

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission****Notice of Intent To Prepare an
Environmental Impact Statement and
Notice of Scoping Meetings and
Soliciting Scoping Comments**

October 23, 2003.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric applications have been filed with Commission and are available for public inspection:

- a. *Type of Application*: New Major License.
- b. *Project No.*: 1971-079.
- c. *Date Filed*: July 21, 2003.
- d. *Applicant*: Idaho Power Company.
- e. *Name of Project*: Hells Canyon Hydropower Project.
- f. *Location*: On the Snake River in Washington and Adams Counties, Idaho; and Wallowa and Baker Counties, Oregon. About 5,270 acres of Federal lands administered by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (Payette and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests and Hells Canyon National Recreational Area) are included within the project boundary.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to*: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).
- h. *Applicant Contact*: Mr. Robert W. Stahman, Vice President, Secretary, and General Counsel, Idaho Power Company, P.O. Box 70, Boise, Idaho 83707.
- i. *FERC Contact*: Alan Mitchnick, (202) 502-6074; alan.mitchnick@ferc.gov.
- j. *Deadline for filing scoping comments*: December 22, 2003.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all interveners filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervener files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the "e-Filing" link.

k. This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. The existing Hells Canyon Project consists of three developments: Brownlee Development consists of a 395-foot-high earth and rockfill dam, a 14,621-acre impoundment, and a powerhouse with five generating units producing 585.4 megawatts (MW); Oxbow Development consists of a 209-foot-high earth and rockfill dam, a 1,150-acre impoundment, and a powerhouse with four generating units producing 460 MW; and Hells Canyon Development consists of a 320-foot-high concrete gravity dam, a 2,412-acre impoundment, and a powerhouse with three generating units producing 391.5 MW. Idaho Power also operates four fish hatcheries and four adult fish traps. Idaho Power proposes to exclude 3,800 acres of Federal lands surrounding the project reservoirs and 11 of 12 existing transmission lines from the project.

m. A copy of the application 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, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. *Scoping Process*: The Commission intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS will consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action.

Scoping Meetings

FERC staff will conduct one agency scoping meeting and three public meetings. The agency scoping meeting will focus on resource agency and non-governmental organization (NGO) concerns, while the public scoping meetings are primarily for public input. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend one or all of the meetings, and to assist the staff in identifying the scope of the environmental issues that

should be analyzed in the EIS. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Agency Scoping Meeting

When: Tuesday, November 18, 2003, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Where: Boise Centre on the Grove, 850 Front Street, Boise, Idaho.

Public Scoping Meetings*Idaho Meetings*

When: Tuesday, November 18, 2003, from 7 p.m. until about 9 p.m.

Where: Boise Centre on the Grove, 850 Front Street, Boise, Idaho.

When: Thursday, November 20, 2003, from 7 p.m. until about 9 p.m.

Where: Washington County Senior Center, 115 E. Main Street, Weiser, Idaho.

Oregon Meeting

When: Wednesday, November 19, 2003, from 7 p.m. until about 9 p.m.

Where: Lions Club Community Hall, Halfway, Oregon.

Copies of the Scoping Document (SD1) outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the EIS were distributed to the parties on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of the SD1 will be available at the scoping meeting or may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link (see item m above).

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EIS, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views; (4) determine the resource issues to be addressed in the EIS; and (5) identify those issues that require a detailed analysis, as well as those issues that do not require a detailed analysis.

Procedures

The meetings are recorded by a stenographer and become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meeting and to assist the staff in

defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the EIS.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD03-7-002]

Natural Gas Price Formation; Supplemental Notice of Staff Workshop on Market Activity and Price Indicators

October 23, 2003.

As announced in the Notice issued October 15, 2003, the Commission's staff will hold a workshop from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 2003, at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. This supplemental notice discusses the nature of the issues to be discussed at the workshop and provides information on how to participate by teleconference.

Issues for Discussion at Workshop

In its *Policy Statement on Natural Gas and Electric Price Indices*, Docket No. PL03-3-000, the Commission stated that price indices used in natural gas pipeline tariffs must "reflect adequate liquidity." The purpose of the workshop is to discuss how the Commission should weigh market activity and the reliability of natural gas and electric price indicators for use in Commission tariffs. The following highlights some of the issues to be discussed at the workshop.

Many factors need to be considered in determining whether a market is liquid. A market is generally more liquid the less time it takes to complete a transaction and the lower the cost of making the transaction. In addition, a market is considered more liquid the smaller the price effect of any particular transaction. The empirical determination of liquidity is difficult, given the information and measures available.

Measures commonly used to assess the liquidity of a market include: the bid-ask spread, the price effect of a change in volatility in the market, the price effect of large-volume trades, the number of trades, the time between trades, the time it takes to sell an asset, and others. However, some of the information necessary for using many of these measures is not always readily

available, not public, or not recorded. In sum, it can prove quite difficult to develop practicable measures of the degree to which a particular market is liquid. In place of more direct measures of liquidity, natural gas and electric markets have begun to use measures of market size and activity.

Following is a list of questions that give a sense of what the workshop discussion should address:

1. How do market participants define and measure liquidity?
2. What data are and are not available to measure liquidity?
3. What is the relationship between the level of activity in a market and its liquidity?
4. How should the Commission decide if a particular market (or index point) sustains sufficient activity?
5. How can and should minimum levels of market activity required to support a reliable index be measured?
6. What level of liquidity/reliability is necessary for use in jurisdictional tariffs?
7. How should the liquidity of a pricing point that is very active on average but has very little activity on occasion be evaluated?
8. Is there a difference between the liquidity of daily and monthly indices?
9. Can the liquidity of a pricing point be demonstrated by aggregating transactions that take place on multiple transaction facilities?
10. Can liquid points be used to price illiquid ones?

Access by Teleconference

The workshop is open to the public, and we would like to hear from as many as possible on these important price formation issues. For those unable to attend in person, teleconferencing will be available during the workshop.

Toll-free dial-in number: 1-888-809-8967.

Leader's name: Jolanka Fisher.

Pass code: Fisher.

For additional information please contact Jolanka Fisher, 202-502-8863 or by e-mail at Jolanka.Fisher@ferc.gov.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP03-47-002]

Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP; Notice of Compliance Filing

October 23, 2003.

Take notice that October 20, 2003, Gulf South Pipeline Company (Gulf South) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Sixth Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheets with an effective date of May 1, 2003:

Second Revised Sheet No. 2003.

First Revised Sheet No. 2004.

Sheet No. 2005.

Gulf South states that the revised tariff sheets are being filed in compliance with the Commission's October 3, 2003 Order regarding Gulf South's proposal to establish a minimum threshold for the connection of new receipt and delivery points and to require certain quality control equipment to be installed at receipt points.

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 § 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed in accordance with § 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 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 e-Filing link.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E3-00130 Filed 10-29-03; 8:45 am]

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