

applicant was requested to provide additional information on the issues of environmental justice and alternative pipeline routes. A number of the other U.S. Government agencies involved in the approval process also requested additional information. Dakota Gasification Company provided this information which has been included in the environmental assessment package. This information may be viewed upon request in the Office of International Energy and Commodity Policy at the Department of State.

Based on this information, the Department of State has concluded that issuance of a Presidential Permit authorizing construction of the pipeline will not have a significant effect on the existing vegetation and wildlife, water resources, land use, air quality and human population within the United States. In reaching this conclusion, the Department of State considered several alternatives, including a no-action alternative. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. section 4321 *et seq.*, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, 40 CFR 1501.4 and 1508.13 and Department of State Regulations, 22 CFR 161.8 (C), an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PIPELINE PERMIT APPLICATION, CONTACT: Bill Memler, Office of International Energy Policy, Room 3535, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC, 20520, (202) 647-4557.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Dakota Gasification Company is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of North Dakota, with its principal place of business in Bismarck, North Dakota. On July 7, 1999, the Department of State published a Notice of Application for a Presidential Permit in the **Federal Register**. No public comments were received and concerned agencies expressed no opposition to issuing the permit. A finding of no significant impact is adopted, and an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Dated: March 7, 2000.

Peter E. Bass,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Energy, and Commodities.

[FR Doc. 00-6410 Filed 3-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-U

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3253]

Universal Postal Union Reform Survey

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice of briefing.

The Department of State will host a briefing on Wednesday, April 19, 2000, to discuss matters related to its on-going participation in the work of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

Within the UPU, a "High Level Group on the Future Development of the UPU" is reviewing various reform initiatives. The Group has created a questionnaire to solicit the individual opinions of "stakeholders" in UPU operations. This questionnaire was sent to about 30 government and private sector agencies in the United States, with the request that the responses be returned to the UPU by March 30, 2000.

The central purpose of this briefing will be to discuss with the U.S. stakeholders the variety of opinions of the UPU that have been expressed, especially in the context of responses to the UPU questionnaire. This briefing will also provide information on other aspects of the High Level Group's work, the March 9 Congressional hearing on international postal policy, and the recent GAO report on this issue. The briefing will be chaired by Ambassador E. Michael Southwick of the Department of State.

The briefing will be held from 2:00 pm until approximately 4:00 pm, on April 19, 2000, in Room 1207 of the Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC. The briefing will be open to the public up to the capacity of the meeting room.

Entry to the Department of State building is controlled and will be facilitated by advance arrangements. In order to arrange admittance, persons desiring to attend the briefing should, no later than noon on April 18, 2000, notify the Office of Technical and Specialized Agencies, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State, preferably by fax, providing the name of the meeting and the individual's name, Social Security number, date of birth, professional affiliation, address and telephone number. The fax number to use is (202) 647-8902. Voice telephone is (202) 647-2752. This request applies to both government and non-government individuals.

All attendees must use the Department of State diplomatic entrance at 22nd and C Streets, NW. One of the following means of identification will be required for admittance: any U.S. driver's license with photo, a passport, or any U.S. Government agency identification card. Questions concerning the briefing may be directed to Mr. Neil Boyer at (202) 647-2752.

Dated: March 7, 2000.

Lynne Lambert,

Director, Office of Technical and Specialized Agencies, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 00-6408 Filed 3-14-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement; Pike County, KY and Mingo County, WV

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Pike County, Kentucky and Mingo County, West Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jesse Story, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, 330 West Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, (502) 223-6721, e-mail: jesse.story@fhwa.dot.gov; or John Bowlin, Project Manager, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, District 12 Pikeville, P.O. Box 2468, Pikeville, Kentucky, 41502, (606) 785-9466, e-mail: jbowlin@mail.kytc.state.ky.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded by using a computer, modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the Office of the Federal Register's home page at <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's web page at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Background

The FHWA, in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOT), will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposed highway project to construct a segment of Interstate Highway I-66 (Transamerica Transportation Corridor) between western Pike County, Kentucky and eastern Mingo County, West Virginia. The proposed project would involve the construction of a 4-line, controlled access highway on new location between US 23/119 southwest of Pikeville, Kentucky to the proposed

Interstate Highway I-73 (King Coal Highway) in Mingo County, West Virginia. The proposed project is approximately 30 miles (48 kilometers) in length. This Interstate highway construction project is considered necessary to improve and promote economic development opportunities in a severely depressed area of Appalachia, improve regional accessibility and east-west National Highway System connectivity, reduce travel time and distance, improve highway safety for the traveling public, increase tourism, and provide for National defense objectives throughout the region.

