

requests an effective date of January 1, 2005.

CMSGMP states that a copy of the filing was served upon METC, MISO and the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on January 5, 2005.

17. American Electric Power Service Corporation

[Docket No. ER05-342-000]

Take notice that on December 15, 2004, American Electric Power Service Corporation (AEPSC) filed with the Commission a Notices of Cancellation of a Network Operating Agreement and a Network Service Agreement between East Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ETEC) and Central and South West Services, Inc., designated Agent for Central Power and Light Company, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, Southwestern Electric Power Company, and West Texas Utilities Company. AEPSC seeks an effective date of December 31, 2004 for the cancellations.

AEPSC states it has served copies of this filing on ETEC, the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, the Louisiana Public Service Commission and the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on January 5, 2005.

18. California Independent System Operator Corporation

[Docket No. ER05-346-000]

Take notice that on December 15, 2004, the California Independent System Operator Corporation (ISO) tendered for filing its Grid Management Charge (GMC) rate to recover its administrative and operating costs. The ISO is requesting an effective date of January 1, 2005.

The ISO states that this filing has been served on the Public Utilities Commission of California, the California Energy Commission, the California Electricity Oversight Board, and upon all parties with effective Scheduling Coordinator Service Agreements under the ISO Tariff.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on January 5, 2005.

19. Rainbow Energy Marketing Corporation

[Docket No. ER94-1061-025]

Take notice that on December 15, 2004, Rainbow Energy Marketing Corporation (Rainbow) tendered for filing an amendment to its FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 1 to allow, among other things, Rainbow to: (1) Sell ancillary services at wholesale at

market-based rates, (2) reassign transmission capacity in accordance with the conditions established by the Commission; and (3) unilaterally modify the tariff. Rainbow states that the filing complies with the Commission's November 17, 2003, order in Docket No. EL01-118 which established six Market Behavior Rules to be included in each market-based rate tariff and also complies with Order No. 614.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on January 5, 2005.

20. The Empire District Electric Company

[Docket No. ER99-1757-006]

Take notice that on December 15, 2004, The Empire District Electric Company (Empire District), pursuant to the Commission's deficiency letter order dated November 24, 2004, filed an amendment to the September 27, 2004 filing of Empire District's generation market power study.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on January 5, 2005.

Standard Paragraph

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). 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 proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant and all parties to this proceeding.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 14 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link and is available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an "eSubscription" link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email

FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-3861 Filed 12-28-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project Nos. 2181-014 and 2697-014 Wisconsin]

Northern States Power Company; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

December 21, 2004.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (18 CFR part 380), Commission staff have reviewed the license applications for the Menomonie and Cedar Falls projects (FERC Project Nos. 2181 and 2697) and have prepared an environmental assessment (EA). The projects are located on the Red Cedar River in Dunn County, Wisconsin.

Northern States Power Company (d/b/a Xcel Energy) has requested Commission approval of the applications for new license along with the Red Cedar River Settlement Agreement (SA). This EA analyzes the potential environmental effects of relicensing the projects and the implementation of the SA, and concludes that issuing new licenses for the projects with appropriate environmental measures would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the EA are available for review in Public Reference Room 2-A of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC. The EA also may be viewed on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance with eLibrary, contact FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll-free at (866) 208-3676; for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

Any comments on the EA should be filed within 30 days of the date of this notice and should be addressed to Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Please reference "Menomonie Project No. 2181-014 and Cedar Falls Project No. 2697-014" on all comments. Comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "e-Filing" link. For further information, contact John Ramer at (202) 502-8969.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-3852 Filed 12-28-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2114-003, 064]

Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

December 21, 2004.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for implementation of an Interim Protection Plan (IPP) for steelhead and chinook salmon and an application for approving an Offer of Settlement and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on providing downstream passage for juvenile salmonids for the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project. Following a review of the IPP and MOA the Commission has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the project. On December 16, 2004, the Director of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects issued an Order Amending License and Terminating Proceedings; FEA was attached to the Order. The project is located on the Columbia River in Grant, Yakima, Kittitas, Douglas, Benton, and Chelan Counties.

The FEA contains staff's analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the IPP and MOA. The FEA recommends that the Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County (licensee for the project) implement the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA Fisheries) Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA), as prepared in NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion on the proposed action, as well as the summer spill as proposed in the MOA. The FEA

concludes that the RPA would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The FEA is on file with the Commission and available for public inspection. Copies of the EA are available for review in the Public Reference Room at the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC. The FEA may also be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. For assistance, contact FERC On Line Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY contact (202) 502-8659.

For further information, please contact Andrea Shriver at (202) 502-8171.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-3851 Filed 12-28-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD04-13-000]

Assessing the State of Wind Energy in Wholesale Electricity Markets; Notice Requesting Post-Technical Conference Comments

December 21, 2004. On December 1, 2004, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) held a technical conference in the above referenced docket to assess the state of wind energy in wholesale electricity markets. Specifically, the conference focused on potential policy changes that would better accommodate the participation of wind energy in wholesale electricity markets. The conference concluded with a list of action items, a summary of which is attached. To the extent items are absent from the list, parties may supplement the list in written comments as discussed below. Commission staff plans to proceed on the list of action items, starting with exploring elimination of Order No. 888 imbalance penalties and then progressing to development of new transmission services. For this latter effort, Commission staff, as discussed at the December 1 conference, will initially work with staff of the Bonneville Power Administration.

Interested persons are invited to file post-technical conference comments, including comments on the actions items listed in the attachment, the staff paper and any other topic relevant to this proceeding. These comments must be filed with the Commission no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on January 28, 2005.

A transcript of the technical conference is available from the Commission's Web site, <http://www.ferc.gov>; and the Commission staff paper entitled *Staff Briefing Paper: Assessing the State of Wind Energy in Wholesale Electricity Markets* has been posted to the Commission's Web site and is available at: <http://www.ferc.gov/legal/ferc-regs/land-docs/11-04-wind-report.pdf>.

For more information about this Notice, please contact Jignasa Gadani at 202-502-8608, jignasa.gadani@ferc.gov.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

Attachment

At the conference, several parties requested action on various items by the Commission and/or other entities. The action items discussed at the conference include:

Transmission Rates and Services

- Should FERC reevaluate the imbalance penalties under the Order No. 888 *pro forma* transmission tariff? Based upon its evaluation the Commission could determine whether it is appropriate to modify its policy on imbalances. Potential solutions include:
 - Eliminating imbalance penalties for intermittent resources (while keeping non-punitive charges that reflect only the costs imposed by imbalances).
 - Allowing intermittent resources scheduling flexibility in order to minimize imbalance penalties.
 - Pricing imbalances on avoided cost and/or to aggregate imbalances over a greater time period and allow for netting and trading.
- Should existing regional grid operators evaluate the applicability of tariff provisions on imbalance charges currently in place in the California Independent System Operator Corporation's (CAISO's) service territory to other regions?
 - Can improved wind generation forecasts help reduce imbalance penalties? What state-of-the-art forecast methodologies are available? Industry forecasters are encouraged to propose state-of-the-art parameters to be used as a benchmark.
 - How can FERC and the industry increase utilization of existing transmission facilities? Potential options could include, but are not limited to:
 - A common definition of the needs and wants of the industry in relation to the development of innovative transmission services under *pro forma* transmission tariffs.
 - Partial Firm Transmission Service.
 - Curtailable Firm Transmission Service.