

May 2015

Commission Meeting Summaries

These are summaries of orders voted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at its May 14, 2015 public meeting. The summaries are produced by FERC's Office of External Affairs and are intended to provide only a general synopsis of the orders. These summaries are not intended as a substitute for the Commission's official orders. To determine the specific actions and the Commission's reasoning, please consult the individual orders when they are posted to FERC's eLibrary found at www.ferc.gov.

E-1 – Press Release

FERC conditionally accepts compliance filings

E-2, *ISO New England Inc.*, Docket No. ER13-1957-000, *et al.* This order addresses the filings submitted to comply with the interregional transmission coordination and cost allocation requirements of Order No. 1000 by neighboring transmission planning regions ISO New England Inc., New York Independent System Operator, Inc., and PJM Interconnection, LLC. The order finds the compliance filings partially comply with the interregional transmission requirements adopted in Order No. 1000, and conditionally accepts them, subject to further compliance filings.

FERC conditionally accepts compliance filings

E-3, *Public Service Company of Colorado*, Docket No. ER13-75-006, *et al.* This order addresses the Filing Parties' third Order No. 1000 regional compliance filing and requests for rehearing of the Commission's second compliance order. The order denies the rehearing requests and rejects in part and accepts in part the Filing Parties' proposed tariff revisions, subject to conditions.

FERC conditionally accepts compliance filings

E-4, *Avista Corporation*, Docket No. ER13-94-004, *et al.* This order conditionally accepts for filing, subject to further compliance filing, ColumbiaGrid Public Utilities' third Order No. 1000 compliance filings, effective January 1, 2015.

FERC denies rehearing

E-5, *ENE (Environment Northeast) v. Bangor Hydro-Electric Co.*, Docket No. EL13-33-001, *et al.* This order denies requests for rehearing of two Commission orders establishing hearing procedures for two complaints challenging the New England Transmission Owners' return on equity.

FERC denies rehearing

E-6, *Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. v. Southwestern Public Service Co.*, Docket Nos. EL12-59-001 & EL13-78-001 (consolidated). The order denies requests for rehearing of two Commission orders establishing hearing procedures for two complaints in which Golden Spread challenged the return on equity in Southwestern Public Service Co.'s (SPS) transmission formula rates found in the Replacement Power Sales Agreement between SPS and Golden Spread, and the transmission revenue requirement in Xcel Energy Inc.'s open access transmission tariff.

FERC conditionally accepts tariff revisions

E-7, *Nevada Power Company*, Docket Nos. ER15-1196-000 and -001. This order conditionally accepts, subject to further filings, proposed revisions to NV Energy's Open Access Transmission Tariff to enable its participation in the California Independent System Operator Corporation's Energy Imbalance Market.

FERC denies request

E-8, *Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation*, Docket No. QM15-2-000. This order denies Northern States Power Company's (NSPM) application to terminate its obligation to purchase electric energy and capacity from a qualifying facility owned by Twin Cities Hydro LLC (Twin Cities), in light of NSPM's failure to demonstrate that Twin Cities has nondiscriminatory access to the capacity market of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

FERC authorizes a transfer of an electric generating facility

E-9, *PowerMinn 9090, LLC*, Docket No. EC15-76-000. This order authorizes the transfer of a 64-megawatt electric generating facility from PowerMinn 9090 and Fibrominn, LLC to Benson Power, LLC.

FERC authorizes issuance of securities

E-10, *NorthWestern Corporation*, Docket No. ES15-14-000. This order grants NorthWestern's request for authorization to issue securities under section 204 of the Federal Power Act. Though NorthWestern's *pro forma* interest coverage ratio is below 2.0, the facts set forth by NorthWestern, including that its retail rates allow for recovery of its interest expense for the proposed issuances of securities, provide the Commission an alternative basis upon which to conclude that the proposed issuances of securities should not impair NorthWestern's ability to both service the proposed securities and to continue to provide service as a public utility.

FERC accepts a filing

E-12, *Entergy Services, Inc.*, Docket No. ER07-956-008. The order accepts Entergy's comprehensive bandwidth recalculation report for calendar year 2006. The order also accepts Entergy's application of the bandwidth formula to Entergy Texas and Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, the successors to Entergy Gulf States, an entity which no longer exists.

FERC finds compliance filing moot

E-13, *Entergy Services, Inc.*, Docket Nos. ER10-3357-000 and 001. This order finds that Entergy's compliance filing in response to Order Nos. 729 and 676-E is moot due to Entergy's December 19, 2013 integration into Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., which resulted in the cancellation of Entergy's Open Access Transmission Tariff.

FERC grants a petition for declaratory order

E-14, *Avista Corporation*, Docket No. EL15-19-000. The order grants a petition for a declaratory order finding that Avista is exempt from certain books and records-related requirements under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005.

FERC grants request for limited waiver

E-15, *Southwest Power Pool, Inc.*, Docket No. ER15-990-000. This order grants SPP's request for limited waiver of certain provisions in Attachment AE of SPP's tariff to recognize the establishment of certain resource hubs in SPP's Integrated Marketplace.

FERC denies rehearing

G-1, *CAIifornians for Renewable Energy, Inc., Michael E. Boyd, Robert M. Sarvey v. Pacific Gas and Electric Company*, Docket No. RP13-436-001. This order denies a request for rehearing filed by CAIifornians for Renewable Energy, Inc., Michael E. Boyd, and Robert M. Sarvey of the Commission's order denying their complaint that Pacific Gas and Electric Company had violated the terms and conditions of its blanket certificate through failure to meet requirements to maintain its natural gas pipeline system, with regard to events leading up to, during, and following the San Bruno pipeline explosion.

