

circulated for review and comment. BPA and EFSEC will hold at least one public comment meeting on the Draft EIS. BPA and EFSEC will consider and respond in the Final EIS to comments received on the Draft EIS.

**Proposed Action.** MRP proposes to construct the Mercer Ranch Power Project, a new power plant in southwestern Benton County, Washington. The proposed capacity of the plant is nominally 800 MW, which brings the project under the jurisdiction of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) for the State of Washington.

The MRP generating facility will be designed for a life of 40 years. The project is proposed to be constructed as a merchant plant for electric power generation, with generated power routed to the FCRTS.

The new power plant will be located on a site consisting of approximately 40 acres, adjacent to approximately 9,000 acres of irrigated cropland owned by Mercer Ranches, Inc. This site is located in unincorporated Benton County, near the border with Klickitat County. It is approximately 12 miles west of the unincorporated town of Paterson, Washington; 17 miles east of the unincorporated town of Roosevelt; and 2.5 miles north of the Columbia River. The project site is approximately 500 feet above sea level and 245 feet above the normal Columbia River elevation.

The sole fuel for the power generation facility will be pipeline-quality natural gas. Gas transportation services will be provided by the NWP natural gas transmission pipeline, which runs through the plant site. It is anticipated that the natural gas tie-in pipeline will be constructed and owned by MRP since it will be on land owned by MRP.

The power plant will include three individual generating units. Each unit will consist of one General Electric PG7241FA combustion turbine generator (CTG), one triple pressure reheat type Heat Recovery Steam Generator (HRSG) with natural gas supplementary firing capabilities, and one reheat Steam Turbine Generator (STG). The CTGs and the HRSG supplemental firing system will burn only natural gas. Additional equipment dedicated to each unit will include generator step-up transformers, electrical distribution gear, and all associated ancillary equipment. The plant will also use air-cooling technologies for condensing low-pressure steam. Water for plant operations will come from the Columbia River via existing surface water rights.

The Mercer Ranch power project would deliver electricity to the regional

power grid through an interconnection to one or more BPA 500-kV transmission line near the plant. The interconnection and proposed upgrade to the transmission grid would include less than one-half mile of new 500-kV transmission line (approximately 2 to 3 towers) and a switchyard (Crow Butte) consisting of up to eight bays to be located east of Dead Canyon. The switchyard would connect the power plant to the existing Ashe-Slatt #1 transmission line and may intertie to the Ashe-Marion #2 500-kV transmission line and the proposed John Day-McNary 500-kV transmission line.

Responsibility for construction and operation of the power plant is principally with MRP. MRP would construct and own the interconnecting 500-kV transmission line. BPA would construct and operate the switchyard.

**Process to Date.** BPA is the lead Federal agency for the joint NEPA/SEPA EIS, and EFSEC is the lead Washington State agency. EFSEC has already held open houses introducing the MRP Project to interested parties in Benton County. MRP will prepare an Application for Site Certification and submit it to EFSEC in January 2002. The application will address the MRP Project in detail. BPA and EFSEC will conduct joint scoping meetings after receipt and preliminary review of the initial submission.

**Alternatives Proposed for Consideration.** Alternatives thus far identified for evaluation in the EIS are (1) the proposed actions, and (2) no action. Other alternatives may be identified through the scoping process.

**Identification of Environmental Issues.** EFSEC will prepare an EIS consistent with its responsibilities under Chapter 80.50 of the Revised Code of Washington and Chapter 197-11 of the Washington Administrative Code. BPA must make a decision whether to construct the proposed switchyard and interconnect the proposed power plant to the regional transmission grid. Therefore, BPA and EFSEC intend to prepare a joint NEPA/SEPA EIS addressing both the power plant and the associated electric power interconnection and transmission facilities. The principal issues identified thus far for consideration in the Draft EIS are (1) air quality impacts, (2) aesthetic and visual impacts, (3) socio-economic impacts, (4) wetlands and wildlife habitat impacts, (5) water quality impacts, and (6) cultural resource impacts. These issues, together with any additional significant issues identified through the scoping process, will be addressed in the EIS.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on December 18, 2001.

