

such change has been approved by the Department of Energy (DOE).

On June 21, 1979, DOE issued Presidential Permit PP-66 to Citizens Utilities Company (now Citizens Communications Company; "Citizens") for one 120,000-volt (120-kV) electric transmission line that crosses the United States border with Canada near Derby Line, Vermont, and interconnects with similar transmission facilities in Canada owned by Hydro Quebec. On August 21, 2003, Citizens and VELCO (collectively, the "Applicants") jointly filed an application with DOE to transfer Presidential Permit PP-66 from Citizens to VELCO. VELCO is a Vermont corporation comprised of several electric utilities operating in Vermont (as further described in the application). VELCO currently owns and operates most of the bulk transmission facilities in Vermont, other than those currently owned by Citizens.

VELCO has proposed to purchase from Citizens transmission facilities in northern Vermont, including the international transmission facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-66. Notice of the VELCO and Citizens' application to transfer PP-66 appeared in the **Federal Register** on September 2, 2003, (68 FR 52187) and that matter is still pending.

On September 3, 2003, VELCO applied to amend Presidential Permit PP-66 to authorize a change in the operation of the facilities ("Derby Interconnection Facilities") as part of VELCO's Northern Loop Project. VELCO claims that the "Northern Loop Project" would improve the reliability of VELCO's bulk transmission system in northern Vermont and that the requested change will reduce peak imports over the Derby Interconnection Facilities from TransEnergie in the Canadian Province of Quebec. In that same application, VELCO also requested that Presidential Permit PP-82 be amended to change the names of the companies that comprise the Joint Owners of the Highgate Project (the permit holder) and to increase the allowable level of imports over the PP-82 facilities to 250 MW.

In its application, VELCO states that the effect of the Northern Loop Project would be to shift load supplied in Northwestern Vermont from the PP-66 facilities to the PP-82 facilities. This would result in a decrease in electricity imports from Canada over the PP-66 facilities and an increase in imports over the PP-82 facilities.

In its application, VELCO states that implementation of the Northern Loop Project may require the following physical modifications:

- Replacement of the existing 48-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between VELCO's Irasburg Substation and the so-called "Mosher's Tap" with a new, double-circuit 115 kV/48 kV line;
- Connection of this line's 115-kV circuit to one circuit of the existing Mosher's Tap-Highgate Substation line, now operated at 120 kV but to be operated thereafter at 115 kV;
- Connection of this 115-kV circuit at Highgate Substation to VELCO's existing 115-kV line from Georgia to Highgate via a new bus constructed at the Highgate Substation;
- Consolidation of VELCO's and Citizens' now-separate substations in Highgate, a project that may also connect the Highgate Interconnection Facilities (north of the converter terminal) to the 120-kV bus in Highgate Substation (the "Highgate Tap"); and,
- Related improvements to VELCO's St. Johnsbury, Irasburg and St. Albans Substations.

#### Procedural Matters

Any person desiring to become a party to this proceeding or to be heard by filing comments or protests to this application should file a petition to intervene, comment or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each petition and protest should be filed with DOE on or before the date listed above.

Comments on VELCO's application to amend the Presidential Permit PP-66 for the Derby Interconnection Facilities should be clearly marked with Docket PP-66-2. Comments on VELCO's application to amend Presidential Permit PP-82 should be clearly marked with Docket PP-82-3. Additional copies are to be filed directly with L. Russell Mitten, Esq., V.P., General Counsel, Citizens Communications Company, 3 High Ridge Park, Stamford, CT 06905; Mr. Gary Parker, V.P., Director of Planning, Engineering, Construction and Transmission, Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc., 366 Pinnacle Ridge Road, Rutland, VT 05701; AND Kenneth G. Hurwitz, Esq., Haynes and Boone, LLP, 550 11th Street, NW., Suite 650, Washington, DC 20004-1314; and John H. Marshall, Esq., Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC, 90 Prospect Street, P.O. Box 99, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819-0099.

Before a Presidential permit may be issued or amended, DOE must determine that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. In addition, DOE must consider

the environmental impacts of the proposed action (*i.e.*, granting the Presidential permit with any conditions and limitations, or denying it) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. DOE also must obtain the concurrence of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense before taking final action on a Presidential permit application.

Copies of these applications will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above or by accessing the Electricity Regulation home page at <http://www.fe.doe.gov/programs/electricityregulation/>. Select "Pending Proceedings" from the options menu.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 3, 2003.

**Anthony J. Como,**

*Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal & Power Import/Export, Office of Coal & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-301-085]

#### ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Service Agreement Filing

October 2, 2003.

