

Guidance

The guidance provided below is intended to assist applicants in determining what information they may wish to include in their applications. This guidance is non-binding and does not constitute criteria for selection. Applications which do not include the information suggested in the guidance will be considered on the same basis as applications which include all or part of that information.

1. Applicants should consider describing the ways that they think their proposals will assist the Department in determining new ways of administering Federal student assistance programs that better meet the needs of distance students.

2. It is important that the accrediting and State authorizing agencies of the institution, or institutions that comprise a consortium or system, are willing to collaborate with the Department to determine how their complementary roles can best be structured to assure quality and integrity in institutions' distance education programs. To this end, applicants for this program should provide documentation that their accrediting agencies and States are willing to work with the Department to examine the respective roles of the agencies as they relate to institutions' distance education programs. In that documentation, accrediting agencies should certify that the individual distance programs that the institution includes in its application are within the scope of the institution's accreditation, and that the agency will review the program at an appropriate time. Consortia and systems should also provide evidence that the agency or agencies which accredit the schools comprising the consortium or system are willing to work with the Department in evaluating issues relating to the quality of distance education offered by the institutions as a result of their membership in the consortium or system.

3. While the Department will evaluate applications using the statutory criteria, to the extent possible, the Department will view those criteria in the context of the delivery of student aid to distance students and the changes that are needed to facilitate that process. Because the delivery of student aid is so critical to improving access to distance education, an application should fully describe the applicant's ability to fully execute its plans for student aid delivery and specify waivers requested and substitutions and address fully the need for the waivers and substitutions.

4. Applicants should consider establishing both quantitative and qualitative objectives for their participation and include in the application a description of how they intend to measure goal attainment, including measures of program quality. The Department notes that quantitative measures are essential for understanding goal attainment.

5. A major concern of the Department is to ensure that Federal funds in the Distance Education Demonstration Program are used appropriately. An application should address how the applicant plans to document student eligibility, including documentation of student attendance.

6. Another major concern of the Department is that an applicant be committed as an institution to the success of its proposed activities. One way for an institution to demonstrate its commitment is to include with its application a letter from its chief executive officer (or comparable official) expressing support for the application and acknowledgement of the responsibilities that the institution would assume if the application were approved. Correspondingly, in the case of a consortium applicant, the submission of such a letter from the chief executive officer (or comparable official) of each of the participating institutions would demonstrate such commitment.

Technical Assistance

Interested parties are invited to consult the Distance Education Demonstration Program Web site for information about applying to participate in the Distance Education Demonstration Program and providing Federal financial aid to students enrolled in distance education programs. The Web site also contains the names and contact information for Department staff with expertise on various issues relating to the Distance Education Demonstration Program who are available to answer questions and provide technical assistance regarding eligibility and administration of Title IV, HEA student financial assistance programs.

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1093.

Dated: August 29, 2003.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Bonneville Power Administration

Availability of the Bonneville Purchasing Instructions (BPI) and Bonneville Financial Assistance Instructions (BFAI)

AGENCY: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), DOE

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: Copies of the Bonneville Purchasing Instructions (BPI), which contain the policy and establish the procedures that BPA uses in the solicitation, award, and administration of its purchases of goods and services, including construction, are available in printed form for \$30, or without charge at the following Internet address: <http://www.bpa.gov/Corporate/kgp/bpi/bpi.htm>. Copies of the Bonneville Financial Assistance Instructions (BFAI), which contain the policy and establish the procedures that BPA uses in the solicitation, award, and administration of financial assistance instruments (principally grants and cooperative agreements), are available in printed form for \$15 each, or available without charge at the following Internet address: <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kgp/bfai/bfai.htm>.

ADDRESSES: Unbound copies of the BPI or BFAI may be obtained by sending a check for the proper amount to the Head of the Contracting Activity, Routing CK-1, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon 97208-3621.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Manager, Corporate Communications, 1-800-622-4519.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: BPA was established in 1937 as a Federal Power Marketing Agency in the Pacific Northwest. BPA operations are financed from power revenues rather than annual appropriations. BPA's purchasing operations are conducted under 16 U.S.C. 832 *et seq.* and related statutes. Pursuant to these special authorities, the BPI is promulgated as a statement of purchasing policy and as a body of interpretative regulations governing the conduct of BPA purchasing activities. It is significantly different from the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and reflects BPA's private sector approach to purchasing the goods and services that it requires. BPA's financial assistance operations are conducted under 16 U.S.C. 832 *et seq.*, and 16 U.S.C. 839 *et seq.* The BFAI express BPA's financial assistance policy. The BFAI also comprise BPA's rules governing implementation of the principles provided in the following OMB circulars:

A-21, Cost Principles for Educational Institutions.

