

On December 8, 1998, Detroit Edison applied to DOE to amend certain existing Presidential permits by changing the manner in which the international facilities are operated. In that related proceeding (FE Docket PP-221) Detroit Edison proposed installing a voltage-regulating autotransformer on the L51D facility and a phase-shifting transformer on the B3N facility. On April 27, 2000, in Order PP-221, DOE authorized Detroit Edison to place in service the autotransformer on the L51D facility, but put off authorizing the requested change to the B3N facility until after submission and evaluation by DOE of additional regional coordination studies. These studies have not yet been submitted to DOE for review. Therefore, if DOE authorizes the transfer of Detroit Edison's international facilities to International Transmission, any subsequent changes to the B3N facilities that DOE may authorize would occur in Docket PP-230. DOE will consider interveners or parties in the PP-221 proceeding to be interveners or parties in the continuation of this proceeding.

Since restructuring of the electric power industry began, resulting in the introduction of different types of competitive entities into the marketplace, DOE has consistently expressed its policy that cross-border trade in electric energy should be subject to the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to transmission in interstate commerce. DOE has stated that policy in export authorizations granted to entities requesting authority to export over international transmission facilities. Specifically, DOE expects transmitting utilities owning border facilities to provide access across the border in accordance with the principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination contained in the FPA and articulated in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order No. 888 (Promotion Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities; FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶131,036 (1996)), as amended. In furtherance of this policy, on July 27, 1999, (64 FR 40586) DOE initiated a proceeding in which it noticed its intention to condition existing and future Presidential permits, appropriate for third party transmission, on compliance with a requirement to provide non-discriminatory open access transmission service. That proceeding is not yet complete. However, in this docket DOE specifically requests comment on the appropriateness of

applying the open access requirement on facilities proposed to be transferred to International Transmission.

#### Procedural Matters

Any person desiring to become a party to this proceeding or to be heard by filing comments or protests to this application should file a petition to intervene, comment or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each petition and protest should be filed with the DOE on or before the date listed above.

Additional copies of such petitions to intervene or protests also should be filed directly with: Raymond O. Sturdy, Jr., The Detroit Edison Company, 2000 Second Avenue—688 WCB, Detroit, Michigan 48226-1279 and Messrs. John D. McGrane and Michael C. Griffen, Morgan, Lewis & Bochi LLP, 1800 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Before a Presidential permit or electricity export authorization may be issued or amended, the DOE must determine that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. In addition, DOE must consider the environmental impacts of the proposed actions pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. DOE also must obtain the concurrence of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense before taking final action on a Presidential permit application.

Copies of these applications will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above. In addition, the application may be reviewed or downloaded from the Fossil Energy Home Page at: <http://www.fe.doe.gov>. Upon reaching the Fossil Energy Home page, select "Electricity" from the options menu, and then "Pending Proceedings."

Issued in Washington, D.C., on August 31, 2000.

#### Ellen Russell,

*Acting Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex, Office of Fossil Energy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP00-374-000]

#### Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Technical Conference

August 30, 2000.

In the Commission's order issued on August 23, 2000,<sup>1</sup> the Commission directed that a technical conference be held to address issues raised by the filing.

Take notice that the technical conference will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2000, at 10 am, in a room to be designated at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All interested parties and Staff are permitted to attend.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP00-493-000]

#### Midcoast Interstate Transmission, Inc.; Notice of Tariff Filing

August 30, 2000.

Take notice that on August 16, 2000, Midcoast Interstate Transmission, Inc. filed revised tariff sheets to eliminate tariff provisions that are inconsistent with the Commission's decision in Order Nos. 637 and 637-A to remove the rate ceiling for short term capacity release transactions. As mandated by such orders, the revised tariff sheets are to be effective as of March 26, 2000.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protest must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. 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 proceedings.

<sup>1</sup> 92 FERC 61,173 (2000).