

a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038.

On January 12, 1981, the Department of Energy (DOE), in Presidential Permit PP-68, authorized San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a 230,000-volt (230-kV) electric transmission line from its Miguel Substation, located approximately 10 miles north of the United States border with Mexico, to Tijuana, Mexico, where it interconnects with similar facilities at the Comision Federal de Electricidad's Tijuana Substation. SDG&E is a regulated public utility and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sempra Energy. On November 8, 1982, in Docket PP-68-1, DOE amended Presidential permit PP-68 to permit SDG&E to add a second set of conductors to the towers authorized in the original Presidential permit.

On February 8, 2001, SDG&E filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of DOE to again amend the existing Presidential permit to authorize it to make certain changes to the existing transmission line to provide for the connection of the 510-megawatt (MW) Otay Mesa merchant powerplant being developed 1.5 miles north of the border. To interconnect the new powerplant to the existing PP-68 international transmission facilities, SDG&E proposes to construct a 5-acre switchyard within the fenced boundary of the powerplant and to construct approximately 0.1 miles of new 230kV transmission line to interconnect with the 230-kV Miguel-Tijuana transmission line.

SDG&E also proposes to reconductor that portion of the existing transmission line from the new 5-acre switchyard, north to the Miguel Substation, a distance of approximately 8.5 miles. SDG&E proposes to bundle each circuit by adding a second set of conductors to each phase (i.e., 12 total conductors versus 6 that currently exist). The 1.5 mile portion of SDG&E's Miguel-Tijuana international transmission line south of the Otay Mesa powerplant will remain unchanged.

Since the restructuring of the electric power industry began, resulting in the introduction of different types of competitive entities into the marketplace, DOE has consistently expressed its policy that cross-border trade in electric energy should be subject to the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to transmission in interstate commerce. DOE has stated that policy in export authorizations granted to entities requesting authority to export over

international transmission facilities. Specifically, DOE expects transmitting utilities owning border facilities constructed pursuant to Presidential permits to provide access across the border in accordance with the principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination contained in the FPA and articulated in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order No. 888, as amended (Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities). In furtherance of this policy, DOE intends to condition any Presidential permit issued in this proceeding on compliance with these open access principles.

#### Procedural Matters

Any person desiring to become a party to this proceeding or to be heard by filing comments or protests to this application should file a petition to intervene, comment or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each petition and protest should be filed with the DOE on or before the date listed above.

Additional copies of such petitions to intervene or protests also should be filed directly with: James F. Walsh, Sempra Energy, 101 Ash Street, HQ11B, San Diego, CA 92124 and Pat Fleming, Sempra Energy, 101 Ash Street, HQ14A, San Diego, CA 92124.

Before a Presidential permit may be issued or amended, the DOE must determine that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. In addition, DOE must consider the environmental impacts of the proposed actions pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. DOE also must obtain the concurrence of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense before taking final action on a Presidential permit application.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above. In addition, the application may be reviewed or downloaded from the Fossil Energy Home Page at: <http://www.fe.doe.gov>. Upon reaching the Fossil Energy Home page, select "Electricity" from the option's menu, and then "Pending Proceedings."

Issued in Washington, DC., on February 21, 2001.

**Anthony J. Como,**

*Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex, Office of Coal & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology; Small Modular Nuclear Power Units

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of public interest.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Department of Energy plans to undertake a study to determine the feasibility of and issues associated with the deployment of small modular nuclear reactors for preparation of a report to Congress by May 2001. This report is being prepared as directed by the Senate Committee on Appropriations (S.R. Report no. 106-395, at 107(2000)) on the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-377). The Committee report specifically states the following:

The committee is aware of recent improvements in reactor design that make feasible small modular reactors with attractive characteristics for remote communities that otherwise must rely on shipments of relatively expensive and sometimes environmentally undesirable fuels for their electric power. To be acceptable, such a reactor would have to be inherently safe, be relatively cost effective, have intrinsic design features which would deter sabotage or efforts to divert nuclear materials, have infrequent refuelings, and be largely factory constructed and deliverable to remote sites. The Committee recommendation provides \$1,000,000 for the Department to undertake a study to determine the feasibility of and issues associated with the deployment of such small reactors and provide a report to Congress by May 2001.

This notice hereby announces the Department's interest in receiving information from the nuclear technology community on small modular power unit concepts that should be considered in the study. Such concepts must generally meet the criteria previously mentioned and may be entirely, or almost entirely, factory fabricated for transport to remote communities such as islands and should be no larger than 50 megawatts-electric (MWe).

**DATES:** Concept information must be submitted by 4:30 p.m., edt, March 15, 2001, to be accepted for review and to permit timely consideration for inclusion within the report.