A-87, Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments.

A-102, Grants and Cooperative Agreements with State and Local Governments.

A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Other Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals and Other Non-Profit Organizations.

A-122, Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations.

A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations.

BPA's solicitations and contracts include notice of applicability and availability of the BPI and the BFAI, as appropriate, for the information of offerors on particular purchases or financial assistance transactions.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on August 27, 2003.

Kenneth R. Berglund,

Manager, Contracts and Property Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. EC03-127-000, et al.]

IDACORP Energy L.P., et al.; Electric Rate and Corporate Filings

August 25, 2003.

The following filings have been made with the Commission. The filings are listed in ascending order within each docket classification.

1. IDACORP Energy L.P.

Sempra Energy Trading Corp.

[Docket No. EC03-127-000]

Take notice that on August 20, 2003, IDACORP Energy L.P. (IELP) and Sempra Energy Trading Corp. (SET) filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) an application pursuant to Section 203 of the Federal Power Act and 18 CFR part 33 for authority to transfer all of the wholesale power sales contracts of IELP to SET. The Applicants request that the Commission act on the application so that the transfer may be consummated before October 1, 2003.

Comment Date: September 10, 2003.

2. Citizens Communication Company v. Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc.

[Docket No. EC03-128-000]

Take notice that on August 21, 2003, Citizens Communications Company (Citizens) and Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (VELCO) filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) a joint application pursuant to Section 203 of the Federal Power Act for authorization of a disposition of jurisdictional facilities whereby Citizens will sell certain transmission facilities to VELCO.

Comment Date: September 11, 2003.

3. Butler Ridge, LLC

[Docket No. EG03-95-000]

Take notice that on August 21, 2003, Butler Ridge, LLC (the Applicant), with its principal office at c/o Midwest Wind Energy, LLC, 205 W. Monroe Street, 4th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) an application for determination of exempt wholesale generator status pursuant to part 365 of the Commission's regulations.

Applicant states that it is a Delaware limited liability company engaged directly and exclusively in the business of developing, owning and operating an approximately 54 MW wind generating facility located in Dodge County, Wisconsin. Applicant further states that

electric energy produced by the facility will be sold exclusively at wholesale by Applicant.

Comment Date: September 15, 2003.

4. Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

[Docket No. ER03-896-001]

Take notice that on August 21, 2003, Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) submitted for filing a response to a deficiency letter issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on July 22, 2003 in the above-captioned proceeding. The proceeding involves an unexecuted service agreement between SPP and the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency.

SPP states that it served a copy of the filing on all parties on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Comment Date: September 11, 2003.

5. Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation

[Docket No. ER03-1227-000]

Take notice that on August 20, 2003, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation (Central Hudson) tendered for filing proposed changes in its Rate Schedule FERC No. 202 which sets forth the terms and charges for substation service provided by Central Hudson to Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

Central Hudson requests waiver on the notice requirements set forth in 18 CFR 35.11 of the Regulations to permit charges to become effective January 1, 2003 as agreed to by the parties.

Central Hudson states that a copy of its filing was served on Con Edison and the State of New York Public Service Commission.

Comment Date: September 10, 2003.

6. Avista Corporation

[Docket No. ER03-1228-000]

Take notice that on August 20, 2003, Avista Corporation (AVA) filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) a Notice of Termination of Rate Schedule No. 185, a Service Agreement with El Paso Merchant Energy, L.P. previously filed under the Commission's Docket No. ER98-4633-000, effective August 15, 2003.

Comment Date: September 10, 2003.

7. Nevada Power Company

[Docket No. ER03-1230-000]

Take notice that on August 21, 2003, Nevada Power Company (Nevada Power), tendered for filing pursuant to Section 35 of the Federal Power Act, an executed Service Agreement for Network Integration Transmission Service Retail Access Transmission