



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
December 20, 2012
Open Commission Meeting
Staff Presentation
Item E-4

"Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. We are here to present a draft Final Rule concerning the Availability of E-Tag Information to Commission Staff.

"Electronic tags, or e-Tags, are used to schedule the transmission of power across interchanges in wholesale electricity markets. This draft Final Rule amends the Commission's regulations to grant the Commission non-public and ongoing access to the complete e-Tags used to schedule the transmission of power. To effectuate access for the Commission, the draft Final Rule directs e-Tag Authors (who create e-Tags) and Balancing Authorities (who distribute and validate e-Tags) to designate the Commission as an addressee with view-only rights to e-Tags. After the Commission is designated as an addressee, the Commission will access the e-Tags by contracting with a commercial vendor that provides data management services.

"In addition, this draft Final Rule will require that complete e-Tags be made available to Market Monitoring Units (or MMUs), Regional Transmission Organizations (or RTOs) and Independent System Operators (or ISOs), subject to appropriate confidentiality restrictions, upon request to the e-Tag Authors and Balancing Authorities.

"The e-Tag information made available under this draft Final Rule will help the Commission to detect and prevent market manipulation and anti-competitive behavior, monitor the efficiency of the markets, and better inform Commission policies and decisionmaking. This information is necessary to understand the use of the interconnected electricity grid, particularly those transactions occurring at interchanges. For example, e-Tag information can enable the Commission to investigate whether entities may be engaging in manipulative schemes involving the circular scheduling of imports and exports into a market to benefit other positions held by these entities. In addition, this information will help the Commission determine whether business practice standards involving e-Tags are being followed.

"Moreover, access to complete e-Tag data for MMUs, RTOs and ISOs will allow them to better identify behavior that may constitute market manipulation and allow them to refer instances of such conduct to the Commission. Sharing e-Tag data with MMUs, RTOs and ISOs can also aid the Commission in its own market surveillance, by bringing to the Commission's attention problems identified by these entities.

"This completes our presentation. We would be happy to answer questions."