

Act (42 U.S.C. 6272(c)(1)(A)(i)) (EPCA), the following notice of meeting is provided:

A meeting of the Industry Advisory Board (IAB) to the International Energy Agency (IEA) will be held at the headquarters of the IEA, 9, rue de la Federation, Paris, France, on March 23, 2000, beginning at approximately 8:45 a.m. The purpose of this notice is to permit attendance by representatives of U.S. company members of the IAB at a meeting of the IEA's Standing Group on Emergency Questions (SEQ), which is scheduled to be held at the IEA on March 23, including a preparatory encounter among company representatives from approximately 8:45 a.m. to 9 a.m.

The Agenda for the preparatory encounter among company representatives is to elicit views regarding items on the SEQ's Agenda. The Agenda for the SEQ meeting is under the control of the SEQ. It is expected that the SEQ will adopt the following Agenda:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Approval of the Summary Record of the 97th Meeting
3. SEQ Work Program
 - The Year 2000 Work Program of the SEQ
 - The Year 2001 Work Program of the SEQ
4. Special Session on Tanker Market Developments and Oil Security Issues
5. Policy and Legislative Developments in Member Countries
 - Recent Developments in the EPCA
 - Developments in other IEA Countries
6. Follow-up to the Seminar on Oil Stock Strategy and the Disruption Simulation Exercise
7. Emergency Response Reviews
 - Review of Poland
 - Publication: The Emergency Response Potential of IEA Countries in 2000
 - Draft Report to the Governing Board on the Completed Emergency Response Review Cycle
 - Schedule of Reviews
8. Report on IEA'S Y2K Response Activities
9. Current IAB Activities
10. Report to the SEQ by the Working Group on Petroleum Coke
11. Emergency Reserve Issues
 - Emergency Reserve and Net Import Situation of IEA Countries on October 1, 1999
 - Emergency Reserve and Net Import Situation of IEA Countries on January 1, 2000
 - Draft Report to the Governing Board
 - Emergency Reserve Situation of IEA Candidate Countries
 - Unavailable Stocks
12. Emergency Data System and Related Questions
 - Monthly Oil Statistics October 1999
 - Monthly Oil Statistics November 1999
 - Monthly Oil Statistics December 1999
 - Base Period Final Consumption Q498/Q399

- Base Period Final Consumption Q199/Q499
- Quarterly Oil Forecast—Current Quarter Q12000
- 13. Emergency Reference Guide
 - Update of Emergency Contact Points List
- 14. Other Business
 - IEA/ASCOPE Seminar on Oil Security Issues
 - Dates of September and November Meetings
 - Website version of Emergency Response Guide

As provided in section 252(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6272(c)(1)(A)(ii)), this meeting is open only to representatives of members of the IAB and their counsel, representatives of members of the SEQ, representatives of the Departments of Energy, Justice, and State, the Federal Trade Commission, the General Accounting Office, Committees of Congress, the IEA, and the European Commission, and invitees of the IAB, the SEQ, or the IEA.

Issued in Washington, D.C., March 10, 2000.

Mary Anne Sullivan,

General Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket No. 00-10-NG]

Office of Fossil Energy; RDO Foods Co.; Order Granting Long-Term Authorization To Import Natural Gas From Canada

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of order.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) gives notice that it issued an Order granting RDO Foods Co. (RDO) authorization to import up to 1,423 Mcf of natural gas per day from Canada and gas required for pipeline transportation from April 1, 2000, through October 31, 2008. RDO is the owner and operator of a food processing plant in North Dakota. The natural gas will be imported near Noyes, Minnesota, under a supply arrangement between RDO and ProGas Limited.

The Order may be found on the FE web site at <http://www.fe.doe.gov>, or on our electronic bulletin board at (202) 586-7853. It is also available for inspection and copying in the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities Docket Room, 3E-033, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0334, (202) 586-9478. The Docket Room

is open between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued in Washington, D.C., March 9, 2000.

John W. Glynn,

Manager, Natural Gas Regulation, Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 00-6506 Filed 3-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Bonneville Power Administration

Regarding Bonneville Power Administration's Subscription Power Sales to Customers and Customer's Sales of Firm Resources

AGENCY: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), DOE.

ACTION: Notice of final policy.

SUMMARY: BPA is publishing a final policy regarding the amount of Federal power a customer may purchase under a BPA subscription power sales contract under sections 5(b) and 9(c) of the Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act, (the Northwest Power Act), P.L. 96-501, and section 3(d) of the Act of August 31, 1964, (the Northwest Preference Act), P.L. 88-552. This final policy modifies BPA's 1994 Non-Federal Participation Capacity Ownership Contracts and Section 9(c) Policy. See Section IV.B, Modifications to 1994 Non-Federal Participation Capacity Ownership Contracts and Section 9(c) Policy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This policy is effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Hansen, Public Involvement and Information Specialist, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon 97208-3621, telephone (503) 230-4328 or 1-800-622-4519.

