

92–463, 86 Stat. 770), requires that public notice of the meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Monday, November 3, 2003, 9:15 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, November 4, 2003, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1489 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mark Roth, Designated Federal Officer, Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee, U.S. Department of Energy, NE–20, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington DC 20585, Telephone Number 301–903–5501, E-mail: mark.roth@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Meeting: To provide advice to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE) of the Department of Energy on the many complex planning, scientific and technical issues that arise in the development and implementation of the Nuclear Energy research program.

Tentative Agenda

Monday, November 3, 2003

Welcome Remarks.
Status of Nuclear Energy's FY 2004 Budget Request.
Role of Nuclear Power Under the Administration's Climate Change Initiative.
Subcommittee Reports and Organizational Issues.

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Subcommittee Reports and Organization Issues (continued).
Open Discussion.
Public Comment Period.

Public Participation: The day and a half meeting is open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis because of limited seating. Written statements may be filed with the committee before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Mark Roth at the address or telephone listed above. Requests to make oral statements must be made and received five days prior to the meeting; reasonable provision will be made to include the statement in the agenda. The Chair of the committee is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Reading Room 1E–190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m.

and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Issued in Washington, DC on September 29, 2003.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket No. PP–285]

Application for Presidential Permit; Sharyland Utilities, L.P.

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: Sharyland Utilities, L.P. (Sharyland) has applied for a Presidential permit to construct, connect, operate, and maintain a single-circuit, 138,000-volt (138-kV) alternating current electric transmission line across the U.S. border with Mexico.

DATES: Comments, protests, or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before November 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments, protests, or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Import and Export (FE–27), Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0350.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Russell (Program Office) 202–586–9624 or Michael T. Skinker (Program Attorney) 202–586–6667.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of facilities at the international border of the United States for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign country is prohibited in the absence of a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038.

On September 11, 2003, Sharyland filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit. Sharyland is a transmission and distribution service provider operating within a 6,000-acre master-planned community called Sharyland Plantation, situated between the cities of McAllen and Mission, Texas, along the border between the United States and Mexico.

Sharyland proposes to develop a single-circuit 138-kV transmission line in two phases. In the first phase Sharyland would tap an existing 138-kV transmission facility also owned by Sharyland, construct a 150-megawatt

(MW) back-to-back alternating current/direct current/alternating current converter station in the immediate vicinity of the tap, and construct approximately one mile of 138-kV transmission line to the Mexico-U.S. border near the southern boundary of the City of Mission, Texas. At the border the facilities would interconnect with similar facilities owned by Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE), the national electric utility of Mexico, and continue an additional five miles to CFE's Cumbres substation located approximately 6 miles from the City of Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico. In the second phase, Sharyland would expand the converter facility to a capacity of 300 MW. Sharyland proposes to operate the transmission line as an "open access" facility available for use by other parties to transfer electric power between the United States and Mexico. Sharyland does not intend to seek an electricity export authorization from DOE.

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 authorization 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 Regulation 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 FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each