

§ 250.53 Certain registered holding company financings in connection with the acquisition of one or more exempt wholesale generators.

(a) In determining whether to approve the issue or sale of a security by a registered holding company for purposes of financing the acquisition of an exempt wholesale generator, or the guarantee of a security of an exempt wholesale generator by a registered holding company, the Commission shall not make a finding that such security is not reasonably adapted to the earning power of such company or to the security structure of such company or companies in the same holding company system, or that the circumstances are such as to constitute the making of such guarantee an improper risk for such company, if the following conditions are met:

(1) Aggregate investment does not exceed 50% of the system's consolidated retained earnings.

(i) *Aggregate investment* means all amounts invested, or committed to be invested, in exempt wholesale generators and foreign utility companies, for which there is recourse, directly or indirectly, to the registered holding company. Among other things, the term includes, but is not limited to, preliminary development expenses that culminate in the acquisition of an exempt wholesale generator or a foreign utility company; and the fair market value of assets acquired by an exempt wholesale generator or a foreign utility company from a system company (other than an exempt wholesale generator or a foreign utility company).

(ii) *Consolidated retained earnings* means the average of the consolidated retained earnings of the registered holding company system as reported for the four most recent quarterly periods on the holding company's Form 10-K or 10-Q (§249.308a or §249.310 of this chapter, respectively) filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(2) The registered holding company maintains books and records to identify investments in and earnings from any exempt wholesale generator or foreign utility company in which it directly or indirectly holds an interest. In addition:

(i) For each United States exempt wholesale generator in which the registered holding company directly or indirectly holds an interest:

(A) The books and records of such entity shall be kept in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP").

(B) The financial statements shall be prepared according to GAAP.

(C) The registered holding company undertakes to provide the Commission access to such books and records and financial statements as the Commission may request.

(ii) For each foreign exempt wholesale generator or foreign utility company which is a majority-owned subsidiary company of the registered holding company:

(A) The books and records of such entity shall be kept in conformity with GAAP.

(B) The financial statements for such entity shall be prepared in conformity with GAAP.

(C) The registered holding company undertakes to provide the Commission access to such books and records and financial statements, or copies thereof, in English, as the Commission may request.

(D) For purposes of this section, a "majority-owned subsidiary company" is one in which the registered holding company directly or indirectly owns more than 50% of the voting securities.

(iii) For each foreign exempt wholesale generator or foreign utility company in which the registered holding company directly or indirectly owns 50% or less of the voting securities, the registered holding company shall proceed in good faith, to the extent reasonable under the circumstances, to cause:

(A) The books and records of such entity to be kept in conformity with GAAP; provided, that if the books and records are maintained according to a comprehensive body of accounting principles other than GAAP, the registered holding company shall, upon request, describe and quantify each material variation from GAAP in the accounting principles, practices and methods used to maintain the books and records.

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(B) The financial statements for such entity to be prepared according to GAAP; provided, that if the financial statements are prepared according to a comprehensive body of accounting principles other than GAAP, the registered holding company shall, upon request, describe and quantify each material variation from GAAP in the balance sheet line items and net income reported in the financial statements.

(C) Access by the Commission to such books and records and financial statements, or copies thereof, in English, as the Commission may request; provided, that in any event, the registered holding company shall make available to the Commission any books and records of the foreign exempt wholesale generator or foreign utility company that are available to the registered holding company.

(3) No more than two percent of the employees of the system's domestic public-utility companies render services, at any one time, directly or indirectly, to exempt wholesale generators or foreign utility companies in which the registered holding company, directly or indirectly, holds an interest; provided, that the Commission has previously approved the rendering of such services.

(4) The registered holding company simultaneously submits a copy of any Form U-1 (17 CFR 259.101) and certificate under section 250.24 filed with the Commission under this section, as well as a copy of Item 9 of Form U5S (17 CFR 259.5s) and Exhibits G and H thereof with every federal, state or local regulator having jurisdiction over the retail rates of any affected public-utility company.

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the section shall not be available if:

(1) The registered holding company, or any subsidiary company having assets with book value exceeding an amount equal to 10% or more of consolidated retained earnings, has been the subject of a bankruptcy or similar proceeding, unless a plan of reorganization has been confirmed in such proceeding; or

(2) The average consolidated retained earnings for the four most recent quarterly periods have decreased by 10%

from the average for the previous four quarterly periods and the aggregate investment in exempt wholesale generators and foreign utility companies exceeds two percent of total capital invested in utility operations; provided, this restriction will cease to apply once consolidated retained earnings have returned to their pre-loss level; or

(3) In the previous fiscal year, the registered holding company reported operating losses attributable to its direct or indirect investments in exempt wholesale generators and foreign utility companies, and such losses exceed an amount equal to 5% of consolidated retained earnings.

(c) An applicant that is unable to satisfy the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section must affirmatively demonstrate that the proposed issue and sale of a security to finance the acquisition of an exempt wholesale generator, or the guarantee of a security of an exempt wholesale generator:

(1) Will not have a substantial adverse impact upon the financial integrity of the registered holding company system; and

(2) Will not have an adverse impact on any utility subsidiary of the registered holding company, or its customers, or on the ability of State commissions to protect such subsidiary or customers.

(d) The Commission shall issue an order with respect to a proposed transaction under section 32(h)(3) of the Act within 120 days of completion of the record concerning such issue, sale or guarantee.

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§ 250.54 Effect of exempt wholesale generators on other transactions.

In determining whether to approve the issue or sale of a security by a registered holding company for purposes other than the acquisition of an exempt wholesale generator or a foreign utility company, or other transactions by such registered holding company or its subsidiaries other than with respect to exempt wholesale generators or foreign utility companies, the Commission shall not consider the effect of the capitalization or earnings of any subsidiary which is an exempt wholesale generator or a foreign utility company