

Applicants: Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: 1894R4 Westar Energy, Inc. NITSA and NOA to be effective 8/1/2015.

Filed Date: 8/20/15.

Accession Number: 20150820–5159.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/10/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2497–000.

Applicants: Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: 2066R4 Westar Energy, Inc. NITSA and NOA to be effective 8/1/2015.

Filed Date: 8/20/15.

Accession Number: 20150820–5162.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/10/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2498–000.

Applicants: Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: 2491R3 Westar Energy, Inc. NITSA and NOA to be effective 8/1/2015.

Filed Date: 8/20/15.

Accession Number: 20150820–5177.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/10/15.

Take notice that the Commission received the following public utility holding company filings:

Docket Numbers: PH15–18–000.

Applicants: arGo Partners GP LLC.

Description: arGo Partners GP LLC submits FERC 65–B Waiver Notification.

Filed Date: 8/20/15.

Accession Number: 20150820–5157.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/10/15.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by clicking on the links or querying the docket number.

Any person desiring to intervene or protest in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

Dated: August 20, 2015.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015–21111 Filed 8–25–15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings #2

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

Docket Numbers: ER14–108–000.

Applicants: Entergy Arkansas, Inc., Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, L.L.C., Entergy Mississippi, Inc., Entergy New Orleans, Inc., Entergy Texas, Inc., Entergy Louisiana, LLC.

Description: Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. submits tariff filing per 35.19a(b): Refund Report [Corrected] to be effective N/A.

Filed Date: 8/19/15.

Accession Number: 20150819–5064.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2484–000.

Applicants: PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: Service Agreement No. 4218; Queue No. AA1–065 (ICSA) to be effective 7/20/2015.

Filed Date: 8/19/15.

Accession Number: 20150819–5092.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2485–000.

Applicants: Florida Power & Light Company.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: FPL on Behalf of Cedar Bay Generating Company, Limited Partnership PPA (Tolling) to be effective 12/31/9998.

Filed Date: 8/19/15.

Accession Number: 20150819–5105.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2486–000.

Applicants: Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: 2015–08–19 SA 743 ATC–WPSC 2nd Rev. G–TIA to be effective 8/20/2015.

Filed Date: 8/19/15.

Accession Number: 20150819–5113.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2487–000.

Applicants: Alabama Power Company.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: Duke Energy Renewables Solar SGIA Filing to be effective 8/5/2015.

Filed Date: 8/19/15.

Accession Number: 20150819–5115.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2488–000.

Applicants: MDU Resources Group, Inc.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: Certificate of Concurrence—TCEA to be effective 10/17/2015.

Filed Date: 8/19/15.

Accession Number: 20150819–5168.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2489–000.

Applicants: MDU Resources Group, Inc.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: Certificate of Concurrence—CMA to be effective 8/12/2015.

Filed Date: 8/19/15.

Accession Number: 20150819–5169.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2490–000.

Applicants: Puget Sound Energy, Inc. *Description:* Initial rate filing: Port of Seattle NITSA Amendment No 2 SA No 484 to be effective 2/1/2015.

Filed Date: 8/19/15.

Accession Number: 20150819–5165.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2491–000.

Applicants: MDU Resources Group, Inc.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: Certificate of Concurrence—EF TCEA to be effective 10/17/2015.

Filed Date: 8/19/15.

Accession Number: 20150819–5167.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2492–000.

Applicants: Otter Tail Power Company.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: Certificate of Concurrence to be effective 10/17/2015.

Filed Date: 8/19/15.

Accession Number: 20150819–5172.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2493–000.

Applicants: PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing: Original Service Agreement No. 4244; Queue Position #Z1–081 to be effective 7/20/2015.

Filed Date: 8/19/15.

Accession Number: 20150819–5174.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/9/15.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by clicking on the links or querying the docket number.

