

143 FERC ¶ 61,285
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before Commissioners: Jon Wellinghoff, Chairman;
Philip D. Moeller, John R. Norris,
Cheryl A. LaFleur, and Tony Clark.

Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

Docket No. ER13-1292-000

ORDER CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTING TARIFF REVISIONS

(Issued June 27, 2013)

1. On April 16, 2013, SPP filed proposed revisions to Attachment V, Appendix 6 of its Tariff to require generation interconnection customers that execute an LGIA on or after June 16, 2013 to provide certain meteorological, geographic, and forced outage data to SPP pursuant to Order No. 764.¹ In this order, we accept SPP's proposed revisions, to become effective June 16, 2013, as requested, subject to a further compliance filing.

I. Background

2. On June 22, 2012, the Commission issued Order No. 764, which requires each public utility transmission provider to: (1) offer intra-hourly transmission scheduling at 15-minute intervals; and (2) incorporate provisions into the *pro forma* Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA) requiring interconnection customers whose generating facilities are Variable Energy Resources (VERs) to provide meteorological and forced outage data to the public utility transmission provider for the purpose of power production forecasting.² On rehearing, the Commission extended the deadline to comply with Order No. 764 to November 12, 2013.³

3. Order No. 764 specifically directs public utility transmission providers to revise article 8.4 of the *pro forma* LGIA to specify certain categories of meteorological and

¹ *Integration of Variable Energy Resources*, Order No. 764, 77 FR 41482 (July 13, 2012), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,331, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 764-A, 141 FERC ¶ 61,232 (2012).

² *See* Order No. 764, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,331 at PP 91-113, 171-182, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 764-A, 141 FERC ¶ 61,232 at P 1.

³ *See* Order No. 764-A, 141 FERC ¶ 61,232 at P 8.

forced outage data to be provided by interconnection customers whose facilities are VERs, where necessary for that public utility transmission provider to develop and deploy power production forecasting.⁴ Order No. 764 also provides that the exact specifications of the data required, as well as the timing and frequency of data submittals, will be addressed through negotiation between the public utility transmission provider and the interconnection customer.⁵

II. SPP's Filing

4. SPP proposes to define VERs in article 1 of Attachment V to Appendix 6 of the *pro forma* LGIA in the same manner as the Commission defined that term in Order No. 764. Specifically, SPP defines a VER as “[a] device for the production of electricity that is characterized by an energy source that: (1) is renewable; (2) cannot be stored by the facility owner or operator; and (3) has variability that is beyond the control of the facility owner or operator.”⁶

5. SPP also proposes revisions to article 8 of Attachment V in Appendix 6 to the *pro forma* LGIA to adopt verbatim the data requirements of Order No. 764 for temperature, wind speed, wind direction, and atmospheric pressure.⁷ SPP proposes additional requirements for (1) relative humidity; (2) site-specific geographic data, including location (latitude and longitude) of the VER; and (3) location (latitude and longitude) and height of the facility that contains the equipment necessary to provide the meteorological data for the VER. SPP also proposes to add “geographical” to the penultimate and the last sentences of proposed article 8.4 so that it reads as follows:

All requirements for meteorological, *geographical* and forced outage data must be commensurate with the power production forecasting employed by the Transmission Provider. Such requirements for meteorological, *geographical* and forced outage data are set forth in Appendix C,

⁴ Order No. 764, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,331 at PP 174-182, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 764-A, 141 FERC ¶ 61,232 at PP 33-39.

⁵ See Order No. 764, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,331 at PP 171, 175.

⁶ SPP April 16, 2013, Transmittal Letter at 5 (SPP Transmittal Letter). SPP notes that it also proposed to define VERs in this manner in section 1.1 Definitions V, SPP Attachment AE in its February 15, 2013 compliance filing in the SPP Integrated Marketplace proceeding in Docket No. ER12-1179-003.

