

planned for November 17–18, 2004, and access to some project facilities may be limited by weather conditions. For this reason, the Commission will host the site visit earlier in the process. The Commission encourages all interested parties to participate in this site visit to ensure a productive scoping meeting in November 2004.

The site visit is open to the public and resource agencies. Car pooling is encouraged as much as possible but participants may be required to provide their own transportation to most sites. Roads in upper watershed locations are unpaved and may be in poor condition—4 wheel drive is recommended. Portions of the tour may require hiking steep trails in remote locations. Weather may be cold, and possibly wet in October. Please plan accordingly. Tour days may be long, please bring food and water. A tentative schedule is provided below.

Due to the logistics involved in traveling to some locations, there is the need to know the number of attendees in advance. All individuals planning to attend need to call or e-mail Susan O'Brien, FERC Team Leader, at (202) 502-8449 or susan.obrien@ferc.gov, no later than October 21, 2004. During the August 26 relicensing process planning meeting, several parties indicated that attendance on a weekday may not be possible and that a weekend visit to specific sites may be of interest. Parties interested in a weekend visit to specific sites should also contact Susan O'Brien.

Tentative schedule for site visit (times given are in Pacific daylight savings):

Wednesday, October 27, 2004—West Branch Feather River Watershed

- 7:45 a.m. Individuals arrive at PG&E's Camp 1 Office located on Humbug Road adjacent to DeSabra Forebay. This is approximately 2 miles north of Magalia and Magalia is approximately 3 miles north of Paradise. Camp 1 is approximately 45 minutes from Chico or Oroville. Please arrive on time.
- 8 a.m. *Leave* PG&E's Camp 1 Office.
- 10 a.m. Arrive at Snag Lake—10 minute stay.
- 11 a.m. Arrive at Butte House Meadows—10 minute stay.
- 12:30 p.m. Arrive at Philbrook Reservoir—1 hour stay, including lunch break.
- 2:30 p.m. Arrive at Hendricks Head Dam—20 minute stay.
- 3:45 p.m. Arrive at Toadtown Powerhouse—30 minute stay.
- 4:45 p.m. Arrive back at Camp 1.

Thursday, October 28, 2004—Butte Creek Watershed

- 7:45 a.m. Individuals arrive at PG&E's Camp 1 Office. See previous day for directions.
- 8 a.m. *Leave* PG&E's Camp 1 Office.
- 9:30 a.m. Arrive at Butte Head Dam—30 minute stay (this location is remote with very poor, narrow roads, limited parking and will require a short but very steep hike).
- 11:30 a.m. Arrive at DeSabra Forebay/Camp 1—1 hour stay, including lunch break.
- 12:30 p.m. *Leave* Camp 1 for DeSabra Powerhouse and LCDD—Private vehicle are not recommended on this portion of the tour.
- 2:30 p.m. Arrive back at Camp 1 and leave for Centerville Powerhouse.
- 4 p.m. Arrive at Centerville Powerhouse—45 minute stay.
- 4:45 p.m. Tour ends at Centerville Powerhouse.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2030-036]

Portland General Electric and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon; Notice of Technical Conference

September 30, 2004.

Take notice that a technical conference will be held to discuss the Settlement Agreement and proposed draft license articles filed on July 30, 2004, by Portland General Electric and The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon for the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project.

This conference will be held on Tuesday, October 19, 2004, beginning at 11 a.m. (EDT) at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Hearing Room 6, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Participation by video teleconference will be available at the 3 World Trade Center, Room 01A, 121 SW. Salmon Street, Portland, Oregon 97204.

All local, state, and federal agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested parties are invited to participate. There will be no transcript of the conference. Please contact Nick Jayjack at (202) 502-6073 or Nicholas.Jayjack@ferc.gov by October 15, 2004, to RSVP. Please

indicate whether you will participate in-person or by video teleconference. If you have any questions related to participation by video teleconference, please contact Marty May of Portland General Electric at 503-464-7578.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. PL04-17-000 and AD04-11-000]

State of the Natural Gas Industry Conference; Staff Report on Natural Gas Storage; Notice of Public Conference

September 30, 2004.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will hold a conference on October 21, 2004, to engage industry members and the public in a dialogue about policy issues facing the natural gas industry today and the Commission's regulation of the industry for the future. In each of the prior two years, the Commission held wide-ranging discussions concerning its regulatory goals for the natural gas industry (Docket Nos. PL02-9-000 and PL03-6-000). This year's conference on the state of the natural gas industry will focus on underground storage and other factors that differentiate regional natural gas deliverability and market needs. The conference will have panels and an open forum that will give all interested individuals an opportunity to raise issues.

I. Scope of Inquiry

A. Responses to Report

The Commission seeks comments on certain findings in the FERC Staff Report, *Current State of and Issues Concerning Underground Natural Gas Storage*, released concurrently with this notice. These findings are:

- The market's various methods for the valuation of storage are a challenge in matching storage's value with the cost of new storage development.
- Storage may be the best way of managing gas commodity price volatility, so the long-term adequacy of storage investment depends on how much price volatility customers consider "acceptable."
- Storage projects in certain geographic areas often fail the Commission's market-based rates tests.