

A copy of this filing was caused to be served upon the Okanogan Public Utility District as noted in the filing letter.

Comment date: March 13, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

25. New England Power Company

[Docket No. ER97-1668-000]

Take notice that on February 12, 1997, New England Power Company (NEP) filed a Service Agreement with Fitchburg Gas & Electric Co. (FG&E) for non-firm, point-to-point transmission service under NEP's open access transmission tariff, FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 9.

Comment date: March 13, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

26. Public Service Company of New Mexico

[Docket No. ER97-1669-000]

Take notice that on February 12, 1997, Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM), submitted for filing an executed service agreement under the terms of PNM's Open Access Transmission Tariff with Southwestern Public Service Company. PNM's filing is available for public inspection at its offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Comment date: March 13, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

27. Southern Company Services, Inc.

[Docket No. ER97-1670-000]

Take notice that on February 12, 1997, Southern Company Services, Inc. (SCSI), acting on behalf of Alabama Power Company, Georgia Power Company, Gulf Power Company, Mississippi Power Company and Savannah Electric and Power Company (collectively referred to as Southern Companies) filed two (2) service agreements under Southern Companies' Market-Based Rate Power Sales Tariff (FERC Electric Tariff, Original Volume No. 4) with the following entities: (i) Illinois Power Company; and (ii) Morgan Stanley Capital Group, Inc. SCSI states that the service agreements will enable Southern Companies to engage in short-term market-based rate transactions with this entity.

Comment date: March 13, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

28. Black Brook Energy Company

[Docket No. ER97-1676-000]

Take notice that on February 12, 1997, Black Brook Energy Company tendered for filing a Petition for Initial Rate

Schedule, Waivers and Blanket Authority.

Comment date: March 13, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

29. City of Vernon, California

[Docket No. OA97-524-000]

Take notice that on February 7, 1997, City of Vernon, California (Vernon) filed an application for waiver of the requirements of Order No. 889. Vernon states that it meets the standards enunciated by the Commission for eligibility for such a waiver.

Comment date: March 20, 1997, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding.

Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-5481 Filed 3-5-97; 8:45 am]

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[Project Nos. 11285-003]

Casitas Municipal Water District; Notice of Extension of Comment Date

February 28, 1997.

Because of delayed newspaper publication of the notice issued February 5, 1997 (62 FR 8235, February 24, 1997), for the Lake Casitas Power Project, the comment date in item j. is being extended from March 25, 1997 to April 1, 1997.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-5480 Filed 3-5-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. PL97-1-000]

Issues and Priorities for the Natural Gas Industry; Notice of Public Conference and Opportunity To Comment

February 28, 1997.

Take notice that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is convening a public conference on May 29 and 30, 1997, to conduct a broad inquiry into the important issues facing the natural gas industry today, and the Commission's regulation of the industry for the future. The Commission expects a broad ranging discussion that will allow the members of the Commission to discuss these issues with the industry, and the public generally, in order for the Commission to establish its regulatory goals and priorities in the post-Order No. 636¹ environment. We anticipate engaging all industry segments in a dialogue about how the industry currently works, how the industry is changing, and how the Commission's regulatory policies should respond to such changes in the marketplace.

I. Background

Since the issuance and implementation of Order No. 636, natural gas markets have developed rapidly and the industry has gained experience functioning under different conditions.² Also, significant changes in the structure of the natural gas industry have occurred since Order No. 636 issued. These include consolidation in the ownership of interstate pipelines, the spin-off and spin-down of gathering with the potential for state regulation, the emergence of mega marketers, and the emerging electric and gas convergence. In addition, many more market centers exist today, offering a wide array of services that increase the flexibility of the system and facilitate connections between gas sellers and buyers. These services commonly include wheeling, parking, loaning, and storage.

The interstate pipeline transportation grid has expanded significantly, offering

¹ Pipeline Service Obligations and Revisions to Regulations Governing Self-Implementing Transportation; and Regulation of Natural Gas Pipelines After Partial Wellhead Decontrol, [Regs. Preambles Jan. 1991-June 1996] FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 30,939 (1992), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 636-A, [Regs. Preambles Jan. 1991-June 1992] FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 30,950 (1992), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 636-B, 61 FERC ¶ 61,272 (1992), *reh'g denied*, 62 FERC ¶ 61,007 (1993).

² For example, the winters of 1993-94 and 1995-96 were relatively cold and capacity in some regions was tight, and the winter of 1994-95 relatively warm and capacity was unusually slack in some regions.