



**Technical Conference on Implementation Issues Under the
Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978
Docket No. AD16-16-000
June 29, 2016**

Final Agenda

The technical conference will focus on issues associated with the Commission's implementation of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA).¹ As specified by the Commission, the conference will focus on two issues: the mandatory purchase obligation under PURPA and the determination of avoided costs for those purchases.

9:00 am – 9:15 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

9:15 am – 12:00 pm **Panel 1: Mandatory Purchase Obligations**

Panel 1 will address issues related to the Commission's regulations implementing the mandatory purchase obligation under PURPA in light of changes in the electricity markets since the enactment of PURPA.

Panelists are encouraged to address the following:

- Application of the "one-mile rule," including implications of the "one-mile rule" on current electricity markets and its implications for utilities' long-range resource planning efforts.
- The rebuttable presumption that the Commission has adopted in the context of PURPA section 210(m) that qualifying facilities (QFs) 20 megawatts and below do not have nondiscriminatory access to competitive organized wholesale markets and the barriers to access encountered by these facilities.
- When a QF can be curtailed.
- The impact of utility contracting practices on QF transactions.

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824a-3 (2012).

- The impact of utility interconnection practices on QF transactions.
- The obligation to purchase “as available” power.
- The obligation to sell supplemental, standby, backup and maintenance power to a QF.
- The obligation to purchase pursuant to legally enforceable obligations, particularly as these issues arise in new and emerging markets.
- The impact the emerging energy imbalance market in the West may have on the mandatory purchase obligation.

Panelists:

- Charles Bayless, NC Electric Membership Cooperative and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- Jerry Bloom, California Cogeneration Council
- Kendal Bowman, Duke Energy
- Laura Chappelle, Michigan IPPC
- Allison Clements, NRDC FERC Project
- Todd Glass, Solar Energy Industries Association
- Robert Kahn, Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition
- Paul Kjellander, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
- Irene Kowalczyk, Industrial Energy Consumers of America
- Joel Schmidt, Alliant, Edison Electric Institute

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm – 3:30 pm Panel 2: Avoided Cost Calculations

Panel 2 will address the various methods for calculating avoided cost, including the system average method, the use of natural gas prices and other fuel price indices in setting avoided cost, and setting avoided costs through auctions and/or requests for proposals.

Panelists are encouraged to address the following:

- Assumptions and analyses that are used to develop avoided costs.
- Whether and how various pricing methodologies are consistent with PURPA.
- The strengths and weaknesses of different avoided cost pricing methodologies.
- Potential improvements to current pricing methodologies.
- Whether an avoided cost methodology may reflect the locational and/or time value of QF output.
- The role of wholesale market revenues in developing avoided cost calculations.
- Methodologies for the determination of avoided costs for capacity and for long and short-term arrangements.

Panelists:

- Al Brogan, Northwest Energy/Edison Electric Institute
- Jeff Burleson, Southern Company
- Todd Foley, American Council on Renewable Energy
- John Hughes, ELCON
- Travis Kavulla, NARUC
- Kristine Raper, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
- Ken Rose, Michigan IPPC
- Don Sipe, American Forest & Paper Association
- Elizabeth Whittle, The New England Small Hydro Coalition
- Michael Wise, Golden Spread Electric Cooperative

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks