

151 FERC ¶ 61,249
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before Commissioners: Norman C. Bay, Chairman;
Philip D. Moeller, Cheryl A. LaFleur,
Tony Clark, and Colette D. Honorable.

Nevada Power Company

Docket No. ER15-1560-000

ORDER CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTING TARIFF REVISIONS

(Issued June 22, 2015)

1. On April 23, 2015, pursuant to section 205 of the Federal Power Act,¹ and Part 35 of the Commission's regulations,² Nevada Power Company (Nevada Power) submitted proposed revisions to Attachment N of its Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) to revise its *pro forma* Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA) to permit interconnection customers to obtain interim interconnection service. In this order, the Commission conditionally accepts Nevada Power's proposed revisions effective June 22, 2015, as requested, subject to Nevada Power making a compliance filing.

I. Background

2. Nevada Power proposes to revise its *pro forma* LGIA to offer interim interconnection service. Nevada Power explains that it began to accommodate queue clusters in 2014 and that its first cluster window includes seven interconnection requests. Nevada Power states that, in order to accommodate all interconnection requests in that cluster, significant network upgrades are required, which Nevada Power anticipates will be completed in 2016. However, according to Nevada Power, certain interconnection participants in the cluster will be ready to interconnect their generating facilities and produce power prior to the completion of the required upgrades. Nevada Power states that it anticipates that issues with respect to cluster participants' timing of interconnection will likely arise in the next and future iterations of the clustering of interconnection

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824d (2012).

² 18 C.F.R. pt 35 (2014).

requests. Therefore, Nevada Power proposes to revise its *pro forma* LGIA to offer interim interconnection service.³

3. First, Nevada Power proposes that interim interconnection service is only available to the extent the transmission system, as configured, can support it, and that no network upgrades will be needed to permit the service. Next, Nevada Power explains that, to the extent it receives multiple requests for interim interconnection service that cannot all be accommodated, interim interconnection service will be given to the interconnection customer with the higher generation interconnection queue position within the cluster. Nevada Power states that this approach reflects the Commission's *pro forma* LGIA, which grants service based on queue priority.

4. Nevada Power asserts that interim interconnection service will be available to, and accommodate the needs of, interconnection customers within the cluster with generating facilities projected to be in service prior to the completion of required network upgrades.⁴ Nevada Power states that the proposed interim interconnection service is consistent with or superior to the *pro forma* LGIA and is not unduly discriminatory. Nevada Power believes that providing the option of interim interconnection service to every interconnection customer within a cluster will have several benefits that protect customers and the integrity of the existing interconnection process.⁵

II. Notice of Filing and Responsive Pleadings

5. Notice of Nevada Power's filing was published in the *Federal Register*, 80 Fed. Reg. 24,912 (2015), with interventions and protests due on or before May 14, 2015. None was filed.

III. Discussion

6. We conditionally accept Nevada Power's proposed revisions to its LGIA to provide interim interconnection service, subject to a compliance filing, as discussed below. We find that providing those interconnection customers whose in-service dates occur prior to completion of required upgrades with the option to request interim interconnection service will promote efficient use of the existing transmission system

³ Nevada Power April 23 Filing at 1-2. Nevada Power states it modeled its interim interconnection service after Southwest Power Pool, Inc.'s (SPP) interim interconnection procedures included in the SPP OATT. *Id.* at 2.

⁴ *Id.* at 4-5.

⁵ *Id.* at 4.

and available generation. We also find that Nevada Power's proposed interim interconnection service helps accommodate the needs of those customers ready to interconnect while simultaneously respecting queue position priority. The Commission has previously recognized that interim interconnection service can provide benefits by allowing an interconnection customer that is ready to interconnect to receive needed interconnection service—albeit on a conditional basis—while leaving queue positions undisturbed and making use of available capacity, which results in a more efficient use of the transmission system.⁶ We find that Nevada Power's proposed interim interconnection service achieves this same result.

7. While Nevada Power revised its LGIA to reflect the addition of this new service, it did not revise its Large Generator Interconnection Procedures (LGIP) to outline the availability of interim interconnection service or the procedures for obtaining the service. Revising the LGIP is necessary to ensure that customers are aware of the service prior to the execution of an LGIA and that the service will be provided on a non-discriminatory basis.⁷ Therefore, we direct Nevada Power to submit a compliance filing revising its LGIP to outline the availability of interim interconnection service and to add provisions to its LGIP that specify the procedures for requesting and obtaining the service within 30 days of the date of this order.

The Commission orders:

(A) Nevada Power's revisions to its *pro forma* LGIA are hereby conditionally accepted, effective June 22, 2015, as discussed in the body of this order.

⁶ *Southwest Power Pool, Inc.*, 128 FERC ¶ 61,191, at P 21 (2009).

⁷ SPP's interim interconnection procedures, on which Nevada Power states that it has modeled its interim interconnection service, contain provisions for the service in SPP's generator interconnection procedures, as well as in its interim GIA. *See Southwest Power Pool, Inc.*, 130 FERC ¶ 61,077 (2010); *see also* Southwest Power Pool, Inc., Open Access Transmission Tariff, Sixth Revised Volume No. 1, Attachment V Section 11A (1.1.0).

(B) Nevada Power is hereby directed to make a compliance filing within 30 days of the date of this order, as discussed in the body of this order.

By the Commission.

(S E A L)

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.