SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of facilities at the international border of the United States for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign country is prohibited in the absence of a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038.

On March 7, 2001, SER, a non-regulated generating company, filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit. SER proposes to construct a double-circuit 230,000 volt (230-kV) transmission line originating from San Diego Gas & Electric Company's (SDG&E) existing Imperial Valley Substation, located in Imperial County, California, and extending approximately six miles south to the United States border with Mexico. At the border, the SER facilities will interconnect with similar facilities owned by Termoeléctrica de Mexicali (TDM) and continue an additional three miles to a new 500-megawatt (MW) powerplant being developed by TDM west of the town of Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico.

In Mexico and in California, the transmission line proposed by SER will parallel SDG&E's existing Imperial Valley-La Rosita international transmission line (previously authorized by Presidential Permit PP–79), west of Calexico, California, and is proposed to be sited within land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

In its application, SER proposes to transmit electricity from the TDM powerplant into the California electrical system. Transmission of electric energy from California to Mexico would occur only for purposes of providing ''black start'' capability to the powerplant.

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. ¶ 31,036 (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 SER's proposed facilities.

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: Alberto Abreu, Director, Permitting and Licensing, Sempra Energy Resources, 101 Ash Street, PO Box 1831, San Diego, CA 92112–4150.

Before a Presidential permit 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 action (i.e., granting the Presidential permit, with any conditions and limitations, or denying the permit) 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 this application 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, DC, on March 19, 2001.

Anthony J. Como,

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

[FR Doc. 01–7151 Filed 3–21–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL01–52–000]

Barnet Hydro Company, et al. v. Central Vermont Public Service Corp., et al.; Notice of Complaint

March 16, 2001.

Take notice that on March 15, 2001, Barnet Hydro Company, Comtu Falls, Dodge Falls Associates L.P., Emerson Falls Hydro, Inc., Hydro Energies Corporation, Killington Hydroelectric Company, Kingsbury Hydro, Martinsville Water Power, Moretown Energy Company, Missisquoi Associates, Nantanna Mill, Newbury Hydro, Ottauquechee Hydro Company, Inc., Ryegate Associates, Springfield Hydroelectric Company, Winooski Hydroelectric Company, Winooski One Partnership, Woodside Hydro, Worcester Hydro, and Vermont Marble Power Division of OMYA, Inc. (collectively, the Vermont QFs) filed a complaint against Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, Barton Village Incorporated Electric Department, Village of Enosburg Falls Electric Light Department, Village of Hyde Park Electric Department, Village of Jacksonville Electric Department, Village of Johnson Electric Light Department, Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department, Village of Lyndonville Electric Department, Village of Morrisville Water & Light Department, Northfield Electric Department, Village of Orleans Electric Department, Town of Readsboro Electric Department, Stowe Electric Department, and Village of Swanton Electric Department (collectively, the Vermont Utilities), requesting that the Commission issue an order preventing the Vermont Utilities from employing Order 888 to force the Vermont QFs, either directly or indirectly, to reserve transmission service and pay transmission charges in order to sell the electric power they generate to the Vermont Utilities under the regulations adopted in the State of Vermont to implement the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest this 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 385.214). All such motions or protests must be filed on or before April 4, 2001. 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 in the Public Reference Room. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm (call 202–208–2222) for assistance. Answers to the complaint shall also be due on or before April 4, 2001. Comments, protests and interventions may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01–7118 Filed 3–21–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 184–065 California]

El Dorado Irrigation District, Notice of Public Meeting

March 16, 2001.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is reviewing the application for a new license for the El Dorado Project (FERC No. 184), which was filed on February 22, 2000. The El Dorado Project, licensed to the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), is located on the South Fork American River, in El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador counties, California. The project occupies lands of the Eldorado National Forest.

The EID has requested that the Commission provide facilitation services to assist the parties in arriving at a settlement of all issues relevant to this proceeding. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss alternatives for processing the application for relicensing of the El Dorado Project, including whether a consensus exists for pursuing settlement options. We invite the participation of all interested governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the general public in this meeting.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Sacramento County Superior Court Annex, Second Floor, 721 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California.

For further information, please contact Elizabeth Molloy at (202) 208–0771 or John Mudre at (202) 219–1208.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01–7122 Filed 3–21–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00–422–001]

El Paso Natural Gas Company; Notice of Amendment

March 16, 2001.

Take notice that on March 15, 2001, El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso), Post Office Box 1492, El Paso, Texas 79978, filed in Docket No. CP00–422–001 an amendment to its pending application filed in Docket No. CP00–422–000, to (1) issue an order by March 31, 2001, permitting El Paso to initiate the cleaning and modification of its Line 2000, (2) delete the portion of the application to abandon the six existing mainline compressor facilities comprising a total of 119,750 horsepower, and (3) authorize by April 15, 2001, the proposal to expand the design capacity of El Paso's interstate transmission system by approximately 230,000 Mcf per day, all as more fully set forth in the application to amend which is on file with the Commission an open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/htm (call 202–208–2222 for assistance).

El Paso states that the requested authority will facilitate an in-service date of August 31, 2001, which will enable El Paso to place an expansion of its system into service in a time frame that would help this year to ameliorate the California energy crisis. El Paso also states that it will accept the full risk for the Line 2000 Project by agreeing to place the Line No. 2000 Project in service as a loop to the existing system and to continue to operate the existing South System compression without additional contracts to cover its operating and investment costs.

El Paso indicates that on July 31, 2000, it filed its Section 7 application in Docket No. CP00–422–000 for the Line 2000 Project, a project to acquire and convert a crude oil transportation pipeline to natural gas transportation service. El Paso states that the essence of the Line No. 2000 Project as originally filed was to replace old horsepower on its South System with pipeline, but with no increase in the existing transportation capacity of its transmission system.

El Paso now states that, since the time El Paso reformulated and prepared its original application, there has been a radical change in the dynamics of the natural gas market in California, with California experiencing greatly increased prices in both the gas and electricity markets, and consumers being subjected to power alerts and, on occasion, rolling blackouts. It is stated that electric power supplied by surrounding states has been inadequate to resolve the crisis that continues in California, which is expected by many to peak during the upcoming summer season. It is indicated that much of the power generated within California and the surrounding states depends on the availability of natural gas as fuel for the generation facilities.

El Paso states that on December 13, 2000, El Paso Corporation addressed publicly the dramatic changes in the energy use of the Western United States in a letter from Williams A. Wise, its President and Chairman, to the Commissioners of the FERC, and committed to pursue the addition of pipeline capacity into the California market over the next few years.

El Paso believes that the Commission has also been actively exploring ways in which it can assist in ameliorating the power crisis in California, pointing out, for example, a January 3, 2001, letter from the Office of Energy Projects sent to El Paso inquiring as to the feasibility of modifying the Line 2000 Project in manner that could assist the difficult situation now confronting the California gas market. El Paso indicates that it responded to the letter by stating that it would be willing to expand its system if there is sufficient support for such expansion.

El Paso submits that the energy crisis in California remains unabated, and the market has sent signals indicating a need for additional volumes of gas to serve growing electric generation needs in the Southwest. El Paso states that, against this backdrop, it has further evaluated the steps it can take today to improve the conditions for all parties operating in the California market. With the primary goal in mind of providing