

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans; Meeting**

AGENCY: President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans (Commission). Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act in order to notify the public of their opportunity to attend.

DATES AND TIMES: Friday, January 29, 1998, 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. (cst).

ADDRESSES: Austin Community College, 5930 Middle Fiskville, Road, Austin, Texas 78752.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard Toscano, Special Assistant for Intergovernmental Affairs, at 202-401-1411 (telephone), 202-401-8377 (FAX), richard_toscano@ed.gov (e-mail) or mail: U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland, SW., room 5E110; Washington, DC 20202-3601.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission was established under Executive Order 12900 (February 22, 1994) to provide the President and the Secretary of Education with advice on (1) the progress of Hispanic Americans toward achievement of the National Goals and other standards of educational accomplishment; (2) the development, monitoring, and education for Hispanic Americans; (3) ways to increase, State, county, private sector and community involvement in improving education; and (4) ways to expand and complement Federal education initiatives.

At the January meeting, the Commission Executive Board will discuss current and future activities. Specifically, the Executive Board will discuss the implementation of the Hispanic Education Action Plan, newly funded Department of Education initiatives, and the impact of assessment on Latino learners.

The Executive Board and other attending Commissioners will participate in a half-day workshop on assessment. The specific issues that will be addressed by the Commission and national assessment experts include:

- Exit/entry Criteria
- Teacher Training
- Development of Appropriate Assessments

- National Standards that address instruction
 - Use of data for reporting purposes
- Commissioners have been invited to attend a day-long symposium on "Access to Higher Education in the Post-Hopwood Era" that will occur on January 28, 1999.

Records of all Commission proceedings are available for public inspection at the White House Initiative, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW., Room 5E110, Washington, DC 20202 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (est).

Dated: January 6, 1999.

G. Mario Moreno,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket No. PP-197]

Application for Presidential Permit Public Service Company of New Mexico

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) has applied for a Presidential permit to construct, connect, operate and maintain a double-circuit electric transmission line across the U.S. border with Mexico. The proposed facilities would originate at the switchyard of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station and extend along one of three alternate routes to the U.S.-Mexico border. Depending in part on the results of the environmental review performed by the Department of Energy, the proposed transmission lines could be either alternating current (AC) or direct current (DC).

DATES: Comments, protests, or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before February 16, 1999.

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, connection, operation, and maintenance 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 December 31, 1998, PNM, a regulated public utility, filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit. PNM proposes to construct two high-voltage transmission circuits within a single right-of-way. Both circuits would originate at the switchyard adjacent to the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) located west of Phoenix, Arizona, and extend to the U.S.-Mexico border along one of three, two-mile wide corridors preliminarily identified by PNM. From the U.S.-Mexico border, the proposed facilities would extend approximately 60 miles into Mexico where they would connect with complementary transmission facilities of the Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE), the national electric utility of Mexico, at CFE's existing Santa Ana Substation.

The two circuits may be constructed as one double-circuit line (both circuits connected to the same support structure) or as two individual lines (separate support structures for each circuit). The proposed in-service date for the facilities is June 2002; however, PNM may elect to use a phased approach in installing the two circuits.

In its application, PNM states that it is considering designing the transmission circuits for either AC or DC operation. If the AC option is chosen, a back-to-back AC/DC converter station would be constructed in the vicinity of the U.S.-Mexico border. The AC transmission circuits would be operated at 345,000 volts (345-kV) between PVNGS and the back-to-back converter station and at 230-kV between the converter station and CFE's Santa Ana Substation. Each of these AC transmission circuits would have an electrical transfer capability of approximately 400 megawatts (MW).

If the DC option is selected, an AC/DC converter station will be installed at each end of the proposed circuits within or near the PVNGS in the U.S. and the Santa Ana Substation in Mexico. If PNM elects to use a phased approach, the DC circuits would initially be operated as a mono-pole DC line (one conductor) and have a nominal operating voltage of \pm 400-kV with an electrical transfer capability of between 400 MW and 500 MW. With the addition of the second circuit, (second conductor) the resulting interconnection would be upgraded to