

Dated: December 31, 1996.
 Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.
 [FR Doc. 97-225 Filed 1-6-97; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 3510-12-M

National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

AGENCY: National Weather Service (NWS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The National Weather Service (NWS) is publishing proposed certifications for the proposed consolidations and closures of:

(1) Omaha Residual Weather Service Office (RWSO) which will have its services consolidated into the future Omaha Weather Forecast Office (WFO); and

(2) Sacramento RWSO which will have its services consolidated into the future Sacramento WFO. In accordance with Pub. Law 102-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed consolidation and closure certifications.

DATES: Comments are requested by March 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the proposed consolidation and closure packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 09356, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0300. All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1698 ext 151.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 706 of Pub. Law 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that these consolidations and closures will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed consolidation and closure certifications in the FR. The documentation supporting each proposed certification includes the following:

(1) A draft memorandum by the meteorologist-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS if appropriate, after consideration of public comments and completion of consultation with the Modernization Transition Committee (the Committee);

(2) A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;

(3) A comparison of the services provided within the service area and the services to be provided after such action;

(4) A description of any recent or expected modernization of NWS operation which will enhance services in the service area;

(5) An identification of any area within the affected service area which would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(6) Evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, which was considered in reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Report(s), User Confirmation of Services Report(s), and the Decommissioning Readiness Report (as applicable);

(7) Warning and forecast verification statistics for pre-modernized and modernized services which were utilized in determining that services have not been degraded;

(8) An Air Safety Appraisal, if applicable, for offices which are located on an airport; and

(9) A letter appointing the liaison officer.

These proposed certifications do not include any report of the Committee which could be submitted in accordance with sections 706(b)(6) and 707(c) of Pub. Law 102-567. In December 1995 the Committee decided that, in general, they would forego the optional consultation on proposed certifications. Instead, the Committee would just review certifications after the public comment period had closed so their consultation would be with the benefit of public comments that had been submitted.

This notice does not include the complete certification packages because they are too voluminous to publish. Copies of the certification packages and supporting documentation can be obtained through the contact listed above.

Once all public comments have been received and considered, the NWS will complete consultation with the Committee and determine whether to proceed with the final certifications. If decisions to certify are made, the Secretary of Commerce must publish the final certifications in the FR and transmit the certifications to the appropriate Congressional committees prior to consolidating and closing the offices.

Dated: December 31, 1996.
 Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EG97-16-000]

Amoco Power Finance (BVI) Limited; Notice of Amendment to Application for Commission Determination of Exempt Wholesale Generator Status

December 31, 1996.

Take notice that on December 19, 1996, Amoco Power Finance (BVI) Limited tendered for filing an amendment to its application for exempt wholesale generator status filed in the above-referenced docket on November 8, 1996.

Any person desiring to be heard concerning the amendment to the Application should file a motion to intervene or comments 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. The Commission will limit its consideration of comments to those that concern the adequacy or accuracy of the application. All such motions and comments should be filed on or before January 10, 1997 and must be served on the Applicant. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-205 Filed 1-6-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. GT97-16-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

December 31, 1996.

Take notice that on December 20, 1996, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) tendered for filing Attachment A to the filing which details, by customer, the historical load factors calculated using total firm entitlements for the 12-month period ended October 31, 1996. Columbia proposes to charge its firm customers the GRI demand rate indicated by these

calculations, and any new customer added after January 1, 1997, will be billed GRI each month based on the actual throughput for each month of prior service until a 12-month history is established.

In Opinion 407, issued by the Commission on September 27, 1996, in Docket No. RP96-267-000, the Commission waived the requirements of individual pipeline tariffs so that presently effective tariff sheets reflecting the 1996 GRI funding surcharges need not be restated since the approved charges for 1997 are the same as the GRI charges approved for 1996. Nevertheless, Columbia is filing Attachment A so as to insure that the load factors resulting from its calculations are a matter of public record.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest this filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.214 and Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-206 Filed 1-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. TQ97-3-23-000]

**Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company;
Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC
Gas Tariff**

December 31, 1996.

Take notice that on December 27, 1996 Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (ESNG) tendered for filing certain revised tariff sheets in the above captioned docket as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1, with a proposed effective date of January 1, 1997.

ESNG states that the revised tariff sheets included herein are being filed pursuant to Section 21 of the General Terms and Conditions of ESNG's Gas Tariff to reflect changes in ESNG's jurisdictional rates. The sales rates set

forth herein reflect an increase of \$0.6852 per dt in the Commodity Charge, as measured against ESNG's Out-Of-Cycle Quarterly PGA filing, Docket No. TQ97-2-23-000, *et al.*, filed on November 26, 1996 to be effective on December 1, 1996.

The commodity current purchased gas cost adjustment reflects ESNG's projected cost of gas for the month of January 1997, and has been calculated using its best estimate of available gas supplies to meet ESNG's anticipated purchase requirements. The increased gas costs in this filing are a result of higher prices being paid to producers/suppliers under ESNG's market-responsive gas supply contracts.

ESNG states that copies of the filing have been served upon its jurisdictional customers and interested State Commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing 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 Rule 211 and Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-221 Filed 1-6-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. GT97-17-000]

**Equitrans L.P.; Notice of Proposed
Changes in FERC Gas Tariff**

December 31, 1996.

Take notice that on December 23, 1996, Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans), tendered for filing to become part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheet, to become effective January 1, 1997.

Fourth Revised Sheet No. 400
Fifth Revised Sheet No. 401

Equitrans states that this filing is made to update Equitrans' index of customers. In Order No. 581 the Commission established a revised format for the Index of Customers to be included in the tariffs of interstate

pipelines and required the pipelines to update the index on a quarterly basis to reflect changes in contract activity. Equitrans requests a waiver of the Commission's notice requirements to permit the tariff sheet to take effect on January 1, 1997, the first calendar quarter, in accordance with Order No. 581.

Equitrans states that a copy of its filing has been served upon its customers and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest this filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. in accordance with section 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-207 Filed 1-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. EG97-12-000]

**Hidro Iberica B.V.; Notice of
Amendment to Application for
Commission Determination of Exempt
Wholesale Generator Status**

December 31, 1996.

On December 30, 1996, Hidro Iberica B.V. (the "Applicant") whose address is 4e Etage, 3012 CA Rotterdam, The Netherlands, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission an amendment to its application (the "Application") for exempt wholesale generator status pursuant to Part 365 of the Commission's Regulations, filed in the above-referenced Docket on November 4, 1996, as previously amended on December 11, 1996.

Any person desiring to be heard concerning the amendment to the Application should file a motion to intervene or comments 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. The Commission will