The Plutonium Vulnerability Study, identified 15 environmental, safety, and health vulnerabilities at the PFP Facility. These included storage of unstable forms of plutonium, a potential for criticality accidents, and seismic weaknesses. DOE has determined that a feasible alternative for resolution of the safety issues is removal of readily retrievable plutonium-bearing material in hold-up at the PFP Facility and stabilization of these and other plutonium-bearing materials at the PFP Facility through the following four treatment processes: (1) Ion exchange, vertical calcination and thermal stabilization of plutonium-bearing solutions; (2) thermal stabilization of oxides, fluorides, and process residues in a continuous furnace; (3) repackaging of metals and alloys; and (4) pyrolysis of polycubes and combustibles.

Environmental Impact Statement Preparation

The Draft EIS has been prepared in accordance with Section 102(2)(C) of the NEPA, as implemented in regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500– 1508) and by DOE's Implementing Procedures (10 CFR Part 1021). The Draft EIS has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of both the proposed action, and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, on the human and natural environment.

A Notice of Intent (Notice) to prepare the PFP EIS and hold public scoping meetings in Spokane, Richland, and Bellevue, Washington, and Hood River and Portland, Oregon, was published by DOE in the Federal Register on October 27, 1994. A subsequent Notice was published by DOE in the Federal Register on November 23, 1994, announcing additional meetings in Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. The Notice invited oral and written comments and suggestions on the proposed scope of the EIS, including environmental issues and alternatives, and invited public participation in the NEPA process. Overall, scoping comments were received that assisted in identifying major issues for subsequent in-depth analysis in the Draft EIS. As a result of the scoping process, an Implementation Plan for the PFP Stabilization EIS was developed to define the scope and provide further guidance for preparing the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS considers the proposed action, other reasonable alternatives, and the no action alternative.

Comment Procedures

Availability of Draft EIS

Copies of the Draft PFP Stabilization EIS are being distributed to federal, state, tribal and local officials and agencies, as well as organizations and individuals known to be interested in or affected by the proposed project. Additional copies may be obtained by contacting Mr. Burton as provided in the section of this notice entitled **ADDRESSES.** Copies of the Draft PFP Stabilization EIS, including appendices and reference material will be available for public review at the locations listed below.

- U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters, Freedom of Information Reading Room, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20585, (202) 586– 3142
- (2) U.S. DOE Public Reading Room, 100 Sprout Road, Room 130 West, Richland, WA 99352, (509) 376– 8583
- (3) Government Publications, University of Washington Library, Box 352900, Seattle, WA 98185–2900, (206) 543– 1937
- (4) Gonzaga University, Foley Center, East 502 Boone Avenue, Spokane, WA 99258, (509) 328–4220
- (5) Portland State University, Branford Price Millar Library, SW Harrison and Park, Portland, OR 97207, (503) 725–3690

You may also receive a copy of the Draft EIS by calling the PFP Stabilization EIS toll-free line at 1–800– 249–8181.

Written Comment

Interested parties are invited to provide comments to DOE on the content of the Draft EIS as indicated in the section of this notice entitled **ADDRESSES.** Comments submitted (postmarked) after January 16, 1996, will be considered to the extent practicable.

Public Hearing

Procedures

The public is invited to provide oral comments to DOE on the Draft EIS at the scheduled public hearing. Advance registration for the presentation of oral comments at the hearing will be accepted up to the day prior to the scheduled meeting by calling 1–800– 249–8181 (prior to 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time). Requests to speak at a specific time will be honored, if possible. Registrants are only allowed to register themselves to speak and must confirm

the time they are scheduled to speak at the registration desk the day of the hearing. Persons who have not registered in advance may register to speak when they arrive at the hearing to the extent that time is available. To ensure that as many persons as possible have the opportunity to present comments, five minutes will be allotted to each speaker. Persons presenting comments at the hearing are requested to provide DOE with written copies of their comments at the hearing, if possible. Written comments sent by mail to the office listed in the ADDRESSES section above, must be submitted (postmarked) no later than January 16, 1996.

Hearing Schedule and Location

A public hearing will be held at the following location, date and time: Red Lion Inn—Pasco, 2525 N. 20th,

- Pasco, Washington 99301, (509) 547– 0701
- Thursday, January 11, 1996, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Conduct of Hearing

DOE's rules and procedures for the orderly conduct of the hearing will be announced by the presiding officer at the start of the hearing. The hearing will not be of an adjudicatory or evidentiary nature. Speakers will not be crossexamined, although the presiding officer and the DOE hearing panel members will respond to comments and questions from the public. In addition, DOE representatives will be available to discuss the project in informal conversations. A transcript of the hearing will be prepared, and the entire record of the hearing, including the transcript, will be placed on file by DOE for inspection at the public locations given above in the "COMMENT PROCEDURES" section.

Signed in Richland, WA this 21st day of November 1995, for the United States Department of Energy.

John D. Wagoner,

Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office. [FR Doc. 95–29578 Filed 12–4–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP96-79-000]

Texas Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

November 29, 1995.

Take notice that on November 20, 1995, Texas Gas Transmission