**Stephen J. Wright,**

*Acting Administrator and Chief Executive Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-31920 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### National Energy Technology Laboratory; Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive Patent License

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of an intent to grant to Woodward Industrial Controls of Fort Collins, Colorado, an exclusive license to practice the inventions described in U.S. patent applications titled, "Real-Time Combustion Controls and Diagnostics Sensors" and "Flashback Detection Sensor for Lean Premix Fuel Nozzles." The inventions are owned by the United States of America, as represented by the Department of Energy (DOE). The proposed license will be exclusive, subject to a license and other rights retained by the U.S. Government, and other terms and conditions to be negotiated.

DOE intends to grant the license, upon a final determination in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209(c), unless within 15 days of publication of this Notice the Technology Transfer Manager, Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880, receives in writing any of the following, together with the supporting documents:

(i) A statement from any person setting forth reasons why it would not be in the best interest of the United States to grant the proposed license; or

(ii) An application for a nonexclusive license to the invention, in which applicant states that it already has brought the invention to practical application or is likely to bring the invention to practical application expeditiously.

**DATES:** Written comments or nonexclusive license applications are to be received at the address listed below no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of this published Notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Technology Transfer Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Diane Newlon, Technology Transfer Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880; Telephone (304) 285-4065.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 35 U.S.C. 209(c) provides the Department with authority to grant exclusive or partially exclusive licenses in Department-owned inventions, where a determination can be made, among other things, that the desired practical application of the invention has not been achieved, or is not likely expeditiously to be achieved, under a nonexclusive license. The statute and implementing regulations (37 CFR part 404) require that the necessary determinations be made after public notice and opportunity for filing written objections.

Woodward Industrial Controls of Fort Collins, Colorado, has applied for an exclusive license to practice the inventions and has a plan for commercialization of the inventions.

The proposed license will be exclusive, subject to a license and other rights retained by the U.S. Government, and subject to a negotiated royalty. The Department will review all timely written responses to this notice, and will grant the license if, after expiration of the 15-day notice period, and after consideration of written responses to this notice, a determination is made, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209(c), that the license grant is in the public interest.

Issued: December 18, 2001.

**Rita A. Bajura,**

*Director, National Energy Technology Laboratory.*

[FR Doc. 01-31921 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. EL02-42-000]

**Dynergy Power Marketing, Inc., Mirant Americas Energy Marketing, LP, Mirant California, LLC, and Williams Energy Marketing & Trade, Complainants, v. California Independent System Operator Corporation, Respondent; Notice of Complaint**

December 19, 2001.

Take notice that on December 18, 2001, Dynergy Power Marketing, Inc., Mirant Americas Energy Marketing, LP, Mirant California, LLC, and Williams Energy Marketing & Trading Company (Complainants) submitted a complaint

against the California Independent System Operator Corporation (CAISO) alleging that the CAISO is acting unlawfully by implementing changes to its operating procedures related to Intra-Zonal Congestion Management and implementing market rule modifications for importers without first seeking authorization under section 205 of the Federal Power Act. Complainants further allege that certain operating procedures violate the terms of the Commission-approved reliability must-run contracts.

Accordingly, Complainants request that the Commission issue an immediate order directing the CAISO to operate under its prior operating procedures until such time as the CAISO has received all Commission authorizations to make these changes. Complainants also request that Commission Staff hold a technical conference to develop a 60-minute market.

Copies of this filing were served upon the CAISO and other interested parties.

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 January 7, 2002. 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. Answers to the complaint shall also be due on or before January 7, 2002. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "RIMS" link, select "Docket#" and follow the instructions (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). 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 under the "e-Filing" link.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-31991 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. RP02-81-001]

**El Paso Natural Gas Company; Notice of Tariff Filing**

December 20, 2001.

Take notice that on December 18, 2001, El Paso Natural Gas Company (EPNG) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1-A, Substitute Eighth Revised Sheet No. 37, with an effective date of January 1, 2002.

On November 29, 2001 in Docket No. RP02-81-000, EPNG submitted for filing ten revised tariff sheets to be effective on January 1, 2002. EPNG states that it is submitting Substitute Eighth Revised Sheet No. 37 to reflect the same maximum monthly California reservation rate shown on the Sheet No. 22 submitted in the original filing on November 29.

Any person desiring to protest said filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with section 385.211 of the Commission's rules and regulations. All such protests 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. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "RIMS" link, select "Docket#" and follow the instructions (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). 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 under the "e-Filing" link.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-31998 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

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