**ADDRESSES:** All concept information should be forwarded to Argonne National Laboratory by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or any commercial mail delivery service, or hand carried by the applicant to: Roald Wiegand, "Small Modular Reactor Study," Argonne National Laboratory, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Building 208, Argonne, Illinois 60439-4842. Individuals who wish to submit concept information electronically should forward their information to [smr@anl.gov](mailto:smr@anl.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kenneth Chuck Wade, Nuclear Industry Analysis, NE-80, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Energy, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290, (301) 903-1031.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Energy is interested in receiving information on small modular nuclear power unit concepts that should be considered in a study to determine the feasibility of this technology. Concepts that will be considered in this study must generally meet the following criteria: inherent safety, relative cost effectiveness, intrinsic design features which would deter sabotage or efforts to divert nuclear materials; and infrequent refueling. These design concepts may be entirely, or almost entirely, factory fabricated for transport to remote communities such as islands and should be no larger than 50 megawatts-electric (MWe). All information in response to this request should include detailed plans in the following areas:

#### Licensing Prospects

Concept participants must identify any unique regulatory issues associated with siting and licensing small modular power units. The information on issues identified should include suggested modifications to existing Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements, potential licensing barriers to be resolved, basis for safety analysis requirements, the need for reactor containment, and methods for implementing risk-based analysis techniques. These regulatory initiatives should be limited to reactor concepts that are useful in remote areas.

#### Concept Technology

Technical information should include an overall description of the concept and detailed information about major elements of the concept, including dimensions and capacity. Information on reactor fuel, fuel characteristics, fuel fabrication experience and irradiation history for the particular fuel type is desirable. Any novel features of the

reactor concept, either for the reactor core or other components of the system, should be clearly identified, especially those related to safety and non-proliferation. Any relationship or similarity to other existing or planned reactors should also be stated. Features of the concept that would facilitate both factory fabrication and the ability to transport units to more remote areas should also be identified.

#### Economic Viability

The elements of cost and performance parameters that are desired for this study are: capital; operation and maintenance; fuel; decommissioning costs; thermal power; thermal efficiency; projected capacity factor; construction time; and financial parameters. Since design concept may still be in a preliminary stage, the Department would like for concept designers to submit any available information regarding the projected cost and performance values.

Each proposed design concept participant should address the issues mentioned above in as much detail as possible to enable fair and accurate statements regarding its prospects for future deployment. The Department recognizes that some of the information requested may not be readily available and will accept whatever information is available. Please note that proprietary information received in response to this notice will be kept confidential.

The report resulting from this study will not make any recommendation regarding a particular concept technology, but only assess the practicality of deploying small modular nuclear power units in remote locations within the U.S.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 16, 2001.

**John M. Stamos,**

*Acting Associate Director for Nuclear Industry Analysis, NE-80, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Agency information collection activities: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The EIA has submitted the energy information collections listed at the end of this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and a three-year extension under section 3507(h)(1) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

**DATES:** Comments must be filed on or before March 29, 2001. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments but find it difficult to do so within that period, you should contact the OMB Desk Officer for DOE listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to the OMB Desk Officer for DOE, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 726 Jackson Place NW., Washington, DC 20503. The OMB DOE Desk Officer may be telephoned at (202) 395-7318. (A copy of your comments should also be provided to EIA's Statistics and Methods Group at the address below.)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Grace Sutherland, Statistics and Methods Group (EI-70), Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585-0670. Ms. Sutherland may be contacted by telephone at (202) 287-1712, FAX at (202) 287-1705, or e-mail at [Grace.Sutherland@eia.doe.gov](mailto:Grace.Sutherland@eia.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This section contains the following information about the energy information collection submitted to OMB for review: (1) The collection numbers and title; (2) the sponsor (*i.e.*, the Department of Energy component); (3) the current OMB docket number (if applicable); (4) the type of request (*i.e.*, new, revision, extension, or reinstatement); (5) response obligation (*i.e.*, mandatory, voluntary, or required to obtain or retain benefits); (6) a description of the need for and proposed use of the information; (7) a categorical description of the likely respondents; and (8) an estimate of the total annual reporting burden (*i.e.*, the estimated number of likely respondents times the proposed frequency of response per year times the average hours per response).

1. Forms EIA-886, "Annual Survey of Alternative Fueled Vehicle Suppliers and Users."

2. Energy Information Administration.

3. OMB Number 1905-0191.

4. Three-year extension with revisions of a currently approved collection.

5. Mandatory.

6. EIA's "Annual Survey of Alternative Fueled Vehicle Suppliers