

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]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

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]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

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.