Information can also be obtained from your BPA Account Executive or from:

- Mr. Allen Burns, Vice President, Requirements Marketing, 905 N.E. 11th, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208, telephone (503) 230-7640
- Mr. Rick Itami, Manager, Eastern Power Business Area, 707 W. Main Street, Suite 500, Spokane, WA 99201, telephone (509) 358-7410
- Mr. John Elizalde, Manager, Western Power Business Area, 905 N.E. 11th, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97232, telephone (503) 230-5371
- Mr. Steve Oliver, Vice President, Bulk Marketing and Transmission Services,

905 N.E. 11th, P.O. Box 3621,
Portland, OR 97208, telephone (503)
230-3295

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 21, 1998, BPA published its Power Subscription Strategy and accompanying Record of Decision for selling Federal power under new contracts with its publicly and cooperatively owned utility, investor-owned utility and direct service industrial customers. The Power Subscription Strategy stated overall policies for determining the amount of Federal power to be offered to Pacific Northwest public utility and investor-owned utility customers under section 5(b)(1) of the Northwest Power Act.

On May 6, 1999, BPA published a **Federal Register** Notice (64 FR 24376) with a draft proposed policy for determining the net requirements of publicly and cooperatively owned utility and investor-owned utility customers. BPA sought public comment on its proposed policies for determining utility customer net requirements under section 5(b)(1) of the Northwest Power Act. Adoption of a final policy is important to a successful implementation of BPA's post-2001 power sales contracts under BPA's Power Subscription Strategy.

On October 28, 1999, BPA published a **Federal Register** Notice (64 FR 58099) with a revised draft policy proposal based upon comments received on the earlier proposal and requested additional comment on this revised draft policy. After having reviewed and considered the additional comment, the Administrator has decided to adopt this final policy. Review and analysis of public comment will be published in the Administrator's Record of Decision (ROD) that is related to this final policy. This ROD is expected to be available in March.

This final policy provides guidance on implementation of the Power Subscription Strategy under applicable statutes and describes how certain factual determinations will be made regarding the amount of Federal power publicly and cooperatively owned utilities, or investor-owned utilities may purchase from BPA under section 5(b)(1) of the Northwest Power Act. BPA's determination of this amount, as described in this policy, is affected by a customer's export of hydroelectric resources and non-hydroelectric resources out of the Pacific Northwest in accordance with section 9(c) of the Northwest Power and section 3(d) of the Northwest Preference Act. BPA will review a customer's export of power or output from resources under BPA's

Section 9(c) Policy as set forth in Section IV.B.

Environmental Compliance: This final policy is consistent with BPA's Business Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0183, June 1995), the Business Plan Record of Decision (ROD), signed August 15, 1995, and the subsequent tiered Power Subscription Strategy ROD, signed December 21, 1998.

I. Relevant Statutory Provisions

The Northwest Power Act provisions are:

5(b)(1) Whenever requested, the Administrator shall offer to sell to each requesting public body and cooperative entitled to preference and priority under the Bonneville Project Act of 1937 [16 U.S.C. 832 *et seq.*] and to each requesting investor-owned utility electric power to meet the firm power load of such public body, cooperative or investor-owned utility in the region to the extent that such firm power load exceeds—

(A). The capability of such entity's firm peaking and energy resources used in the year prior to December 5, 1980, to serve its firm load in the region, and

(B) Such other resources as such entity determines, pursuant to contracts under this chapter, will be used to serve its firm load in the region.

5(b)(1) In determining the resources which are used to serve a firm load, for purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), any resources used to serve a firm load under such subparagraphs shall be treated as continuing to be so used, unless such use is discontinued with the consent of the Administrator, or unless such use is discontinued because of obsolescence, retirement, loss of resource, or loss of contract rights. 16 U.S.C. 839c(b)(1)

9(c) Any contract of the Administrator for the sale or exchange of electric power for use outside the Pacific Northwest shall be subject to limitations and conditions corresponding to those provided in sections 2 and 3 of the Act of August 23, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 837a and 837b) for any contract for the sale, delivery, or exchange of hydroelectric energy or peaking capacity generated within the Pacific Northwest for use outside the Pacific Northwest. In applying such sections for the purposes of this subsection, the term "surplus energy" shall mean electric energy for which there is no market in the Pacific Northwest at any rate established for the disposition of such energy, and the term "surplus peaking capacity" shall mean electric peaking capacity for which there is no demand in the Pacific Northwest at the rate established for the disposition of such capacity. The authority granted, and duties imposed upon, the Secretary by sections 5 and 7 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 837d and 837f) [16 U.S.C. 837d and 837f] shall also apply to the Administrator in connection with resources acquired by the Administrator pursuant to this chapter. *The Administrator shall, in making any determination, under any contract executed pursuant to section 839c of this title, of the electric power*