⁷ *Id.*

Interconnection Details, of this LGIA, as they may change from time to time.^[8]

6. SPP argues that the additional requirements are just and reasonable because they are minimal additions that add a level of granularity and refinement to the data requirements specified in Order No. 764 that will allow it to produce a higher-quality power production forecast. SPP explains that relative humidity is an important factor to consider in power production forecasting due to the effect of humidity on air density, which SPP states can affect wind power generation. SPP adds that given the variation in relative humidity at different locations across the SPP footprint at different times of the year, including a site-specific relative humidity data requirement will give SPP additional relevant information to develop forecasts.⁹

7. SPP states that data related to the geographical location of a wind resource will help SPP develop a more accurate forecast when resource-specific meteorological data are unavailable. SPP notes that, when market participant meteorological data are not available, it must generate power production forecasts using publicly-available meteorological data, which may be collected at locations far away from the remote locations of some wind resources. SPP adds that the precise geographical location of the wind resource will enable SPP to make necessary adjustments to generic, publicly-available meteorological data to ensure accurate VER forecasting.¹⁰

8. SPP explains that height of the facility and height of the data collection point are important because meteorological data may be collected at a different height than the wind-powered resource's height, requiring SPP to make adjustments to ensure accurate forecasting for the wind-powered resource. SPP adds that requiring height information will aid it in developing more accurate forecasts for wind-powered resources, without posing any significant burden on wind-powered VERs.¹¹

9. SPP requests an effective date of June 16, 2013 to ensure that new interconnection customers with VERs that execute an LGIA after that date are required to provide meteorological, geographic, and outage data that will be necessary for SPP to conduct power production forecasting that SPP will implement in its Integrated Marketplace. SPP

⁸ SPP Tariff, [Att. V Appendix 6, Attachment V Appendix 6 Generator Interconnection Agreement, 3.0.0](#), Article 8.4 (emphasis added).

⁹ SPP Transmittal Letter at 6.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

states that, on or before the November 12, 2013 compliance deadline, it intends to submit a compliance filing to address the remaining requirements of Order No. 764.¹²

III. Notice of Filing and Responsive Pleadings

10. Notice of SPP's filing was published in the *Federal Register*, 78 Fed. Reg. 24,191 (2013), with interventions and protests due on or before May 7, 2013. Timely motions to intervene were filed by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative. No comments or protests were filed.

IV. Discussion

A. Procedural Matters

11. Pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2012), the timely, unopposed motions to intervene serve to make the entities that filed them parties to this proceeding.

B. Commission Determination

12. We accept SPP's Tariff revisions to adopt data reporting requirements pursuant to Order No. 764, to become effective June 16, 2013, as requested. SPP has proposed Tariff provisions related to the minimum, site-specific meteorological data requirements of temperature, wind speed, wind direction and atmospheric pressure for interconnection customers having wind as the energy source, as required by Order No. 764.¹³ We find that these Tariff provisions comply with the requirements of Order No. 764. SPP has also proposed Tariff provisions that set forth additional data reporting requirements regarding relative humidity; the latitude and longitude of the VER; and the latitude, longitude and height of the facility that contains the equipment necessary to provide the meteorological data for the VER. We are satisfied that SPP has demonstrated the need for the additional data it seeks from new interconnection customers with VERs to implement its power production forecasting in the Integrated Marketplace. SPP states that it will use the relative humidity and geographic location information to allow it to produce a higher quality forecast, while posing only minimal additional data requirements. We find these additional Tariff revisions to be consistent with or superior to the compliance requirements of Order No. 764 and will therefore accept them.

13. We note that SPP states that it plans to submit a compliance filing to address the remaining requirements of Order No. 764 on or before the November 12, 2013 due date.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *See* Order No. 764, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,331 at P 177.

We will therefore condition our acceptance upon SPP submitting a further Order No. 764 compliance filing.¹⁴

The Commission orders:

SPP's proposed Tariff sheets are hereby conditionally accepted, to become effective June 16, 2013, as requested, subject to a further compliance filing, as discussed in the body of this order.

By the Commission.

(S E A L)

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

¹⁴ As noted above, on February 15, 2013, SPP submitted a compliance filing in the Integrated Marketplace proceeding that includes proposed Tariff revisions regarding VER data requirements and SPP's VER power production forecasts. *See supra* note 6.