Take notice that on September 24, 2003 subject to Section 4 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and Part 154 of the Regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), ANR Pipeline Company (ANR), 9 E Greenway Plaza, Houston, Texas 77046, tendered for filing and approval, ten service agreements (Agreements) between ANR and Kaztex Energy Management Inc., pursuant to ANR's Rate Schedule FTS-1. ANR requests the Commission find that the Agreements contain acceptable material deviations from ANR's Form of Service Agreement and accept the attached tariff sheet which references the Agreements as non-conforming agreements.

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 appropriate action to be taken, but will

not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. This filing is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <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, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. 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 eFiling link.

*Protest Date:* October 6, 2003.

**Magalie R. Salas,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project 2210-090]

#### Appalachian Power Company; Notice of Extension of Comment Period

October 2, 2003.

This notice applies to the Smith Mountain Pumped Storage Project, FERC No. 2210. The project is licensed to Appalachian Power Company, a part of American Electric Power and is located on the Roanoke River, in Bedford, Pittsylvania, Franklin, and Roanoke Counties, Virginia.

On September 10, 2003, a Notice of Application for Amendment of License and Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Protests was issued for the amendment of license to approve a shoreline management plan filed on September 3, 2003. The comment period ends October 10, 2003. This notice extends the comment period for 90 days until January 10, 2004.

The Commission staff will prepare a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) of the application. Once this DEA is completed, it will be noticed to provide an opportunity for Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the public, to provide comments. All comments will be used in preparing the Final Environmental Assessment to be considered by the Commission when acting on this application.

For further information, contact Heather Campbell at (202) 502-6182.

**Magalie R. Salas,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E3-00011 Filed 10-8-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EF03-2011-000]

#### United States Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration; Order Approving Rates on an Interim Basis and Providing Opportunity for Additional Comments

Issued: October 1, 2003.

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

1. In this order we approve on an interim basis, pending our full review for final approval, the Bonneville Power Administration's (Bonneville) proposed modification to the Safety-Net and Financial-Based Cost Recovery Adjustment Clauses (CRACs), and to the Dividend Distribution Clause, under the 2002 Wholesale Power Rate Schedule General Rate Schedule Provisions (GRSPs). We also provide an additional period of time for the parties to file comments. The proposed rates will allow Bonneville to recover its costs and repay the U.S. Treasury for the Federal investment.

#### Background

2. On July 29, 2003, Bonneville filed a request for interim and final approval to modify its CRACs and the Dividend Distribution Clause under the 2002 Wholesale Power Rate Schedule General Rate Schedule Provisions (GRSPs), in accordance with the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (Northwest Power Act)<sup>1</sup> and subpart B of part 300 of the Commission's regulations.<sup>2</sup> The Commission previously granted final approval of the 2002 GRSPs for a five-year period ending September 30, 2006.<sup>3</sup> Bonneville contends that the CRACs allowed BPA to keep rates low while still addressing any financial shortfalls, rather than instituting higher base rates for the entire rate period.

<sup>1</sup> Sections 7(a) and 7(i)(6) of the Northwest Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 839e(a)(2) and 839e(i)(6) (2000).

<sup>2</sup> 18 CFR part 300 (2003).

<sup>3</sup> United States Department of Energy—Bonneville Power Administration, 104 FERC ¶ 61,093 (2003).

3. In accordance with the statutory procedure,<sup>4</sup> Bonneville seeks interim approval of this adjustment effective October 1, 2003, and final approval effective October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2006.

#### Notice of Filing and Interventions

4. Notice of Bonneville's filing was published in the **Federal Register**, 68 FR 47561 (2003), with comments, protests, or motions to intervene due on or before September 3, 2003.

5. Avista Corporation, Generating Public Utilities, Eugene Water & Electric Board, Golden Northwest Aluminum, Inc., PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., and the City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light Division, d/b/a Tacoma Power filed timely motions to intervene raising no issues. Northwest Requirements Utilities (NRU) filed a motion to intervene out of time.

6. In addition, Alcoa, Inc., Generating Public Utilities, Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities, Golden Northwest Aluminum, Inc., Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative, Public Power Council, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, and the Yakama Nation (collectively, Protesters) filed timely motions to intervene and protests.

#### Discussion

##### Procedural Matters

7. Under Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.214 (2003), the notices of intervention and timely, unopposed motions to intervene make the entities that filed them parties to this proceeding. We will grant NRU's untimely, unopposed motion to intervene because: NRU's interests cannot be adequately represented by other parties; NRU intervened at an early stage of the proceeding; and no prejudice or additional burden upon existing parties will result from permitting the intervention.

##### Standard of Review

8. Under the Northwest Power Act, the Commission's review of Bonneville's regional power and transmission rates is limited to determining whether Bonneville's proposed rates meet the three specific requirements of section 7(a)(2):

They must be sufficient to assure repayment of the Federal investment in the Federal Columbia River Power System over

<sup>4</sup> Sections 7(a) and 7(i)(6) of the Northwest Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 839e(a)(2) and 839e(i)(6) (2000).