

Commission Meeting Room at the headquarters of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (EDT). The conference will be open to the public; there is no registration to attend.²

On December 26, 2007, the Commission issued Order No. 704, Transparency Provisions of Section 23 of the Natural Gas Act. The Final Rule, among other things, requires natural gas market participants to report sales and purchase volumes of physical natural gas that use, contribute to, or may contribute to the formation of a price index during a calendar year. On September 18, 2008, the Commission issued Order 704-A Order on Rehearing and Clarification and on December 18, 2008 the Commission issued Order 704-B, Order Dismissing Rehearing Request as Deficient, Denying Reconsideration, and Granting and Denying Clarification.

On October 9, 2009 and November 3, 2009, the American Gas Association and Pacific Gas & Electric Company, respectively, submitted supplemental comments requesting clarification of certain reporting requirements in Form No. 552. Staff has also identified other areas in the form that require clarification and inconsistencies in reporting physical natural gas transactions that arose during data collection and outreach. The inconsistencies and issues identified and discussed below will be the subject of the technical conference for Form No. 552. The Commission may elect to modify Form No. 552 following reviews of the supplemental comments requesting clarification and its own clarifications after the technical conference.

The technical conference will address only the issues identified by staff. The topics for discussion at the conference are: (1) Inconsistencies in reporting upstream transactions in the natural gas supply chain on Form No. 552, and whether these transactions contribute to wholesale price formation; (2) whether transactions involving balancing, cash-out, operational, and in-kind transactions should be reported on Form No. 552; and (3) whether the units of measurement (TBtu) currently used for reporting volumes in the form are appropriate.

Order No. 704-A held that transactions involving unprocessed natural gas were not reportable on Form No. 552. The Commission also held that

transactions regarding unprocessed natural gas should not be counted when determining whether an entity falls below the de minimis threshold.

Through various outreach efforts and data collected in Form No. 552 for calendar year 2008, Commission staff has learned that substantial volumes of upstream natural gas transactions may not be reflected in Form No. 552, because of inconsistent reporting practices. The sales and purchase volumes of upstream natural gas transactions are currently reportable on Form No. 552 if they use, contribute to, or may contribute to the formation of a price index. Staff believes that Form No. 552 filers have interpreted this requirement in various ways based on their unique situations. Therefore, staff would like to gain a better understanding of industry reporting practices for upstream transactions in the natural gas supply chain and to determine whether upstream natural gas contributes to wholesale price formation.

In Orders 704-A and 704-B, the Commission found that balancing, cash-out, operational, in-kind, and similar transactions must be reported in Form No. 552 if they use, contribute to, or could contribute to the formation of a price index. Staff has preliminary indications that the volumes of natural gas identified as cash-outs are relatively low in relation to the total reportable physical natural gas reported on Form No. 552. Therefore, staff is seeking to better understand the burden and benefits of reporting these volumes.

Finally, filers have expressed confusion about the requirement in Form No. 552 to report transactions in trillion Btus (TBtu). Converting data to TBtus led to a number of filing errors, and subsequent resubmissions to correct the data were required. Staff is seeking feedback on whether changing the reporting units to an industry standard unit of measure like decatherms would facilitate reporting.

An agenda for the conference will be issued in a later notice. This technical conference will not be webcast. It will be transcribed. Transcripts of the conference will be available immediately for a fee from Ace Reporting Company (202-347-3700 or 1-800-336-6646).

Any person interested in filing comments after the conference should do so in this docket by April 2, 2010. A person is not required to have attended the conference in order to file comments on the specific topics herein.

Commission conferences and meetings are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

For accessibility accommodations please send an e-mail to accessibility@ferc.gov or call toll free (866) 208-3372 (voice) or 202-502-8659 (TTY), or send a fax to 202-208-2106 with the required accommodations.

For additional information, please contact Christopher Peterson at 202-502-8933 or Christopher.Peterson@ferc.gov and Thomas Russo at 202-502-8792 or Thomas.Russo@ferc.gov of FERC's Office of Enforcement.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD10-4-000]

Guidance on Preparation of Market-Based Rate Filings and Electric Quarterly Reports by Public Utilities; Supplemental Notice of Technical Conference

February 22, 2010.

As announced in the "Notice of Technical Conference" issued on January 28, 2010, a technical conference will be held on March 3, 2010, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (EST) in the Commission Meeting Room at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. The conference will be open for the public to attend and advance registration is not required.

The technical conference will focus on the mechanics of how to prepare an initial electric public utility market-based rate application and subsequent filings (including triennial market power reviews and change in status filings), as well as the requirement to submit Electric Quarterly Reports to the Commission once a seller has received market-based rate authorization. At the technical conference staff will also address the most frequently-asked questions that arise on electric market-based rate filings, the most common errors that are made in such filings, and highlight what tools are currently available to sellers in order to simplify the market-based rate application process as well as the preparation of subsequent required filings. The agenda for this conference is attached.

