

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-12438 Filed 5-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of FERC Staff Participation at MISO Conference on MISO Open Access Transmission and Energy Markets Tariff

May 13, 2003.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hereby gives notice that members of its staff will attend a Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. (MISO) conference on its Open Access Transmission and Energy Markets Tariff. The staff's attendance is part of the Commission's ongoing outreach efforts. The conference is sponsored by MISO, and will be held on May 19 and 20, 2003, at 10 a.m. at MISO's headquarters, 701 City Center Drive, Carmel, IN 46032. This meeting is open to the public. The meeting may discuss matters at issue in Docket No. RM01-12-000, *Remedying Undue Discrimination Through Open Access Transmission Service and Standard Electricity Market Design*; in Docket No. EL02-65-000, *et al.*, Alliance Companies, *et al.*; and in Docket No. RT01-87-000, *et al.*, Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc.

For more information, contact Patrick Clarey, Office of Markets, Tariffs and Rates, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at (317) 249-5937 or patrick.clarey@ferc.gov or Christopher Miller, Office of Markets, Tariffs and Rates, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at (317) 249-5936 or christopher.miller@ferc.gov.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-12440 Filed 5-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PA03-12-000]

Transmission Congestion on the Delmarva Peninsula; Facilitation of a Fact-Finding Proceeding

Issued May 12, 2003.

Before Commissioners: Pat Wood, III, Chairman; William L. Massey, and Nora Mead Brownell.

1. The Commission is establishing a fact-finding proceeding facilitated by an administrative law judge (ALJ), concerning transmission congestion on the portion of the power grid on the Delmarva Peninsula operated by PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (PJM). This exercise will benefit customers because it will help us evaluate the extent and costs of transmission congestion on the Delmarva Peninsula, help identify potential solutions to the problem, and also assist us in identifying lessons we can learn from this experience that may apply to other situations.

2. The Commission has encouraged the development of methods to effectively and efficiently manage congestion on transmission systems. PJM uses a system of locational marginal pricing (LMP) and financial transmission rights (FTRs) to manage congestion on the PJM system. Some areas of PJM, in particular the Delmarva Peninsula, have experienced significant congestion over the last several years.¹ Transmission congestion can increase the cost of delivered energy to wholesale customers. Customers who hold FTRs for the congested paths should be protected from paying these congestion costs. However, customers who do not hold FTRs will be exposed to these congestion costs. In a number of recent proceedings parties, including Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), have argued that transmission congestion has been a persistent problem on the Delmarva Peninsula that needs Commission action to be resolved.² Since our goal is to assure that the institutional and analytical frameworks for transmission system management are producing cost-

¹ We note that PJM has performed studies to analyze the causes of this congestion. *See, e.g.*, November 7, 2002, "Delmarva Congestion Study" by PJM's Manager—Transmission and Interconnection Planning; December 17, 2002 "Delmarva Congestion Study," by PowerGEM (retained by PJM). These documents are available on the PJM Web site, www.pjm.com.

² These issues are also presently raised in PJM's compliance filing in Docket No. RT01-2 that sets forth PJM's proposal to plan for economic expansions to relieve persistent congestion.

effective and efficient solutions that meet the current and future needs of PJM's stakeholders, this fact-finding exercise will be valuable.

3. Accordingly, we direct the ALJ to conduct a fact-finding inquiry concerning congestion on the Delmarva Peninsula. In particular the ALJ should identify: (1) The historical and expected extent of the congestion and its cost, rate and reliability effects for wholesale and retail customers on the Delmarva Peninsula and elsewhere in PJM; (2) the causes of the congestion; (3) how FTRs have been and can be used to protect customers on the Delmarva Peninsula from congestion costs; (4) whether transmission upgrades currently planned for the Delmarva Peninsula will effectively moderate this congestion; (5) the costs, benefits and timing of transmission expansion to relieve congestion and who will benefit from such transmission expansion; (6) whether demand-side, distributed generation or other generation solutions can complement new transmission to solve these problems over the near or long term; and (7) other opportunities for solutions to better manage congestion costs, and the obstacles and timeliness of possible solutions. The above list is not exclusive; the ALJ and participants to the proceeding may raise other issues that are directly related to the problem of congestion on the Delmarva Peninsula and possible solutions, in addition to those identified above.

4. Our goal is for the ALJ to convene a group of interested parties from the affected area, drawing not only from the Delmarva Peninsula but also from across the PJM area as appropriate. We invite the Public Service Commissions of Delaware and Maryland and the Virginia State Corporation Commission to send expert staff members to participate, and even to send an ALJ to work with the Commission's ALJ if they wish. Any State Commission that is interested in having its ALJ participate in the case study should contact the Commission ALJ to make the appropriate arrangements. We expect the full participation of all wholesale transmission customers on the Delmarva Peninsula, as well as the PJM RTO. Interested entities should file notice of their intent to participate within ten days from the date of this order.

5. We direct the Chief Administrative Law Judge or his designee to appoint a presiding judge to convene a conference no later than fifteen days from the date of this order. We direct the presiding judge to provide a report on the foregoing within sixty days from the