

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission

[Docket No. RP00-337-000, Docket No. RP01-190-000 (not consolidated)]

**Kern River Gas Transmission
Company; Notice Rescheduling
Technical Conference**

March 15, 2001.

On January 5, 2001, Kern River Gas Transmission Company (Kern River) filed pro forma tariff sheets proposing the pipeline's segmentation policy in compliance with Order No. 637 and as discussed during a technical conference held on October 12, 2000. Kern River's segmentation filing has been protested.

On December 28, 2000, Kern River submitted pro forma tariff sheets to establish a mechanism in its tariff for converting the maximum daily quantities (MDQs) stated in its transportation service agreements to demand maximum daily quantities (DMDQs), transportation maximum daily quantities (TMDQs), and Receipt and Delivery Point Entitlements. This filing was also protested.

Take notice that the technical conference will take place on Tuesday, April 17, 2001, at 9:30 am, in a room to be designated at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426.

In the interest of convenience for the parties involved, a second technical conference to address issues raised in Docket No. RP01-190-000 will begin on Tuesday, April 17, 2001, at 1:30 pm, directly following the segmentation conference, and will continue through Wednesday, April 18, 2001, if necessary. Parties protesting aspects of either or both of Kern River's filings should be prepared to discuss alternatives.

All interested persons and Staff are permitted to attend.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission

[Docket No. CP01-36-000; Docket No. CP01-52-000]

**Zia Natural Gas Company v. Raton Gas
Transmission Company, Raton Gas
Transmission Company; Notice of
Technical Conference**

March 15, 2001.

A technical conference will be held to discuss issues raised in the above-captioned proceedings on Wednesday, April 11, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 3M3, at the office of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All interested persons and Staff are permitted to attend. However, attendance does not confer party status.

For additional information, contact Timothy Gordon at (202) 208-2265.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission

[Docket No. EL01-47-000]

**Removing Obstacles To Increased
Electric Generation and Natural Gas
Supply in The Western United States;
Order Removing Obstacles to
Increased Electric Generation and
Natural Gas Supply in the Western
United States and Requesting
Comments on Further Actions to
Increase Energy Supply and Decrease
Energy Consumption; Before
Commissioners: Curt Hébert, Jr.,
Chairman; William L. Massey, and
Linda Breathitt.**

Issued March 14, 2001.

Introduction

In this order, the Commission announces certain actions it is taking within its regulatory authorities under the Federal Power Act, the Natural Gas Act, the Natural Gas Policy Act, the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, and the Interstate Commerce Act to help increase electric generation supply and delivery in the Western United States,¹

in order to protect consumers from supply disruptions. In light of the severe electric energy shortages facing California and other areas of the West in recent months, which are likely to prevail into the foreseeable future, the Commission has examined all of its rate and facility certification authorities in the areas of electric energy, natural gas, hydroelectric and oil to determine how it can help increase electric energy supply.

We have examined both electric supply-side and demand-side actions that need to be taken, as well as how to best assure the input of natural gas needed for electric power production. While our authorities are somewhat limited, we are taking steps to immediately help increase supply from existing power sources and to provide regulatory incentives to build new electric and natural gas infrastructure.² California's dependence on electric generation and natural gas resources located in other states and the impact that California's energy shortage is having throughout the Western Interconnection underscores the regional, interstate nature of the energy marketplace.

The Commission recognizes that the actions announced here, by themselves, will not solve the electricity crisis facing California and other areas of the West and will not prevent electricity blackouts in the summer of 2001. However, we wish to elicit whatever additional electric supply there is from existing resources and, equally important, to identify and work constructively on medium and longer term solutions, including new infrastructure that can help avert future recurrences of the current electric supply shortage in the West. Of course, our efforts are only a small part of the electric supply picture, since State regulators, not this Commission, have siting authority for electric generation and transmission facilities, as well as for natural gas local distribution facilities. Moreover, State regulators have the most significant authorities to encourage demand reduction measures. Accordingly, as discussed below, the Commission intends to meet with State regulators this spring.

In summary, this order provides for or describes the following actions effective on the date of issuance of this order. Except as specifically noted in the text,

¹ For purposes of this order, we are concerned with what actions may affect electricity supply and demand in the United States portion of the Western Interconnection, which is the area encompassed within the United States portion of the Western Systems Coordinating Council (WSCC).

² We recognize that the States are also working on these issues, as exemplified by the Western Governors' Action Plan, and this Order is intended to complement what the states are doing. See Western Governors' Association website at <http://www.westgov.org/wieb/power/index.htm>.