Any person planning to attend the technical conference is strongly encouraged to register, preferably by close of business on Friday, February

² A Notice of Extension of Time is being issued concurrently with this notice granting all natural gas participants an extension of time until July 1, 2010 to file their Form No. 552 for calendar year 2009.

26, 2010. Registration may be submitted either online at <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/mbr-03-03-10-form.asp> or by faxing a copy of the form (found at the referenced online link) to (202) 208-0353.

A free webcast of the technical conference will be available. Registration to view the webcast is not required. Webcast viewers will not be permitted to participate during the technical conference. Anyone with Internet access interested in viewing this conference can do so by navigating to <http://www.ferc.gov>'s Calendar of Events and locating the appropriate event in the Calendar. The events will contain a link to the applicable webcast option. The Capitol Connection provides technical support for the webcasts and offers the option of listening to the conferences via phone-bridge for a fee. If you have any questions, visit <http://www.CapitolConnection.org> or call (703) 993-3100.

FERC conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations please send an e-mail to accessibility@ferc.gov or call toll free (866) 208-3372 (voice) or (202) 502-8659 (TTY), or send a fax to (202) 208-2106 with the required accommodations.

For further information, please contact Ryan Anderson at (202) 502-8122 or e-mail ryan.anderson@ferc.gov.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM01-5-000]

Electronic Tariff Filings; Notice of Rescheduled Technical Conference

February 19, 2010.

As a result of inclement weather closing the Federal Government in Washington, DC, a technical conference scheduled for February 9, 2010 could not occur. Take notice that that this event has been rescheduled for February 26, 2010. The conference will last from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. EST that day.

Please refer to the notice of technical conferences issued on December 16, 2009 in this proceeding for details related to the originating Commission action for this conference, as well as the topics that will be covered.

The conference will be held at the Commission's offices, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC. All interested persons are invited to attend. The documents that will be discussed are located at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/etariff.asp>.

Teleconferencing will be available. The number and instructions for teleconferencing in these meetings is posted on <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/etariff.asp> and an RSS alert related to this rescheduled event will be issued.

The meeting is open to the public. No preregistration is required. FERC meetings are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations please send an e-mail to accessibility@ferc.gov or call toll free (866) 208-3372 (voice) or (202) 502-8659 (TTY), or send a fax to (202) 208-2106 with the required accommodations.

For more information about these conferences, please contact Keith Pierce, Office of Energy Market Regulation at (202) 502-8525 or send an e-mail to ETariff@ferc.gov.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-R04-OAR-2009-0561-201006; FRL-9119-9]

Adequacy Status of the Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, North Carolina 1997 PM_{2.5} Attainment Demonstration Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget for Transportation Conformity Purposes

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of adequacy.

SUMMARY: In this notice, EPA is notifying the public of its finding that the nitrogen oxides (NO_x) motor vehicle emissions budget (MVEB) in the Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, North Carolina (hereafter referred to as the Hickory Area) attainment demonstration for the 1997 PM_{2.5} standard, submitted on August 21, 2009, by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), is adequate for transportation conformity purposes. EPA is also making an insignificance finding for direct particulate matter (PM) through the transportation conformity adequacy process for the Hickory Area. The

Hickory Area is comprised of the entire county of Catawba in North Carolina. On March 2, 1999, the District of Columbia Circuit Court ruled that submitted state implementation plans (SIPs) cannot be used for transportation conformity determinations until EPA has affirmatively found them adequate. As a result of EPA's finding, the Hickory Area must use the NO_x MVEB from the submitted Hickory, North Carolina 1997 PM_{2.5} attainment demonstration for future conformity determinations, and the Hickory Area is not required to perform a regional emissions analysis for direct PM_{2.5} in future PM_{2.5} transportation conformity determinations for the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} standard.

DATES: The adequacy finding for the NO_x MVEB and the insignificance finding for direct PM_{2.5} are effective March 16, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amanetta Somerville, Environmental Scientist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Air Planning Branch, Air Quality Modeling and Transportation Section, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Ms. Somerville can also be reached by telephone at (404) 562-9025, or via electronic mail at somerville.amanetta@epa.gov. The finding is available at EPA's conformity Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/transp.htm> (once there, click on the "Transportation Conformity" text icon, then look for "Adequacy Review of SIP Submissions").

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Today's notice is simply an announcement of findings that EPA has already made. EPA Region 4 sent a letter to NCDENR on January 20, 2010, stating that the 2009 NO_x MVEB in the 1997 PM_{2.5} attainment demonstration for Hickory, dated August 21, 2009, is adequate. The letter also states that direct PM_{2.5} is insignificant for the Hickory Area, therefore no regional emissions analysis is required. EPA posted the availability of the Hickory Area MVEB and insignificance demonstration on EPA's Web site on September 8, 2009, as part of the adequacy process, for the purpose of soliciting comments. The comment period ran from September 8, 2009, through October 8, 2009. EPA's findings have also been announced on EPA's conformity Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/index.htm> (once there, click "Transportation Conformity" text icon, then look for "Adequacy Review of SIP