

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Promoting Regional Transmission Planning  
and Expansion to Facilitate Fuel Diversity  
Including Expanded Uses of Coal-fired Resources

Docket No. AD05-3-000

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

(March 21, 2005)

As announced in a Notice of Technical Conference issued on February 16, 2005 in the above referenced proceedings, a technical conference will be held on Friday May 13, 2005, to identify regional solutions to promoting regional transmission planning, expansion and enhancement to facilitate fuel diversity including increased integration of coal-fired resources to the transmission grid. The conference will be held at the Charleston Marriott Town Center, 200 Lee Street East, Charleston, West Virginia, 25301. Take note that the conference is now scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. (instead of 9:00 a.m.) and end at approximately 5:00 p.m. (EDT). The Commissioners will attend and participate.

A proposed agenda is attached. The Commission is now soliciting nominations for speakers at the technical conference. Persons wishing to nominate themselves as speakers should do so using this electronic link: <http://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/coal-05-13-speaker-form.asp>. Such nominations must be made before the close of business Friday, April 1, 2005, so that a final agenda for the technical conference can be drafted and published.

Although registration is not a strict requirement, in-person attendees are asked to register for the conference on-line by close of business on May 10, 2005 at <http://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/coal-05-13-form.asp>.

Transcripts of the conference will be immediately available from Ace Reporting Company (202-347-3700 or 1-800-266-6646) for a fee. They will be available for the public on the Commission's eLibrary system and on the calendar page posting for this event seven calendar days after FERC receives the transcript. Additionally, Capitol Connection offers the opportunity for remote listening of the conference via Real Audio or a Phone Bridge Connection for a fee. Persons interested in making arrangements should contact David Reininger or Julia Morelli at Capitol Connection (703-933-3100) as soon as possible or visit the Capitol Connection website at <http://www.capitolconnection.org> and click on "FERC."

For additional information, please contact Sarah McKinley at 202-502-8004, [sarah.mckinley@ferc.gov](mailto:sarah.mckinley@ferc.gov).

Magalie R. Salas  
Secretary

## Attachment A

**FERC Coal Technical Conference  
Charleston Marriott Town Center  
200 Lee Street East  
Charleston, WV 25301  
May 13, 2005  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

### **Agenda**

#### **Opening Remarks**

- Pat Wood III, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### **Clean Coal Initiatives Presentation**

Presenters will discuss the current federal and private initiatives regarding the development of clean coal technologies and their deployment into the energy markets. Presentations will inform conference attendees on whether clean coal can be considered “green” power and the competitiveness of clean coal generation in the electricity markets.

#### **Coal Overview – Current State of Coal Generation and its Potential Contribution to Solving Future Electric Needs**

- Jeff Wright - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Energy Projects

#### **The Current Initiatives for Regional Transmission Planning and Improving the Existing Efforts**

This panel will discuss the current transmission planning efforts and public policy issues from a state and federal level, including how the current processes address the potential for coal power projects and the identification of obstacles to coal development. The focus will be on processes from the existing RTO/ISO standpoint and on the processes from regions without an existing RTO or ISO. Questions intended to be addressed include:

- What is the current state of existing intra-state and inter-regional planning efforts?
- Which intra-state and inter-regional planning efforts are working the best and what are the best practices from these efforts?

- What issues or factors are specific to each region that necessitate different planning requirements?
- What are overall economic challenges faced by regional planning bodies?
- What new initiatives to infrastructure expansion are being developed and what are the obstacles to these initiatives success?
- What are short-term and long-term goals for regional and inter-regional planning efforts?
- Can current regional planning efforts be refocused to identify opportunities for increased utilization of the current transmission infrastructure?
- Should greater regulatory initiatives be considered in order to compliment the current transmission and generation planning processes?
- Can generation planning be refocused to match resource to benefit greater use of the existing grid (e.g., through joint ventures)?
- Can regional planning be improved to better consider opportunities for connecting remote generation (wind or coal) to load centers?

## **Lunch**

### **Views on Regional Planning from the Regional NERC Reliability Councils and State Representatives**

This panel will discuss the current initiatives being undertaken by the respective Regional NERC Reliability Councils to promote greater generation and transmission planning processes to facilitate the interconnection of coal units and to further the clean coal initiative and what roles the regional reliability councils should take in light of remote coal generation needing to reach load centers across multiple regions.

This panel will also discuss current state initiatives for increasing coal-fired generation and whether individual states could expand their initiatives to foster regional decision-making and the states' views on the existing regional planning process and whether more regulatory initiatives are needed to promote regional transmission expansion.

- What expanded role should the regional reliability councils take in regional planning?
- What can coal-fired generators and regional transmission bodies do to increase reliability on the transmission system?
- Would transmission congestion be mitigated by increased coal-fired generation and construction of new transmission lines?
- What roles do the states currently have in the regional planning process? Should those roles change?

- Is joint action and collaboration among the federal and state regulatory authorities required to foster increased regional planning and grid enhancements?

## **Break**

### **Views on Regional Planning from the Coal Industry**

This panel will review the coal projects under consideration, the impact of the current transmission infrastructure on the project decision-making process, and the pros and cons of the location decisions for coal projects. Questions intended to be discussed include:

- What opportunities exist for coal from joint ventures in a generation planning perspective?
- What are views of coal-fired plant owners with respect to regional transmission planning?
- How can regional planning bodies work better with the coal industry to increase planning efforts?
- What clean coal initiatives are being developed for use in existing coal-fired plants and new coal-fired plants?
- How can clean coal initiatives lead to construction of new coal-fired plants and new transmission development?
- What are the cost impacts from location decisions when constructing close to load versus mine-mouth operations?
- Can transportation costs of coal be significantly reduced by siting coal-fired generation in the proper areas?
- What advantages can be gained by mine-mouth operations versus using the existing coal delivery structure?

## **Questions and Answers**

## **Closing Remarks**

## **Adjourn**