

126 FERC ¶ 61,091
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

18 CFR Part 375

[Docket No. RM08-18-000; Order No. 721]

Chief Accountant Delegations

(Issued February 4, 2009)

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Final Rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission is revising its regulations governing delegations of authority to reflect the transfer of its Chief Accountant to the Office of Enforcement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule will become effective immediately upon publication in the Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before Commissioners: Jon Wellinghoff, Acting Chairman;
Sudeen G. Kelly, Marc Spitzer,
and Philip D. Moeller.

Chief Accountant Delegations

Docket No. RM08-18-000

FINAL RULE

ORDER NO. 721

(Issued February 4, 2009)

I. Discussion

1. The Commission is revising its delegations of authority to reflect the transfer of the Chief Accountant function to the Office of Enforcement. Currently, the regulations delegate certain matters directly to the Chief Accountant.¹ Because the Chief Accountant is now located within the Office of Enforcement, it would be more appropriate if actions taken by that official were done through the Director of that office, to whom the Chief Accountant now reports and who is ultimately responsible for the activities of the Chief Accountant.² In addition, responsibilities with regard to forms administration, data collection, and reports are no longer under the direction of the Chief Accountant.

¹ 18 CFR 375.303 (2008).

² This revision requires the renumbering of the delegations to the Director of the Office of Electric Reliability from section 375.314 to section 375.303.

Accordingly, authority to act on these items should no longer rest with the Chief Accountant. The Director can, under the regulations, subdelegate functions as appropriate.³ The delegated authority being transferred is not being altered in any way.

II. Information Collection Statement

2. The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulations require that OMB approve certain information collection requirements imposed by agency rule.⁴ This Final Rule does not contain information reporting requirements and is not subject to OMB approval.

III. Environmental Analysis

3. The Commission is required to prepare an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement for any action that may have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment.⁵ Issuance of this Final Rule does not represent a major federal action having a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment under the Commission's regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. Part 380 of the Commission's regulations lists exemptions to the requirement to draft an Environmental Analysis or Environmental Impact Statement.

³ 18 CFR 375.301(b) (2008).

⁴ 5 CFR Part 1320.

⁵ Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897 (Dec. 17, 1987), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 30,783 (1987).

Included is an exemption for procedural, ministerial or internal administrative actions.⁶

This rulemaking is exempt under that provision.

IV. Regulatory Flexibility Act

4. The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA)⁷ generally requires a description and analysis of final rules that will have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This Final Rule concerns matters of internal agency procedure. The Commission therefore certifies that it will not have such an impact. An analysis under the RFA is not required.

V. Document Availability

5. In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the Federal Register, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the Internet through FERC's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) and in FERC's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time) at 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington D.C. 20426.

6. From FERC's Home Page on the Internet, this information is available on eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing, printing, and/or downloading. To access this document in

⁶ 18 CFR 380.4(1) and (5).

⁷ 5 U.S.C. 601-612.

eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field.

7. User assistance is available for eLibrary and the FERC's website during normal business hours from FERC Online Support at 202-502-6652 (toll free at 1-866-208-3676) or email at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or the Public Reference Room at (202) 502-8371, TTY (202)502-8659. E-mail the Public Reference Room at public.referenceroom@ferc.gov.

VI. Effective Date and Congressional Notification

8. These regulations are effective immediately upon publication in the Federal Register. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Commission finds that good cause exists to make this Final Rule effective immediately. It makes minor revisions to matters of internal operations and is unlikely to affect the rights of persons appearing before the Commission. There is therefore no reason to make this rule effective at a later time.

9. The provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 801 regarding Congressional review of final rules do not apply to this Final Rule, because this Final Rule concerns agency procedure and practice and will not substantially affect the rights of non-agency parties.

10. The Commission is issuing this as a Final Rule without a period for public comment. Under 5 U.S.C. § 553(b), notice and comment procedures are unnecessary where a rulemaking concerns only agency procedure and practice, or where the agency

finds that notice and comment is unnecessary. This rule concerns only matters of internal agency procedure and will not significantly affect regulated entities or the general public.

List of subjects in 18 CFR Part 375

Authority delegations (Government agencies), Seals and insignia, Sunshine Act.

By the Commission. Commissioner Kelliher is not participating.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

In consideration of the foregoing, the Commission amends Parts 375, Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, as follows.

PART 375—THE COMMISSION

1. The authority citation for Part 375 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. §§ 551-557; 15 U.S.C. §§ 717-717w, 3301-3432; 16 U.S.C. §§ 791-825r, 2601-2645; 42 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7352.

2. Part 375 is amended by deleting section 375.303 and renumbering section 375.314 as section 375.303.

3. Section 375.311 is amended by adding paragraphs (m) through (t) as follows:

§ 375.311 Delegations to the Director of the Office of Enforcement.

* * * * *

(m) Sign all correspondence with respect to financial accounting and reporting matters on behalf of the Commission.

(n) Pass upon actual legitimate original cost and depreciation thereon and the net investment in jurisdictional companies and revisions thereof.

(o) Issue interpretations of the Uniform Systems of Accounts for public utilities and licensees, centralized service companies, natural gas companies and oil pipeline companies.

(p) Pass upon any proposed accounting matters submitted by or on behalf of jurisdictional companies that require Commission approval under the Uniform Systems

of Accounts, except that if the proposed accounting matters involve unusually large transactions or unique or controversial features, the Director of the Office of Enforcement must present the matters to the Commission for consideration.

(q) Pass upon applications to increase the size or combine property units of jurisdictional companies.

(r) Deny or grant, in whole or in part, motions for extension of time to file, or requests for waiver of the requirements of the following forms, data collections, and reports: Annual Reports (Form Nos. 1, 1-F, 2, 2-A, and 6); Quarterly Reports (Form Nos. 3-Q and 6-Q); Annual Report of Centralized Service Companies (Form No. 60); Narrative Description of Service Company Functions (FERC-61); Report of Transmission Investment Activity (FERC-730); and Electric Quarterly Reports, as well as, where required, the electronic filing of such information (Sec. 385.2011 of this chapter, Procedures for filing on electronic media, paragraphs (a)(6), (c), and (e)).

(s) Provide notification if a submitted Annual Report (Form Nos. 1, 1-F, 2, 2-A, and 6), Quarterly Report (Form Nos. 3-Q and 6-Q), Annual Report of Centralized Service Companies (Form No. 60), Narrative Description of Service Company Functions (FERC-61), Report of Transmission Investment Activity (FERC-730), or Electric Quarterly Report fails to comply with applicable statutory requirements, and with all applicable Commission rules, regulations, and orders for which a waiver has not been granted, or, when appropriate, notify a party that a submission is acceptable.

(t) Deny or grant, in whole or in part, requests for waiver of the requirements of parts 352, 356, 367 and 368 of this chapter, except that, if the matters involve unusually large transactions or unique or controversial features, the Director of the Office of Enforcement must present the matters to the Commission for consideration.