

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**[OE Docket No. EA-331]****Application to Export Electric Energy; The Royal Bank of Scotland plc****AGENCY:** Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, DOE.**ACTION:** Notice of application.

SUMMARY: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (RBS) has applied for authority to transmit electric energy from the United States to Mexico pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

DATES: Comments, protests, or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before December 17, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Comments, protests, or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, *Mail Code:* OE-20, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0350 (FAX 202-586-5860).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Russell (Program Office) 202-586-9624 or Michael Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-2793.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated by the Department of Energy (DOE) pursuant to sections 301(b) and 402(f) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7151(b), 7172(f)) and require authorization under section 202(e) of the FPA (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)).

On October 2, 2007, the Department of Energy (DOE) received an application from RBS for authority to transmit electric energy from the United States to Mexico as a power marketer. RBS has requested an electricity export authorization with a 5-year term. RBS does not own or control any generation, transmission, or distribution assets, nor does it have a franchised service area. The electric energy which RBS proposes to export to Mexico would be surplus energy purchased from electric utilities, Federal power marketing agencies, and other entities within the U.S.

RBS will arrange for the delivery of exports to Mexico over the international transmission facilities owned by San Diego Gas & Electric Company, El Paso Electric Company, Central Power & Light Company, Sharyland Utilities, and Comision Federal de Electricidad, the national electric utility of Mexico.

The construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of each of the international transmission facilities to be utilized by RBS has previously been authorized by a Presidential permit

issued pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended.

DOE notes that RBS shall have no authority to export electricity to Mexico until the conclusion of this proceeding and the issuance of an order granting authority to export.

Procedural Matters: Any person desiring to become a party to these proceedings 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 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 dates listed above.

Comments on the RBS application to export electric energy to Mexico should be clearly marked with Docket No. EA-331. Additional copies are to be filed directly with Paul Stevelman, Esq., Managing Director and Deputy General Counsel, RBS Greenwich Capital, 600 Steamboat Road, Greenwich, CT 06830 AND Brian Chisling, Esq., Senior Counsel, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, 425 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017-3954.

A final decision will be made on this application after the environmental impacts have been evaluated pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and a determination is made by DOE that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above, by accessing the program Web site at http://www.oe.energy.gov/permitting/electricity_imports_exports.htm, or by e-mailing Odessa Hopkins at Odessa.hopkins@hq.doe.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 9, 2007.

Anthony J. Como,

Director, Permitting and Siting, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management****Notice of Availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Energy Corridors in Eleven Western States and Notice of Public Hearings**

AGENCIES: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), Department of Energy (DOE) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of the Interior (DOI).

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Energy Corridors in Eleven Western States and Notice of Public Hearings.

SUMMARY: DOE and BLM of the DOI as co-lead agencies, and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense (DOD), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of the DOI as cooperating Federal Agencies (the Agencies) announce the availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Energy Corridors in the 11 Western States (Draft PEIS) (DOE/EIS-0386) and the dates and locations for the public hearings to receive comments on the Draft PEIS.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the California Energy Commission (CEC), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the State of Wyoming, and the Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties and conservation districts in Wyoming are also cooperating agencies. The Department of Commerce (DOC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) are consulting agencies.

The Agencies prepared the Draft PEIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, the DOE NEPA regulations, 10 CFR part 1021, and 10 CFR part 1022, Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements, the BLM planning regulations, 43 CFR part 1600, and applicable FS planning regulations.

Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005), Public Law 109-58, directs the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with FERC, States, tribal