requirements of any Pacific Northwest customer, which is a non-Federal entity having its own generation, exclude, in addition to hydroelectric generated energy excluded from such requirements pursuant to section 3(d) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 837b(d)), any amount of energy included in the resources of such customer for service to firm loads in the region if (1) such amount was disposed of by such customer outside the region, and (2) as a result of such disposition, the firm energy requirements of such customer other customers of the Administrator are increased. Such amount of energy shall not be excluded, if the Administrator determines that through reasonable measures such amount of energy could not be conserved or otherwise retained for service to regional loads. The Administrator may sell as replacement for any amount of energy so excluded only energy that would otherwise be surplus. 16 U.S.C. 839f(c) (emphasis supplied).

The Northwest Preference Act provision is:

3(d) The Secretary, in making any determination of the energy requirements of any Pacific Northwest customer which is a non-Federal utility having hydroelectric generating facilities, shall exclude any amounts of hydroelectric energy generated in the Pacific Northwest and disposed of outside the Pacific Northwest by the utility which, through reasonable measures, could have been conserved or otherwise kept available for the utility's own needs in the Pacific Northwest. The Secretary may sell the utility as a replacement therefor only what would otherwise be surplus energy. 16 U.S.C. 837b(d).

II. Scope of the Policy

The Policy on Determining Net Requirements as described in section III addresses the amount of Federal power that BPA is obligated to offer to customers requesting contracts to serve firm power loads under section 5(b)(1) of the Northwest Power Act. Purchasers eligible to request a contract under section 5(b)(1) include public body, cooperative, or investor-owned utilities in the region.¹ BPA has a corresponding statutory duty when determining the net requirements of a requesting purchaser to apply the provisions of section 9(c) of the Northwest Power Act and section 3(d) of the Regional Preference Act. BPA's modification to its 1994 Non-Federal Participation Section 9(c) Policy (1994 NFP Policy) is contained in section IV. Such provisions direct the Administrator to determine whether an export or proposed export of a

¹ The policy also addresses any sales of Federal power BPA makes under section 5(b) in settlement of a customer's right to service under the residential exchange program created under section 5(c) of the Northwest Power Act. While recognizing that this is a settlement, it does not affect the application of, or change, the policy regarding the net requirements of any customer.

requesting purchaser's non-hydroelectric or hydroelectric resource(s) would result in an increase in the firm energy requirements of any of BPA's customers. Findings by BPA that the export of such resources are likely to increase BPA's firm obligations, and that the resource could have been conserved, or otherwise retained to serve regional loads, will result in a reduction (decrement)² of the amount of Federal power and energy available for purchase under section 5(b)(1) equal to the amount of power and energy, and for the duration, of the export. Determinations under the policy will be made by BPA based on demonstrations made by the customer and other available information.

III. Policy on Determining Net Requirements

A. Determination of the Amount of Federal Power for Sale Under Section 5(b)(1)

1. BPA will determine the amount of Federal power for sale under section 5(b)(1) in the manner described below. In making this determination BPA will reduce the amount of Federal power a customer may purchase in accordance with section 9(c) of the Northwest Power Act and section 3(d) of the Northwest Preference Act.

(a) BPA will offer an amount of Federal power for sale to a customer under section 5(b)(1) based upon such customer's actual retail firm power loads in the region. To establish the customer's actual retail firm power loads in the region, BPA shall use either the actual measured load of the customer, or the customer's own actual load forecast. However, if BPA finds the customer's forecast unreasonable, or the customer has not produced such a forecast, BPA will substitute its own forecast. (Any actual or forecast loads of the customer shall exclude any wholesale loads served by the customer. Wholesale loads means power sales made by the customer using its own resources to serve its own wholesale customers who are purchasing to resell the power at wholesale or retail.)

(b) For purposes of determining the amount of Federal power BPA will offer to existing customers in the post-2001 period, BPA will require an existing customer to continue to use all generating and contractual resources included in the Firm Resource Exhibit

(FRE) of such customer's current 1981 or 1996 power sales contracts for the 1998–1999 operating year.³ BPA will not, however, require customers to continue the use of resources identified in their 1998–99 FREs under any one of the following conditions: (1) The customer's contractual resource(s) expires prior to October 1, 2001; (2) the customer's generating resource(s) is determined by BPA to be lost due to obsolescence, retirement, or loss of resource in accordance with section III.B.1 (loss of generating resources); or (3) the customer's contractual resource(s) is determined to be lost in accordance with section III.B.2 (loss of contractual resources). In addition, customers who were given express written consent by the Administrator to permanently remove a resource from use in serving regional firm power loads are not required to return such resources to use.

