

Metered Entities the ISO and Alta Power Generation, L.L.C., for acceptance by the Commission.

The ISO states that this filing has been served on all parties listed on the official service list in Docket Nos. EC96-19-003 and ER96-1663-003, including the California Public Service Commission.

Comment date: April 9, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

16. Allegheny Power Service Corp., on Behalf of Monongahela Power The Potomac Edison Company, and West Penn Power Company (Allegheny Power)

[Docket No. ER98-2307-000]

Take notice that on March 24, 1998, Allegheny Power Service Corporation on behalf of Monongahela Power Company, The Potomac Edison Company and West Penn Power Company (Allegheny Power), filed Supplement No. 28 to add Amoco Energy Trading Corporation and Northern Indiana Public Service Company to Allegheny Power Open Access Transmission Service Tariff which has been submitted for filing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Docket No. OA96-18-000. The proposed effective date under the Service Agreements is March 23, 1998.

Copies of the filing have been provided to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Maryland Public Service Commission, the Virginia State Corporation Commission, the West Virginia Public Service Commission.

Comment date: April 13, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. 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 motion to intervene. Copies of these filings are on file with the

Commission and are available for public inspection.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-8723 Filed 4-2-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Griffith Power Plant and Transmission Line Project, Mohave County, AZ

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332, Western Area Power Administration (Western) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) regarding the proposal by Griffith Energy (GE), LLC, to construct an electric generating facility on private property and to interconnect this facility with Western's system in the vicinity of Kingman, Arizona. To facilitate this interconnection, Western proposes to construct three 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines to connect the generating facility to two existing Western transmission lines which are part of the regional grid. Two 6-mile parallel lines will connect the generating facility to the Davis-Prescott 230-kV line about 6 miles north of the proposed plant site and about 5 miles southwest of Kingman. An additional 28-mile line will connect the facility to the Mead-Liberty 345-kV transmission line about 15 miles east of Kingman. The three new lines will parallel existing lines or occupy approved corridors for most of their lengths. Because implementing this proposal would incorporate new generation into Western's system, Western has determined that an EIS is required in accordance with U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) NEPA Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendices D5 and D6. In this notice Western announces intentions to prepare an EIS and hold a public scoping meeting for the proposed project. Western's scoping will include notifying the general public and Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies of the proposed action for identification by the public and agencies of issues and alternatives to be considered in the EIS.

DATES: The scoping meeting will be held on April 20, 1998, beginning at 7 p.m., at the County Board of Supervisors Office, 809 East Beale Street, Kingman, Arizona 86401. Written comments on the scope of the EIS for the proposed Project should be received no later than May 21, 1998. Comments on the project will be accepted throughout the NEPA process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you are interested in receiving future information or wish to submit written comments, please call or write John Holt, Environmental Manager, Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Region, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, Arizona 85005-6457, (602) 352-2592, FAX: (602) 352-2630, E-mail: holt@wapa.gov. For general information on DOE's NEPA review procedures or status of a NEPA review, contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: GE proposes to construct the Griffith Energy Project (Project) on private land south of the City of Kingman in Mohave County, Arizona. The Project would be a "merchant plant," meaning it would not be owned by a utility or by a utility affiliate selling power to its utility, nor is it supported by a long-term power purchase agreement with a utility. The Project would instead sell power on a short and mid-term basis to customers and the on-the-spot market. Power purchases by customers would be voluntary, and all economic costs would be borne by GE.

The Project consists of a 520-megawatt natural-gas-fired, combined-cycle generating facility and on-site supporting infrastructure, including an administration building, a storage warehouse, water treatment and storage facilities, cooling towers, gas conditioning equipment, and new access roads. The generating facility and infrastructure would occupy less than 40 acres of a 160-acre site in the Mohave County I-40 Industrial Corridor south of Kingman. Additional off-site facilities would include water pipelines and buried natural gas pipelines which would bring high-pressure gas to the generating facility to fuel the gas-fired turbines from nearby natural gas transmission pipelines. The Project's water requirements would be about 2,500 to 3,000 gallons per minute during peak operating periods.

