

Resource Programs EIS (DOE/EIS-0162, February 1993) and ROD; and

- Meeting the objective in the January 2000 Strategic Plan of BPA's Power Business Line to acquire at least 150 average MW of new renewable resources by the end of fiscal year 2006 in order to meet customer demand for new renewable resources.

Proposed Action

BPA proposes to execute one or more power purchase and transmission services agreements to acquire and transmit up to the full electrical output of SeaWest's proposed Condon Wind Project. SeaWest proposes to construct and operate this 24.3 to 24.75 MW wind generation facility, located in southern Gilliam County, Oregon, northwest of the town of Condon. The proposed project site consists of relatively flat plateaus located in an area of rolling, arid hills bisected by canyons. Land uses within the project site consist of non-irrigated agriculture—winter wheat and cattle grazing. The project will be located entirely on private farmland, and no project facilities will be constructed upon lands owned by the State of Oregon or by the United States.

The approximately 26 to 41 turbines will be arranged in several "strings," with generally between 250 to 425 feet between turbines in each string. SeaWest is considering using either 600-kilowatt (kW) turbines similar to those used at the existing Foote Creek Rim Wind Project in Wyoming, or larger, up to 950-kW turbines. If the 600-kW turbines are used, the turbines will be about 165 to 197 feet tall at the turbine hub, and about 236 to 276 feet tall including the turbine blades. The diameter of the "swept area" covered by the rotors will be about 144 to 158 feet. Each turbine will be mounted on a tubular steel tower installed on a reinforced concrete foundation. Foundations will be either tubular or pad foundations, ranging from approximately 15 to 20 feet in width and extending up to 25 to 30 feet underground. If the 750-kW, 900-kW, or 950-kW turbines are used, or an alternative foundation design is utilized, these dimensions may be slightly greater. Agricultural activities generally can continue to take place directly adjacent to the turbine pads.

Power from all turbines in the project will be collected by an underground and overhead cable loop and then fed underground to a proposed substation to be located at the project site. The fenced substation site will occupy approximately one to two acres. From the substation site, power from the project will be transmitted by

approximately two to five miles of new above-ground lines (likely single-pole wood structures) to interconnect with the existing BPA De Moss-Condon 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. Other facilities required as part of the project are access roads, an operation and maintenance (O&M) building, and onsite storage. Most of the access roads will consist of improved, graveled, existing farm roads, with some construction of new graveled roads in areas where usable farm roads do not exist. The O&M building will be on or near the project site. SeaWest proposes to begin construction in mid to late 2001. The Condon Wind Project is scheduled to begin commercial operation late in 2001, and would operate for at least 20 years.

Process to Date

Some environmental analyses have already been conducted by SeaWest. Surveys for sensitive plant and wildlife species were initiated in the spring of 2000. Scoping will help identify what additional studies will be required.

Alternatives Proposed for Consideration

The alternatives include the proposed action (executing a power purchase agreement with SeaWest for up to 24.75 MW of electrical energy from the proposed Condon Wind Project and authorizing transmission over BPA power lines) and the No Action alternative. In addition, at least two transmission alternatives will be examined in the EIS.

Identification of Environmental Issues

For other wind projects, noise, visual impact, influence on cultural resources, and effects on sensitive plant and animal species have been identified as potential environmental issues. The scoping process will help identify the range of environmental issues that should be addressed in this EIS. Maps and further information are available from BPA at the address above. When completed, the Draft EIS will be circulated for review and comment, and BPA will hold public comment meetings for the Draft EIS. BPA will consider and respond to comments received on the Draft EIS in the Final EIS, expected to be published in mid to late 2001. BPA's subsequent decision will be documented in a Record of Decision. The EIS will satisfy the requirements of NEPA.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on June 27, 2000.

Judith A. Johansen,

Administrator and Chief Executive Officer.
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EC00-98-001]

Commonwealth Edison Company; Notice of Filing

June 28, 2000.

Take notice that on June 20, 2000, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) tendered for filing an amendment to the application it filed in this proceeding on May 31, 2000.

ComEd states that it has, by mail, served a copy of the amendment on the Illinois Commerce Commission and on other identified entities.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before July 11, 2000. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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