(c) BPA will require that all Federal surplus firm power contracts or excess Federal power contracts with terms which specify that such power be used to serve the customer's retail firm power load in the region be so applied.

(d) Under a section 5(b)(1) contract customers may elect to dedicate other generating resources or contractual resources, in addition to generating resources or contractual resources customers must use to serve load under section III.A.1.(b), to serve their consumer load. Customers can also agree to contractually commit power purchases from the market (market purchases) to serve any remaining amounts of their retail firm power load in the region which is not served by (1) generating resources or contractual resources that a customer must use to serve load under section III.A.1.(b); and (2) additional generating resources or contractual resources that a customer elects to use under this section. Application of additional generating resources, contractual resources, or market purchases by a customer under a section 5(b)(1) contract shall be as follows:

(i) All additional generating resources or contractual resources shall be used for their remaining useful life except for (1) the customer's generating or contractual resources added pursuant to section III.C (renewable resources), (2) the customer's generating resources

determined by BPA to be lost during the term of the contract due to obsolescence, retirement, or loss of resource in accordance with section III.B.1 (loss of generating resources), (3) the customer's contractual resources determined by BPA to be lost during the term of the contract in accordance with section III.B.2 (loss of contractual resources), or (4) the customer's generating or contractual resources where BPA has provided express written consent to permanently remove the resource. The remaining useful life of new contractual resources shall not be less than the term of the customer's section 5(b)(1) contract.

(ii) Market purchases used to serve retail firm power load in the region shall be used for the entire 5 year rate period for which BPA establishes rates of general application, except as provided in section III.D.2.

(iii) Consistent with the customer's section 5(b)(1) contract and the customer's product selection, a customer who elects to use market purchases to serve load that does not match the customer's existing resources and delivery of Federal power from time to time shall make such market purchases to serve that portion of load that does not match such customer's existing resources and delivery of Federal power under all such circumstances.

(e) BPA will apply the Declaration Parameters included in the Power Products Catalog to establish the amount of power available from the customer's generating and contractual resources under the Subscription contract. Because the Declaration Parameters are subject to revision, BPA will use the Declaration Parameters in effect at the time of BPA's contract offer to determine the amount of Federal power offered. The customer may declare a reduction in the amount of power that would otherwise be available from its own generating and contractual resources by the amount of power the customer uses from such resources to serve its wholesale loads, defined above, which were served prior to December 5, 1980, and which continue to be served by such resources.

2. In addition to subsections III.A.1.(a) through (e), BPA shall reduce the amount of Federal power offered to a customer under section 5(b)(1) when such reductions are consistent with the application of BPA's Section 9(c) Policy as modified, and resultant findings made under section 9(c) of the Northwest Power Act and section 3(d) of the Northwest Preference Act.

² The 1994 Section 9(c) Policy BPA published uses the term "decrement" to mean a decrease or reduction in BPA's obligations to sell power to a customer under its section 5 power sales contract with BPA. When used in this Policy and modification of that Policy the terms "decrement," "reduce" or "reduction" have the same meaning.

³ BPA's requirement that the customer continue using the customer's resources listed in its FRE for the 1998–1999 operating year is based upon a decision made in BPA's Power Subscription Strategy. The decision was to establish a baseline for determining the customer's resources expected to continue serving regional firm power loads in the post-2000 period.

B. Statutory Discontinuance for a Customer's Generating and Contractual Resource

1. A customer's non-Federal generating resource is considered no longer used to serve regional retail firm power load under a section 5(b)(1) contract if the resource's use is permanently discontinued due to obsolescence, retirement, or loss.

(a) Obsolescence is a permanent discontinuance of a generating resource resulting from the inability to continue to operate such resource at the end of its useful life due to lack of available replacement parts, deterioration of the physical facility, or lack of sources of fuel supply.

(b) Retirement is a permanent discontinuance of a generating resource for which the customer can demonstrate that the cost of replacements, improvements, or additions necessary to continue to operate the resource, combined with the resource's variable operating costs, exceed the reasonable economic return over the remaining life of the resource. The customer will demonstrate the reasonable economic return of the resource by comparing the costs to the customer of replacing the resource with market purchases plus the cost to permanently shut down the resource to the cost of continuing to operate the resource.

(c) Loss of a resource is a permanent discontinuance caused by factors beyond the reasonable control of the customer and which the best efforts of the customer are unable to remedy. Such factors include, but are not limited to, complete destruction of the resource, complete loss of the Federal or State license to own or operate the resource, or complete and/or partial reduction of the capability of a resource to the extent of the loss resulting from requested operations or orders of a cognizant State or Federal agency directly or indirectly affecting the operation of the resource and changing its planned capability.

