part of Gasdel's Order No. 582 compliance filing in Docket No. RP97–279–000 on March 5, 1997.