Western, with funding from GE, proposes to construct three 230-kV

transmission lines to interconnect with two existing Western transmission lines. Two 6-mile parallel lines will connect the plant with the Davis-Prescott 230-kV line about 6 miles north of the proposed plant site and about 5 miles southwest of Kingman, and a 28-mile line would connect the plant with the Mead-Liberty 345-kV transmission line about 15 miles east of Kingman. These interconnections would integrate the power generated by the Project into the Western electrical grid. Western proposes to build these lines parallel to existing transmission lines or approved corridors. Since this would connect power from new generation to Western's system, DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures require Western to prepare an EIS on the potential environmental impacts of this proposal. Western, therefore, will be the lead Federal Agency, as defined at 40 CFR 1501.5.

Western will carefully examine public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of the proposed power project, including all related facilities, such as the power plant and electric transmission and natural gas lines.

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Council of Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021). Western will invite local and State agencies with jurisdiction over the Project to be cooperating agencies on the EIS. Full public participation and disclosure are planned for the entire EIS process. It is anticipated that the EIS process will take 8 months and will include a public information and scoping meeting; consultation and involvement with appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal government agencies; public review and hearings on the published draft EIS; a published final EIS; a review period; and publication of a record of decision (ROD). A public information and scoping meeting will be held on April 20, 1998. Publication of the ROD is anticipated in the fall of 1998.

Dated: March 23, 1998.

Michael S. HacsKaylo,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-8760 Filed 4-2-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie Project—Point-to-Point Transmission Services Rates for the 230/345-kV Transmission System

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rate adjustments.

SUMMARY: The Western Area Power Administration's (Western) Desert Southwest Region (DSW) is initiating a rate adjustment process for point-to-point transmission services on the 230/345-kV system of the Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie Project (AC Intertie). This action is necessary to recover annual costs (including interest expense) and capital requirements. The existing rate schedule was placed into effect on February 1, 1996, under Rate Order WAPA-71 which was approved on a final basis by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on July 24, 1996.

The proposed rate and its impact are explained in greater detail in a rate brochure which will be made available to all interested parties. Network transmission services and ancillary services which comply with FERC Order Nos. 888 and 888a may be obtained through Western's Open Access Tariff published on January 6, 1998 (63 FR 521).

The proposed rate is scheduled to go into effect on October 1, 1998. This **Federal Register** notice initiates the formal process for the proposed rate.

DATES: Submit comments on or before July 2, 1998. The forum dates are:

1. Public information forum, May 4, 1998, 10 a.m. MST, Phoenix, Arizona.
2. Public comment forum, June 1, 1998, 10 a.m. MST, Phoenix, Arizona.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Mr. J. Tyler Carlson, Regional Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457. The public forums will be held at the Desert Southwest Regional Office, 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Maher A. Nasir, Rates Team Lead, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, telephone (602) 352-2768.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed AC Intertie Transmission Rate

The proposed firm transmission service rate for the AC Intertie 230/345-kV transmission system is \$12.00 per kilowattyear (kWyr). The existing rate is \$6.58 per kWyr. The proposed rate represents an 82-percent increase. The increase in the rate is necessary to demonstrate repayment for the 230/345-kV transmission system and the 500-kV transmission system. Looking at the AC Intertie as a whole, two primary issues have prompted the proposed rate. First, costs from the planning phase of the canceled Northwest portion of the project must be repaid. In 1969, the Department of the Interior discontinued its funding prior to completion. When the Pacific Northwest participants subsequently withdrew support, a decision was made to abandon the project. The proposed transmission rate accounts for the recovery of the abandoned project costs.

The second issue is revenue from firm transmission service on the 500-kV transmission system is less than projected. Western has estimated that it will take approximately 10 years for the 500-kV transmission system to be subscribed to a level sufficient to meet revenue repayment requirements. Western's AC Intertie Power Repayment Study (PRS) reflects a revenue contribution for the 500-kV transmission system equivalent to the sale of 62.5 megawatts (MW) during the first year, increased by 100 MW each year during the 10-year period. The study concludes that the proposed rate for firm transmission service on the 230/345-kV AC Intertie transmission system is necessary to meet repayment requirements of the AC Intertie Project over this 10-year period.

Western proposes, through this rate adjustment process, to supersede only the rate for firm point-to-point transmission service on the 230/345-kV system placed in effect under Rate Order WAPA-71. The rate for firm point-to-point transmission service on the 230/345-kV system includes the cost for the scheduling, system control and dispatch service.

Authorities

Since the proposed rates constitute a major rate adjustment as defined in 10 CFR 903.2, both a public information forum and a public comment forum will be held. After review of public comments, Western will recommend the proposed rates or revised proposed rates for approval on an interim basis by the Deputy Secretary of DOE.