2. A customer's contractual resource is considered no longer used to serve regional firm power load if the customer experiences a permanent loss of contract rights. Loss of contract rights must result from expiration of the term of the contract, after any extensions of the contract unilaterally available to the customer, or from factors beyond the reasonable control of the customer and which the best effort of the customer are unable to remedy. The Administrator may grant consent to a customer's permanent discontinuance of a contract resource upon expiration of such contract notwithstanding a customer's right to renew or extend such contract

if the customer demonstrates that substantial and material changes in the terms of a successor contract, such as price, will deny the basic benefit of the bargain to the customer which effectively results in the loss of existing contract rights.

C. Use of New Renewable Resources To Serve Retail Firm Power Loads

1. A customer may elect to use a new renewable resource to serve its regional retail firm power load for a specified period which is less than the term of its section 5(b)(1) contract; provided, however, that such new renewable resource is part of the first 200 aMW of all new renewable resources requested by all BPA customers under this section to serve regional retail firm power load each year or, once that 200 aMW limit has been reached, a new renewable resource that BPA has agreed in writing can be so used without regard to the 200 aMW limit. A customer may choose to elect to use a new renewable resource at the time of contract execution and during an annual review of such customer's net load requirements under its section 5(b)(1) contract.

2. Only new renewable resources that meet the standards established to qualify for BPA's conservation and renewable resource discount may be used under this section.

3. Application of a new renewable resource under section III.C.1 shall reduce the customer's net requirements load.

D. Changes in the Amount of Federal Power Purchased During the Term of a Contract

1. Under a section 5(b)(1) contract BPA will require a customer to submit annual reports that track and forecast the customer's retail firm power loads in the region, except for customers who purchase the full service product and for whom BPA meters their total retail load. The purpose for the annual report is to provide information that shows any increase or reduction in the amount of the customer's retail firm power loads in the region from the amount served when the contract was executed. Based on such load information, or BPA's forecast of the customer's load if BPA finds the customer's load forecast is unreasonable, BPA shall make an annual determination of the net firm requirement load of the customer under a section 5(b)(1) contract as follows.⁴ First, BPA will account for:

⁴ Such reports may be in addition to other load or resource information the customer is required to provide BPA on its loads or resources for contract administration and planning purposes. Such determinations may be in addition to other

(a) The generating and contractual resources a customer is required to use to serve firm power load in the region under section III.A.1.(b) (1998-99 FRE firm resources);

(b) Additional resources a customer has elected to use under section III.A.1.(d) (additional generating and contractual dedicated resources); and

(c) Power purchases from the market that a customer has contractually committed to purchase in their 5(b)(1) contract, consistent with section III.A.1.(d) (market purchases).

Second, BPA will make adjustments for:

(d) Changes in a customer's new renewable resources used to serve retail firm power load in the region, as provided for in section III.C.1 (renewable resources);

(e) Changes in the customer resources serving its load pursuant to III.A.1.(b) and III.A.1.(d) based on BPA's determination of a statutory discontinuance under section III.B.

(f) Any reductions in the amount of power a customer may purchase under a section 5(b)(1) contract due to the annual export review under section III.D.3; and,

(g) Changes in the customer's hydroelectric resource capability declarations due to changes in coordinated planning allowed under section III.A.1.(e).

2. If BPA's annual determination of a customer's net firm requirement load results in a finding that the amount of Federal power a customer can purchase is less than the contracted amount of power to be purchased for the next contract year, then the customer shall first remove from use for its regional firm load, for a period of one year, any market purchases the customer has agreed to use under its BPA contract. Such removal shall be in an amount and shape equal to the difference between the amount of Federal power a customer can purchase for the next year and the amount and shape of Federal power a customer has contracted to purchase for the next contract year.

If the amount of Federal power a customer can purchase after the removal of the market purchases is still less than the amount of power the customer has contracted to purchase for the next contract year, then BPA will implement the mitigation measure for load loss specified in the customer's section 5(b)(1) contract and reduce the amount of Federal power a customer is obligated to purchase. Alternatively, BPA will

determinations of net firm power requirements loads made more frequently under the terms of the customer's contract.

consent to the customer's removal of a generating resource or contractual resource from use for its regional firm load, for a period of one year. The portion of a customer's generating resource or contractual resource removed shall be equal to the difference between the amount and shape of Federal power a customer can purchase and the amount and shape of Federal power the customer has contracted to purchase for the next contract year. Any customer resources, other than market purchases, which are removed from use in serving the customer's regional firm load service under this section, are subject to BPA's determinations made under sections 9(c) of the Northwest Power Act and 3(d) of the Northwest Preference Act. If the customer's use of that resource results in a reduction or decrease in BPA's obligation to provide power under section III.D.3, then BPA will recalculate the amount of power a customer may purchase for the upcoming year as provided under this section (III.D.2).

3. On an annual basis as provided under a section 5(b)(1) contract BPA will review the export of power from a customer's regional non-Federal generating and contractual resources and, if required, will reduce the amount of Federal power a customer may purchase in accordance with section IV of this policy. BPA shall reduce the amount of power a customer may purchase for the longer of the remainder of the year or the duration of the export during the period between annual reviews based on a determination by BPA in accordance with section IV.

4. BPA shall make available additional amounts of power to a customer under a section 5(b)(1) contract to serve the customer's regional loads which were formerly available by a customer's generating resources or contractual resources but are no longer required to be used to serve the customer's retail firm power loads in the region, in accordance with section III.B (statutory discontinuance). Such service shall be on 6 months notice that such an event has occurred or as mutually agreed.

IV. Scope of the Section 9(c) Policy

A. Modification to BPA's Non-Federal Participation Section 9(c) Policy

BPA's modification to its 1994 Non-Federal Participation Section 9(c) Policy (1994 NFP Policy) is set forth in section B. BPA's 1994 NFP, as modified, is retitled: BPA's Section 9(c) Policy.

BPA reaffirms the application of its 1994 section 9(c) policy and legal interpretation published in July of 1994.

The context for some of the determinations made in the 1994 NFP policy was, in part, prior exports and new exports of firm power from customer resources out of the region by participation in the new, Third AC Intertie. The interpretation has been of general application since 1994 to customer exports. BPA is now modifying the policy to address certain issues which were not previously addressed. Prior determinations made under the 1994 NFP Policy remain in effect for the duration of the export sale.

In the 1994 NFP Policy, BPA did not address the export of firm power from Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) resources because the IOUs were not placing any firm power loads on BPA under their section 5(b)(1) power sales contracts with BPA. See footnote 3, page B-10, BPA's 1994 NFP Policy. Since the IOUs were not taking any power service from BPA, reductions pursuant to a section 9(c) determination in their service under those section 5(b)(1) contracts would not have affected their BPA service. Presently, BPA is preparing new section 5(b)(1) power sales contracts for the post-2001 period to be offered to customers eligible to purchase Federal power. BPA anticipates that IOUs will take firm power service from BPA under new 5(b)(1) contracts. BPA will require that the export of firm power from resources of IOUs be accounted for, in setting BPA's net firm load obligations under those contracts. Additionally, the 1994 NFP Policy is modified to update the technical provisions as discussed in section B.

B. Section 9(c) Policy

Section 1. Northwest Power Act Section 9(c) Determinations

As required by the Northwest Power Act, BPA shall make its Section 9(c) determinations for the exports of its customers. Export for purposes of this policy means the sale of the firm power output of a generating or contractual resource in a manner that such output is not planned to be used solely to serve firm consumer load in the Region as the term "Region" is defined in section 3(14) of the Northwest Power Act.

Section 2. Finding Required

In examining the export of Pacific Northwest resources, BPA shall make its finding based on the following requirements of Section 9(c):

(a) BPA shall analyze whether the customer's exports would result in an increase in the electric power requirements of any of its customers in the region. BPA shall do this by examining its load/resource forecasting

and planning documents to determine the impact the exports will have on BPA's and its customers' ability to meet Pacific Northwest load presently and in the future. BPA shall also analyze the information available from other sources including least-cost plans and load/resource information of Pacific Northwest utilities which do not currently place any load on BPA.

(b) BPA shall review the specific resources being exported on an annual basis unless the customer requests review for a longer period to determine if the resources being exported are hydroelectric resources and if not, whether they are conservable. BPA shall review categories of resources eligible for export for a period selected by BPA. If the resources are not hydroelectric resources and BPA determines the resource is not conservable (see section 6.(b) for a description of those resources BPA has determined are conservable), BPA shall determine if such exports will result in an increase in the firm energy requirements of its customers and if so, determine whether the resource could be otherwise retained for service to regional loads by using reasonable means. If BPA finds in its analysis that the fully allocated nominal cost of the resource a customer is proposing to export exceeds the fully allocated nominal cost of the region's marginal resource, BPA will conclude that such resource can be exported without having to decrement the customer's section 5(b) utility power sales contract.

Section 3. Scope of Section 9(c) Policy

This Section 9(c) Policy addresses a customer's exports of power from Pacific Northwest resources out of the region. BPA shall make its Section 9(c) determinations based on a factual determination using information about the specific resource the customer intends to export.