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docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf. For other information, call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Dated: August 19, 2015.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-21110 Filed 8-25-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Record of Decision for Upper Great Plains Wind Energy Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0408)

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: The Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), as joint lead agencies, issued the Upper Great Plains Wind Energy Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Final PEIS) (DOE/EIS-0408) on May 1, 2015. Western has decided to implement Alternative 1 as described in the Final PEIS and summarized in this Record of Decision (ROD). Alternative 1 was identified as both the agency preferred alternative and the environmentally preferred alternative.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on Western's proposed programmatic environmental evaluation procedures for wind energy project interconnections and general information about interconnections with Western's transmission system, contact Matt Marsh, Regional Environmental Manager, Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800, telephone (406) 255-2810, email *mmarsh@wapa.gov*. The Final PEIS, this ROD, and other project documents are available for review on Western's Web site at <https://www.wapa.gov/regions/UGP/Environment/Pages/ugp-nepa.aspx> and the project Web site at <http://plainswindeis.anl.gov>.

For general information on the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, please contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-54), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756, email *askNEPA@hq.doe.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Western and the Service, as joint lead agencies, prepared the Upper Great Plains Wind Energy Draft and Final PEIS (DOE/EIS-0408), the Final PEIS being issued May 1, 2015 (80 FR 24915), in response to an increase in wind energy development and interconnection requests. Western and the Service have interests in streamlining their procedures for conducting environmental reviews of wind energy applications by implementing standardized evaluation procedures and identifying measures to address potential environmental impacts associated with wind energy projects in the Upper Great Plains Region (UGP Region), which encompasses all or parts of the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Since formalizing the process and procedures for environmental reviews would be Federal actions, Western and the Service prepared the PEIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347), as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508). The Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Rural Utilities Service have participated in the development of the PEIS as cooperating agencies.

Western and the Service have cooperatively prepared the PEIS to: (1) Assess the potential environmental impacts associated with wind energy projects within the UGP Region that may interconnect to Western's transmission system, or that may propose placement of project elements on grassland or wetland easements managed by the Service; and (2) evaluate how environmental impacts would differ under alternative sets of environmental evaluation procedures, best management practices, avoidance strategies, and mitigation measures that the agencies would request project developers to implement, as appropriate, for specific wind energy projects.

The objective of the PEIS is to proactively strengthen and streamline the environmental review process by having already analyzed and addressed general environmental concerns while specifically providing for Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) compliance for wind development projects that incorporate design elements to reduce impacts. The PEIS analyzes, to the extent practicable, the impacts resulting from development of wind energy projects and the effectiveness of best management practices, avoidance of sensitive areas,

and mitigation measures in reducing potential impacts. Impacts and mitigation have been analyzed for each environmental resource, and all components of wind energy projects have been addressed, including turbines, transformers, collector lines, overhead lines, access roads, substation installations, and operational and maintenance activities. Many of the potential impacts resulting from constructing and operating these types of wind energy infrastructure are well known from existing wind energy generation projects. The environmental procedures and mitigation strategies developed have been structured to be consistent with Western's Open Access Transmission Service Tariff and Southwest Power Pool, Inc.'s (SPP) Open Access Transmission Tariff, both of which include environmental review provisions.¹

In addition to the PEIS, Western and the Service engaged in informal consultation under Section 7 of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. 1536, in support of the PEIS process. A programmatic biological assessment (Programmatic BA) was prepared for listed and candidate species occurring in the UGP Region. Development of the Programmatic BA was closely coordinated with the Service's North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office. That office issued a letter of concurrence with the Programmatic BA on July 7, 2015, as a result of this consultation.

The agencies also investigated a programmatic approach to Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 54 U.S.C. 306108. Since Section 106 consultation is highly site-specific, it was determined that effective consultation could only be accomplished once an individual project location was defined. However, general avoidance and protection measures for cultural resources and historic properties that would be implemented were identified and included in the analysis.

Purpose and Need

Western's purpose and need for Federal action was presented in the Draft and Final PEIS: Western needs to streamline the environmental review process for wind energy project interconnection requests to help

¹ Western's UGP Region has signed a membership agreement with SPP with a target date of transferring the functional control of its facilities in the eastern interconnection to SPP on October 1, 2015. Thereafter interconnection requests would be pursuant to the SPP tariff. Revisions to the SPP tariff incorporate Western's requirement that it will still perform NEPA reviews on interconnections associated with its facilities.