FERC grants intervention and rehearing

H-2, *Brookfield Smoky Mountain Hydropower, LLC*, Project No. 2169-109. This order grants American Whitewater's motion to intervene and request for rehearing of Commission staff's March 11, 2015 order, which incorporated into the license a revised Clean Water Act section 401(a) Water Quality Certification and amended the operating plan for the Brookfield Smokey Mountain Hydro Project No. 2169, located on the Little Tennessee River in Graham and Swain counties, North Carolina, and Blount and Monroe counties, Tennessee. The order amends the operating plan to include American Whitewater as a consulted entity for high flow event planning.

FERC proposes a rule

H-3, *Commencement of Assessment of Annual Charges*, Docket No. RM-15-18-000. This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) proposes to amend the Commission's regulations to commence assessing annual charges to hydropower licensees and exemptees, other than state or municipal entities, with respect to licenses and exemptions authorizing unconstructed projects and new capacity, beginning two years from the effective date of the project license, exemption, or amendment authorizing new capacity, rather than on the date that project construction starts. The proposed revisions will provide administrative efficiency and promote certainty among licensees, exemptees, and Commission staff as to when annual charges will commence.

FERC grants rehearing and approves a filing

H-4, *TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc*, Project Nos. 1892-027, 1855-046, and 1904-074. This order grants TransCanada's request for rehearing of a February 21, 2014 determination letter filed by the Director, Office of Energy Projects, on a study plan submitted by TransCanada, licensee for the Wilder Hydroelectric Project No. 1892, Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1855, and the Vernon Hydroelectric Project No. 1904, located on the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont. The order deletes the requirement for a hydroacoustic study to monitor downstream passage of

juvenile American shad and adult American eels at one of the projects and approves TransCanada's Revised Study 22 regarding juvenile shad.

FERC authorizes a cross-border natural gas pipeline project

C-1, *Impulsora Pipeline, LLC*, Docket No. CP14-513-000. This order issues a Presidential Permit and grants authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act to Impulsora Pipeline for a new border crossing pipeline facility that will transport Texas-sourced gas gathered from a proposed intrastate pipeline to a power plant to be constructed near Colombia, Nuevo León, Mexico. The project will consist of one 36-inch-diameter, 4,000-foot-long pipeline and one 12-inch-diameter, 2,500-foot-long pipeline that will run parallel to the 36-inch-diameter pipeline. The export facilities will have a design capacity to transport approximately 1.12 million cubic feet of gas per day. In addition to the two pipelines, Impulsora proposes to construct and operate a meter and pigging equipment, consisting of one 12-inch pig receiver and one 36-inch pig receiver that will be situated on 0.6 acre of land.

FERC authorizes new natural gas pipeline facilities

C-2, *Paiute Pipeline Company*, Docket No. CP14-509-000. This order issues a certificate of public convenience and necessity to Paiute Pipeline Company to construct and operate the proposed Elko Area Expansion Project in Nevada. The project would include the construction and operation of approximately 35.2 miles of 8-inch diameter pipeline, modification of Paiute's Elko City Gate and the construction and operation of a new interconnection with Ruby Pipeline, LLC. The proposed project will enable Paiute to provide 21,994 dekatherms of gas per day of incremental firm transportation service to Southwest Gas Corporation-Northern Nevada and Newmont Mining Corporation. The order also examines and rejects an alternative route sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management and Prospector Pipeline Company.

FERC authorizes new natural gas pipeline facilities

C-3, *Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC*, Docket No. CP14-522-000. This order grants Algonquin Gas Transmission a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate the Salem Lateral Project which will consist of approximately 1.2 miles of 16-inch-diameter lateral pipeline and a metering and regulating station in Salem, Massachusetts. The project will connect Algonquin's HubLine to a proposed 630-megawatt, quick-start, natural gas-fired generation facility.

FERC approves letters to secretaries of the Defense and State departments

C-5, *Roadrunner Gas Transmission, LLC*, Docket No. CP15-161-000. These letters request comments from the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense regarding the application filed by Roadrunner Gas Transmission, LLC for authorization under section 3

of the Natural Gas Act and a Presidential Permit to site, construct, connect, operate, and maintain natural gas pipeline facilities at the international boundary between the United States and Mexico in the vicinity of San Elizario in El Paso County, Texas for the export of natural gas.

FERC grants a certificate of public convenience and necessity

C-6, *Black Hills Shoshone Pipeline, LLC*. Docket No. CP15-32-000. This order grants the requested authorizations, subject to conditions, submitted in a joint application under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) by Black Hills Shoshone Pipeline, LLC (Black Hills) and Energy West Development, Inc. (Energy West). The order grants (1) NGA section 7(b) authorization for Energy West to abandon by sale the Shoshone Pipeline, an approximately 30-mile-long, six-inch-diameter pipeline system located in Montana and Wyoming; (2) a certificate of public convenience and necessity under NGA section 7(c) and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations authorizing Black Hills to acquire and operate the Shoshone Pipeline and to provide service at the same rates, terms, and conditions currently applicable to service under Energy West's tariff; (3) a blanket certificate in accordance with Subpart F of Part 157 of the Commission's regulations for Black Hills to perform certain routine construction, operation and abandonment activities; and (4) a blanket certificate in accordance with Subpart G of Part 284 of the Commission's regulations authorizing Black Hills to provide open access firm and interruptible transportation services.