Section 4. Data on Specific Resources

BPA shall base its Section 9(c) determination on specific information BPA has obtained from the customer on the resources it intends to export. The customer shall provide this information when it notifies BPA that it intends to export a resource or when BPA requests information regarding a possible export. This includes, but is not limited to, the following information:

- (a) Name of the resource to be exported;
- (b) Location of the resource;
- (c) Type of resource;
- (d) Whether the resource is currently in any Pacific Northwest utility's firm resource exhibit;

(e) Whether the resource is planned or existing;

(f) Type of transaction or sale, and if it is a seasonal exchange, the terms of the exchange, and

(g) The cost of the resource (including reasonable rate of return) included in the customer's retail rates and a forecast of such costs for each year of the proposed export.

BPA will also consider any prior history of the resource including prior efforts to market it to BPA or other Pacific Northwest utilities.

Section 5. Prior Case-by-Case Section 9(c) Interpretations

BPA will not modify its existing determinations on Pacific Northwest utility exports including its 1994 NFP Policy determinations and will apply its prior case-by-case interpretations of Section 9(c), and Section 3(d) of the Regional Preference Act to such decisions without modification. Therefore, BPA incorporates by reference in this Policy these prior interpretations of Sections 9(c) and 3(d) and the determinations made thereunder for the duration of the export sale.

Section 6. Categories of Resources

(a) *Exports That Will Not be Decrement by BPA:* Under this Section 9(c) Policy determination, BPA will determine based on the finding in section 2 of this policy whether the export of certain resources will not result in an increase in the electric power requirements of any of its customers. If the export of a resource does not increase the firm energy requirements of BPA's customers or could not otherwise be retained for service to regional loads, the resource may be exported without a reduction in BPA's firm load obligation under the customer's Section 5(b) utility power sales contract.

(b) *Exports That Will be Decrement by BPA:* BPA has determined based on its prior policy interpretations of Northwest Power Act Section 9(c) that the following categories of resources are conservable and if they are exported BPA shall decrement the customer's Section 5(b) power sales contract:

(1) All Pacific Northwest hydroelectric resources owned or purchased by a Pacific Northwest utility, whether or not dedicated in any Pacific Northwest utility's firm resource exhibit; and

(2) All Section 5(b)(1)(A) and 5(b)(1)(B) thermal resources that are currently dedicated by a utility in any customer's firm resource exhibit.

Section 7. System Sales

BPA shall utilize a case-by-case approach to system sales. BPA shall require the exporting utility to submit an operating plan for the duration of the export, identifying these specific resources or categories of resources supporting the system sale. If the export is a system sale made up solely of a customer's resources that individually would not result in a decrement if each resource were exported standing alone, then BPA would not decrement a customer's firm power purchase under section 5(b) for such a system sale. BPA shall decrement the customer's section 5(b) utility power sales contract in the amount and to the extent the system sale involves the export of the planned capability of hydroelectric resources to support a power sale (whether or not in a firm resource exhibit); the planned capability of a non-hydroelectric resource that is in a firm resource exhibit, or if not, that could otherwise be retained to serve regional load; or any portion of the sale that is a prohibited resale of Federal power.

Any customer that was previously a Contracted Requirements customer of BPA, and which is currently purchasing power and energy from BPA under its power sales contract, shall have BPA's firm power obligation under its section 5(b)(1) contract reduced in the amount and to the extent a system sale involves the resources described above for the duration of the export sale. If the customer was not placing load on BPA under its section 5(b) utility power sales contract at the time of the export sale, then at such time as the customer requests to place a firm load obligation on BPA, BPA shall make an appropriate determination and may reduce its energy sales to such customer in the amount and to the extent the export sale involves the resources described above and for any remaining duration of the export sale.

If the exporting utility does not provide an operating plan identifying the resources supporting the system sale, BPA will treat the system sale as made up of resources that would result in a decrement of the customer's section 5(b) utility power sales contract.

Section 8. Seasonal Exchange

Any seasonal exchange between a customer and an out of region entity which results in no net regional energy deficit during any Operating Year shall not result in a decrement by BPA of the customer's Section 5(b) utility power sales contract.

Section 9. Resource Offer

A customer may offer a resource to BPA or to all other Pacific Northwest customers. If neither BPA, nor any Pacific Northwest customer, purchases the offered resource (offered at the customer's cost including a reasonable rate of return), the resource may then be exported without a decrement of the customer's Northwest Power Act section 5(b) power sales contract. If offered for sale to BPA, the resource shall be treated as an unsolicited proposal. If BPA proposes to acquire the resource, and if it is greater than 50 aMW or offered for longer than 5 years, it will be subject to the Northwest Power Act Section 6(c) process, which can take more than 12 months.

Section 10. Consumer-Owned and Independent Power Producer-Owned Resources

If a customer contracts to purchase and then export any consumer-owned resource or any resource developed by an independent power producer, such resource shall be subject to this Policy as a generating or contract resource of the purchasing customer as appropriate.

