

120 FERC ¶ 61,185
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before Commissioners: Joseph T. Kelliher, Chairman;
Sudeen G. Kelly, Marc Spitzer,
Philip D. Moeller, and Jon Wellinghoff.

District of Columbia Public Service Commission

Docket Nos. EL05-145-000
EL05-145-001

ORDER ON REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

(Issued August 24, 2007)

1. In this order, the Commission terminates the requirement for submission of monthly progress reports by PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (PJM) and Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) and requires the submission of one additional report.
2. On January 9, 2006, pursuant to section 207 of the Federal Power Act,¹ the Commission issued an order requiring PJM and PEPCO to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive operations and construction plan to provide adequate reliability in the transmission system serving portions of downtown Washington, D.C. This plan was to address certain reliability issues that may arise due to the unavailability of Mirant Potomac River, LLC's (Mirant) Potomac River Generating Station power plant under certain conditions. We ordered PJM and PEPCO to jointly develop and implement both a short-term and a longer-term comprehensive plan to provide adequate reliability to the area served by the transmission system and to jointly submit to the Commission monthly progress reports on the implementation of such plans.²

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824f (2000).

² *District of Columbia Public Service Commission*, 114 FERC ¶ 61,017 (2006) (January 9 Order). Also, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), on December 20, 2005, issued an order that stated that an emergency situation existed in the region and directed Mirant to operate in a manner that provided reasonable electric reliability. *See* U.S.

(continued)

3. The Commission later accepted for filing PJM and PEPCO's reliability plan, which provided for the construction of new transmission lines into Washington, D.C. near the Potomac River Generating Station power plant.³ PEPCO and PJM submitted monthly progress reports on the implementation of their reliability plan.⁴ On July 13, 2007, PEPCO and PJM submitted their most recent progress report, stating that construction of the facilities identified in the reliability plan is complete and requesting Commission confirmation that monthly reports are no longer required.

4. On July 2, 2007, the DOE issued an order acknowledging that its December 20 Order had expired on July 1, 2007, since PEPCO had made its new facilities operational on June 29, 2007.⁵

5. We find that construction of the new transmission lines into Washington, D.C. near the Potomac River Generating Station power plant has provided new capacity to adequately serve load absent the Potomac River Generating Station power plant. PEPCO and PJM have completed the long-term plan filed with the Commission, thus resolving the larger concerns about reliability in the Washington, D.C. area. We affirm that no further monthly reports are required concerning the facilities identified in the reliability plan developed and submitted by PJM and PEPCO to restore reliability of service to the area of Washington, D.C. served by the Potomac River Generating Station power plant. We expect PEPCO and PJM to continue to plan the transmission system and construct the

Department of Energy, Order No. 202-05-2 (December 20, 2005) (December 20 Order). The Commission found that the December 20 Order addressed only the short-term reliability issues and required PJM and PEPCO to submit a long-term and comprehensive solution to maintain adequate reliability in the area.

³ *District of Columbia Public Service Commission*, Docket No. EL05-145-000 (June 5, 2006) (unpublished letter order).

⁴ PEPCO and PJM submitted progress reports on the following dates: March 8, 2006; April 6, 2006; May 9, 2006; June 8, 2006; July 5, 2006; August 8, 2006; September 7, 2006; October 6, 2006; November 9, 2006; December 8, 2006; January 11, 2007; February 9, 2007; March 14, 2007; April 16, 2007; April 30, 2007; June 6, 2007; July 13, 2007.

⁵ U.S. Department of Energy, Order No. 202-07-03 (July 2, 2007).

equipment needed to meet the criteria of the Regional Transmission Expansion Planning (RTEP) protocol in PJM.⁶

6. In its September 12, 2005 response to a data request, PJM also identified possible reliability standard or PJM criteria violations that could occur with the loss of the Potomac River Generating Station power plant (e.g. overload and voltage violations). PJM acknowledged that, in addition to the construction of the two transmission lines, voltage support was needed in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area; that several hundred mega volt amperes reactive (MVARs) of voltage support were being planned for installation through 2007; and that a more detailed, joint PJM, PEPCO, and Baltimore Gas & Electric Company study was necessary to develop a regional long-term plan. In addition, the PJM 2006 RTEP confirms that reliability criteria violations caused by the Potomac River Generating Station power plant shut-down will not be fully rectified until various RTEP upgrades are completed in 2008.⁷ Pursuant to the January 9 Order, we expect PJM to keep the Commission informed regarding its plan to address these reliability concerns. We therefore direct PEPCO and PJM to, within 30 days of this order, file with the Commission a report addressing the regional reliability issues identified by PJM in its data request response of September 12, 2005, particularly those raised in answer to question 9, concerning voltages in the surrounding area during peak load conditions, as well as the concerns mentioned in the 2006 RTEP. In this report, PJM and PEPCO must specifically identify potential reliability problems, including actual and projected violations of any reliability standards and/or reliability criteria, in the Washington, D.C. area absent the Potomac River Generating Station power plant and the corresponding plan to solve them, including projected completion dates. PJM and PEPCO must also identify any of these projects that are not tracked through the PJM RTEP Construction Status web site.⁸ If action has already been taken to solve these concerns, we direct PJM and PEPCO to identify any work completed since September 12, 2005 in addition to the transmission upgrades described in the monthly progress reports in this proceeding.

⁶ PJM Interconnection, Operating Agreement, Schedule 6: Regional Transmission Expansion Planning Protocol.

⁷ PJM Interconnection, 2006 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan, at 71, 222 (February 27, 2007), <http://www.pjm.com/planning/reg-trans-exp-plan.html>

⁸ PJM Interconnection, RTEP Construction Status, *at* <http://www.pjm.com/planning/project-queues/upgrade-projects.html>

The Commission orders:

(A) PEPCO and PJM are not required to submit further monthly reports in this proceeding.

(B) PEPCO and PJM are hereby required to file a report with the Commission that identifies and addresses the specific regional reliability issues affecting the Washington, D.C. area, reports any improvement already implemented in this area that helps in resolving these issues, and describes the plan to address any outstanding reliability issues, as discussed in the body of this order, within 30 days of the date of this order.

By the Commission.

(S E A L)

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.