

to help conserve proposed and candidate species, and species likely to become candidates, by giving non-federal landowners incentives to implement conservation measures for declining species. The primary incentive for CCAAs is an assurance that no further land, water, or resource use restrictions would be imposed should the species later become listed under the ESA. Prior to the Services entering into the CCAA and issuing a permit, the Services must determine that the benefits of the conservation measures to be implemented, when combined with the benefits that would be achieved if it is assumed that conservation measures were also to be implemented on other necessary properties, would preclude any need to list the covered species.

Though the names of these two permitting tools are different, the goals are similar, and the strategies for achieving those goals can overlap. Conservation strategies can, therefore, be developed to fulfill CCAA and HCP requirements in a single conservation plan.

#### Current Proposal

Simpson owns and manages approximately 457,000 acres of commercial timberland in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Trinity counties, CA. Approximately 413,000 acres of this property occurs in watersheds with habitat important to the conservation of salmonid species in the North Coast region of California, including, but not limited to, the Winchuck River, Smith River, Klamath River and its tributaries, Redwood Creek, Little River, Mad River, tributaries to Humboldt Bay, Eel River, the Van Duzen River and others. Some forest management and timber harvest activities have the potential to impact species subject to protection under the ESA.

Simpson has developed a Plan, with technical assistance from the Services, to obtain Permits for their activities on approximately 413,000 acres of their commercial timberlands. Activities proposed for Permit coverage include the following: all aspects of timber harvest; forest product transportation; road and landing construction, use, maintenance and abandonment; site preparation; tree planting; silvicultural thinning; controlled burns; rock quarries and borrow pit operations; aquatic habitat restoration; and the management, harvest, and sale of minor forest products. The Permits and Plan would also cover certain monitoring activities and related scientific experiments in the Plan area. The duration of the proposed Permits and Plan is 50 years.

The proposed Incidental Take Permit would authorize the take of fish in three Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) that are listed as threatened, incidental to otherwise lawful management activities: California Coastal chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) ESU, Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon (*O. kisutch*) ESU, and Northern California steelhead (*O. mykiss*) ESU. Simpson is also seeking coverage of fish in three other unlisted ESUs (Klamath Mountains Province steelhead ESU, Upper Klamath/Trinity Rivers chinook salmon ESU, Southern Oregon and Northern California Coastal chinook salmon ESU) under specific provisions of the Permit, should these species be listed in the future.

The proposed Enhancement of Survival Permit would address coastal cutthroat trout (*O. clarki clarki*), rainbow trout (*O. mykiss*), southern torrent salamander (*Rhyacotriton variegatus*), and tailed frog (*Ascaphus truei*) under specific provisions of the Permit, should these species be listed in the future.

The Services formally initiated an environmental review of the project through a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the **Federal Register** on July 11, 2000 (65 FR 42674). The project proponent was Simpson Timber Company. In October of 2001, Simpson Timber Company announced that it planned to establish a separate company called Simpson Resource Company that would include all of the company's timberlands and directly related operations. The timberlands were transferred to Simpson Resource Company in December of 2001, and Simpson Resource Company is now the project proponent. The Notice of Intent also announced a 30-day public scoping period, during which other agencies, tribes, and the public were invited to provide comments and suggestions regarding issues and alternatives to be included in the EIS. Following this scoping period a Draft EIS was prepared which considers the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action, and three additional action alternatives.

Under the No Action Alternative, Permits would not be issued and Simpson would remain subject to the prohibition on unauthorized taking of listed species. Under the Proposed Action, the Services would issue the Permits and Simpson would implement their proposed Plan on 413,000 acres of Simpson's California timberlands. Under a Listed Species Only Alternative (Alternative A), the Services would issue Permits only for currently listed species. The Simplified Prescriptions

Alternative (Alternative B) would provide coverage for the same species as the Proposed Action, with modified management obligations. The Expanded Species/Geographic Area Alternative (Alternative C) would expand the area of coverage and the number of species covered under the Permits. The No Action, Proposed Action, and other action alternatives are analyzed in detail in the Draft EIS.

Other alternatives were considered by the Services but not carried forward for detailed analysis during preparation of this EIS. The alternatives considered but not carried forward were: (1) broad application of generic management prescriptions; (2) extensive permit coverage for terrestrial species (in addition to those considered in Alternative C above); and (3) alternative permit terms. These alternatives were not selected for detailed analysis because they do not meet the Services' purposes and needs or the applicant's objectives, or they are beyond the scope of the EIS.

The Services invite the public to comment on the Plan and Draft EIS during a 90-day public comment period. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and the Services' regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). The Services are furnishing this notice in order to allow other agencies and the public an opportunity to review and comment on these documents. All comments received will become part of the public record and will be available for review pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA.

Dated: July 30, 2002.

#### Phil Williams,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Dated: July 30, 2002.

#### D. Kenneth McDermond,

Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081302A]

### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) Committee will meet.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on August 30, 2002, from 10:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Federal Building, 709 W. 9th Avenue, Room 445, Juneau, AK.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Council Staff: 907-271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On Friday, August 30th, 2002 at 10:30 a.m., the Committee will meet to review the current VMS system and potential new systems and discuss current and future uses of technology for monitoring fisheries and enhancing vessel safety in a cost-effective manner.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen, 907-271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 13, 2002.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 02-20901 Filed 8-15-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-301-054]

#### ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Negotiated Rate Filing

August 12, 2002.

Take notice that on August 6, 2002, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR), tendered for filing and approval thirty-two (32) negotiated rate agreements along with related agreements, including a Precedent Agreement (the "Agreements") between ANR and two utility subsidiaries of WE Energies, Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Gas Company. ANR tenders the Agreements pursuant to its authority to enter into negotiated rate agreements. ANR requests that the Commission accept and approve the Agreements by September 6, 2002, to be effective in accordance with the Precedent Agreement.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 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 proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. This filing is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For Assistance, call (202) 502-8222 or for TTY, (202) 208-1659. Comments, protests and interventions may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site under the "e-Filing" link.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 02-20830 Filed 8-15-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL02-115-000]

#### Avista Corporation, Avista Energy, Inc., Enron Power Marketing, Inc., Portland General Electric Corporation; Notice of Initiation of Proceeding and Refund Effective Date

August 13, 2002.

Take notice that on August 13, 2002, the Commission issued an order in the above-indicated docket initiating a proceeding in Docket No. EL02-115-000 under section 206 of the Federal Power Act.

The refund effective date in Docket No. EL02-115-000 will be 60 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 02-20985 Filed 8-15-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. RP00-475-001, RP00-609-002 and RP96-129-016 (Not Consolidated)]

#### CMS Trunkline Gas Company, LLC; Notice of Compliance Filing

August 12, 2002.

Take notice that on August 5, 2002, CMS Trunkline Gas Company, LLC (Trunkline) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1, the pro forma tariff sheets listed on Appendix A attached to the filing.

Trunkline asserts that the purpose of this filing is to comply with the Commission's Order on Order No. 637 Settlement issued July 5, 2002 in Docket No. RP00-475-000, *et al.* 100 FERC ¶ 61,048 (2002).

Trunkline states that copies of this filing are being served on all affected customers, applicable state regulatory agencies and parties to this proceeding.

Any person desiring to protest said filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such 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