Section 11. BPA Notification

BPA shall notify in writing any customer which has exported a resource or proposes to export a resource of the outcome of BPA's Section 9(c) determination. The BPA notification shall be made within 30 working days from the date BPA receives the information specified in Section 4 about a specific resource.

C. Scope of the Section 9(c) Policy

BPA's Section 9(c) Policy addresses the effect of exports of resources by any public body, cooperative, or investor-owned utility purchasing power under a section 5(b) contract for service after October 1, 2001. The findings and interpretations of this Section 9(c) Policy shall be applied to all exports occurring after publication of this Section 9(c) Policy. Customers that have exported resources prior to publication of the Section 9(c) Policy may face a reduction in the amount of Federal power that BPA will offer at the time they request a contract under section 5(b)(1) for service after September 30, 2001. A reduction in BPA's obligation to provide firm power requirements to a customer under its section 5(b)(1) contract will be based on a case-by-case factual determination regarding the export of a resource by a BPA customer, and may be based on the regional load resource balance at the time of the export and other factors. BPA shall address the effect of exports of resources

by a customer purchasing power under a contract pursuant to section 5(c), section 5(d)(1), or section 5(f) of the Northwest Power Act on a case-by-case basis.

D. Subscription 9(c) Study

BPA will perform a Subscription 9(c) Study. The study will provide part of the factual basis for determining whether an export of a resource during the period from October 1, 2001, through September 30, 2006, is likely to result in an increase in the firm energy requirements of BPA customers, and if so, whether the resource could be otherwise retained to serve regional loads.

Responsible Official: Mr. Sydney Berwager, Subscription Policy Manager, is the official responsible for the development of the final policy for addressing issues under section 5(b) of the Northwest Power Act regarding the amount of Federal power a customer may purchase under BPA subscription power sales contracts, and the Section 9(c) Policy which modifies the 1994 NFP Section 9(c) Policy.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on February 22, 2000.

Judith A. Johansen,

Administrator and Chief Executive Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-6505 Filed 3-15-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC00-505-001, FERC-505]

Information Collection Submitted for Review and Request for Comments

March 10, 2000.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of submission for review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has submitted the energy information collection listed in this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review under provisions of Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13). Any interested person may file comments on the collection of information directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. The Commission did not receive any comments in response

to an earlier **Federal Register** notice of November 16, 1999 (64 FR 62183).

DATES: Comments regarding this collection of information are best assured of having their full effect if received on or before April 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Desk Officer, 725 17th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20503. A copy of the comments should also be sent to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Attention: Mr. Michael Miller, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at michael.miller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description

The energy information collection submitted to OMB for review contains:

1. *Collection of Information:* FERC-505 "Application for License/Relicense for Water Projects 5MW or Less Capacity."

2. *Sponsor:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

3. *Control No.:* OMB No. 1902-0115. The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve a three-year extension of the current expiration date, with no changes to the existing collection. This is a mandatory information collection requirement.

4. *Necessity of Collection of Information:* Submission of the information is necessary to fulfill the requirements of Sections 9 and 10(a) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) in order for the Commission to make a required finding that the proposal for a hydropower project is economically feasible, technically, and environmentally sound, and is best adapted to the comprehensive plan of development of the water resources of the region. Under Section 405(c) of the public Utilities Regulatory policies Act of 1978, the Commission may in its discretion (by rule or order) grant an exemption in whole or in part from the requirements of Part 1 of the FPA to small hydropower projects having a proposed installed capacity of 5,000 kilowatts or less. The information collected in the form of a written application for a license and used by commission staff to determine the broad impact of a hydropower license application.

Respondent Description: The respondent universe currently comprises on average, 12 applicants subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

6. *Estimated Burden:* 4,512 total burden hours, 12 respondents, 1 response annually, 376 hours per response (average).

7. *Estimated Cost Burden to Respondents:* 4,512 hours ÷ 2,080 hours per year × \$111,545 per year = \$241,966, average cost per respondent = \$20,168.

Statutory Authority: Sections 4(e), 9, 10, 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. 791A *et seq.*

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-6448 Filed 3-15-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER00-612-000]

Ameren Operating Companies; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

March 10, 2000.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in this proceeding commencing at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 24, 2000, at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, for the purpose of exploring the possible settlement of the above-referenced docket.

Any party, as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(c), or any participant as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(b), is invited to attend. Persons wishing to become a party must move to intervene and receive intervenor status pursuant to the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 385.214).

For additional information, please contact Thomas J. Burgess at (202) 208-2058, or Dawn K. Martin at (202) 208-0661.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-6454 Filed 3-15-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M