Alternatives under consideration include: (1) Taking no action; (2) using alternate travel modes; and (3) constructing a 4-lane, controlled access highway on new location. Incorporated into and studied with the various build alternatives will be design variations of grade, typical sections, and alignments.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have expressed interest in this proposal during the previous project planning phase. Project scoping meetings will be held in the project area in the Spring of 2000 and a series of public meetings and public hearings will be held in conjunction with preliminary design and EIS phase activities. Public notice of the time and place of all public meetings and hearings will be given in accordance with FHWA, KYTC, and WVDOH policies and regulations. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this

proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided under the caption **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.) (23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48)

Issued on: March 9, 2000.

Jesse A. Story,
Kentucky Division Administrator, Frankfort.
[FR Doc. 00-6334 Filed 3-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-99-6269; Notice 2]

IMPCO Technologies; Grant of Application for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

IMPCO Technologies (IMPCO), of Irvine, California, has determined that a number of model year (MY) 1997 and (MY) 1998 bi-fueled compressed natural gas (CNG) Chevrolet/GMC C2500 and Sierra model pickup trucks that it altered do not meet the requirements of S5.3 and S5.4 of 49 CFR 571.303, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 303, "Fuel System Integrity of Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles." and has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports."

Notice of receipt of the application was published, with a 30-day comment period, on October 7, 1999, in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 54726). NHTSA received one comment from General Motors Corporation (GM) during the 30-day comment period. GM agreed with

IMPCO that the labels and owner's manual supplement information provided with the vehicles were responsive to and consistent with the rationale and intent of FMVSS No. 303.

FMVSS No. 303, S5.3, requires that CNG vehicles shall be permanently labeled, near the vehicle refueling connection, with the information specified in S5.3.1 and S5.3.2.

S5.3.1 requires the statement: "Service pressure _____ kPa (_____ psig)," and S5.3.2 requires the statement "See instructions on fuel container for inspection and service life."

S5.4 requires that, when a motor vehicle is delivered to the first purchaser, for purposes other than resale, the manufacturer shall provide the purchaser with a written statement of the information in S5.3.1 and S5.3.2 in the owner's manual, or, if there is no owner's manual, on a one-page document.

IMPCO notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that it altered 400 MY 1997 and 285 MY 1998 Chevrolet/GMC C2500 and Sierra model pickup trucks that did not fully comply with the labeling requirements specified in 49 CFR 571.303. IMPCO stated that, as altered, the noncompliance consists of deviations from the wording required on the CNG vehicle label and in the owner's manual.

IMPCO explained that an out-of-date version of FMVSS No. 303, which did not contain specific requirements, was used by the supplier that prepared the label and owner's manual supplement. As a result, the CNG vehicle label applied near the refueling connection, and the owner's manual for the subject vehicles, did not contain the exact statements required by FMVSS No. 303, S5.3 and S5.4.

The required words and actual words used by IMPCO are shown as follows:

| FMVSS paragraph | Required label wording | 1997 and 1998 bi-fuel truck label wording |
|-----------------|---|--|
| S5.3.1 | SERVICE PRESSURE 24820 kPa (3600 psig) | 3600 PSI SYSTEM OPERATING PRESSURE |
| S5.3.2 | SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON FUEL CONTAINER FOR INSPECTION AND SERVICE LIFE. | SEE CNG OWNERS MANUAL SUPPLEMENT FOR FUEL TANK SERVICE LIFE. |

| FMVSS paragraph | Required owner's manual wording | CNG truck owner's manual wording | 1997 manual | 1998 manual |
|-----------------|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| S5.4 | SERVICE PRESSURE 24820 kPa (3600 psig). | This system operates at pressures up to 3600 PSI (24.8 MPa). (p. iv). | X | X |
| | | The CNG fuel system is designed to use a fill pressure of 3,600 psi (24.8 Mpa) at 70°F (21°C) (P. 6-3). | | X |
| | | 13.2 gallons (equivalent) (50 L) at 3600 psi (24.8 Mpa) and 70°F (21°C) (page 6-6). | X | |
| | | 13 GGE (Gasoline Gallon Equivalent) (49 L) at 3600 psi (24.8 Mpa) and 70°F (21°C). (page 6-6). | | X |
| | | 3600 PSI SYSTEM PRESSURE (page 7-7) | X | X |