

141 FERC ¶ 61,270
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

Startrans IO, LLC

Docket No. ER13-315-000

ORDER ACCEPTING REVISED TRANSMISSION REVENUE
BALANCING ACCOUNT ADJUSTMENT

(Issued December 31, 2012)

1. On November 5, 2012, Startrans IO, LLC (Startrans) submitted its Transmission Revenue Balancing Account Adjustment (TRBAA),¹ which is recalculated annually and made effective on January 1 of each year, pursuant to the California Independent System Operator Corporation (CAISO) tariff² and Startrans's Transmission Owner (TO) Tariff.³ The annual update reflects a TRBAA credit of \$138,087. We accept Startrans's revised TRBAA update, effective January 1, 2013, as discussed below.

I. Background and Startrans's Filing

2. The TRBAA relates to the Transmission Revenue Balancing Account (TRBA) in Startrans's TO Tariff. A TRBA is included in the tariffs of all transmission owners that participate in the CAISO. The TRBA accounts for revenues that the transmission owner receives from the CAISO for wheeling service, usage charges, and auctions of firm transmission rights as well as any over or under recoveries associated with the non-load-serving Participating TO's Transmission Revenue Requirement (TRR) for the prior year ending September 30th. Together, these revenues are referred to as Transmission Revenue Credits. The TRBAA is a mechanism for ensuring that amounts in the TRBA are flowed through to transmission service customers. The TRBAA for a given calendar year is to reflect the balance in the TRBA on September 30 of the previous year plus the

¹ See Startrans IO, LLC, FERC Electric Tariff, Appendix I (Appendix I).

² California Independent System Operator Corporation, FERC Electric Tariff, Fifth Replacement, Appendix F, Schedule 3, section 8.1.

³ Startrans IO, LLC FERC Electric Tariff, sections 3.2 and 5.2

TO's projected revenues from Transmission Revenue Credits for the calendar year in question. Transmission access charges are established by using the TRBAA to increase or decrease the transmission owners' base revenue requirement.

3. In general, Startrans's TRBAA filing reflects the actual principal balance in Startrans's TRBA as of September 1, 2012, a forecast of Transmission Revenue Credits for 2013, and the interest balance in the TRBA.⁴

II. Notice of Filing and Responsive Pleadings

4. Notice of Startrans's filing was published in the *Federal Register*, 77 Fed. Reg. 67,810 (2012), with interventions, comments, and protests due on or before November 26, 2012. Timely motions to intervene raising no substantive issues were filed by Southern California Edison Company; California Department of Water Resources State Water Project; Trans Bay Cable, LLC; and the Cities of Anaheim, Azusa, Banning, Colton, Pasadena, and Riverside, California (Six Cities). Timely motion to intervene and comments were filed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). Startrans submitted an answer to PG&E's comments on December 5, 2012.

5. In its comments, PG&E contends that the work papers provided by Startrans do not adequately demonstrate the calculation of the monthly TRBA balance and resulting interest. PG&E claims that it cannot determine from Startrans's work papers whether Startrans calculated interest on the amount over-collected on its TRR. Thus, PG&E requests the Commission set Startrans's filing for hearing and settlement.⁵

6. In its answer, Startrans contends that the direct testimony of Mr. Royal P. Lefere, Jr. describes the interest calculation on the TRBA balances are shown at lines 15-18 of Exhibit ST-2. In addition, Startrans states its filing includes a worksheet that provides the

⁴ According to section 5.2 of Startrans's TO Tariff, the TRBAA shall be equal to the sum of: (1) the balance representing the prior period difference between the projected Transmission Revenue Credits and actual credits; (2) forecast of Transmission Revenue Credits for the following calendar year; and (3) the interest balance for the TRBA. Interest shall be calculated using the interest rate prescribed in section 35.19(a) of the Commission's regulations under the Federal Power Act, and interest shall be calculated based on the average TRBA principal balance each month, compounded quarterly. In addition, pursuant to Section 6.1 and 6.1(b), Appendix 3 of the CAISO Tariff, the Participating TO is required to include any over or under-recovery of its annual TRR in its TRBA.

⁵ PG&E November 23, 2012 Motion to Intervene and Comments at 2-3.

support for the interest rates shown on Line 2 of Exhibit ST-2.⁶ Startrans asserts that in light of this presentation, PG&E's request for a hearing should be rejected.⁷

III. Discussion

A. Procedural Matters

7. 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 the proceeding.

8. Rule 213(a)(2) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. § 385.213(a)(2), prohibits an answer to a protest unless otherwise ordered by the decisional authority. We will accept the Startrans answer because it has provided information that assisted us in our decision-making process.

B. Substantive Matters

9. The Commission has reviewed Startrans's proposed TRBA update and finds that it was properly computed and results in a just and reasonable credit. Our review indicates that Startrans's calculation of its TRBA credit, including the interest calculation of \$974, is correct. Notwithstanding PG&E's objections, we find that Startrans supported the update in its work pages and adequately followed the CAISO Tariff and Startrans TO Tariff guidelines. Therefore, we deny PG&E's request for a hearing. The Commission hereby accepts Startrans's proposed revisions to Appendix I of Startrans's TO Tariff, reflecting its revised TRBAA, effective January 1, 2013.

The Commission orders:

Startrans's TRBAA update is hereby accepted, effective January 1, 2013, as discussed in the body of this order.

By the Commission.

(S E A L)

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

⁶ Startrans Motion for Leave to File Answer and Answer at 3 (citing Exhibit ST-2 line 2 and lines 15-18).

⁷ *Id.* at 4.