

created by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentator a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).¹ Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.gov) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-19405 Filed 7-31-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

¹ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM01-12-000]

Electricity Market Design and Structure; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment and Request for Comments on the Scope of Issues to be Addressed for the Proposed Rulemaking on Electricity Market Design and Structure

July 26, 2002.

1. The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC" or "Commission") will prepare an environmental assessment to address the environmental impacts of the Commission's Proposed Rulemaking on Electric Market Design and Structure.

2. The Commission anticipates issuing the proposed rulemaking on July 31, 2002. This represents the third of a series of initiatives undertaken by the Commission to harness the benefits of competitive markets for the nation's electric energy customers, in order to meet its statutory responsibility to assure adequate and reliable supplies of electric energy at a just and reasonable price. The Commission's objectives in this third rulemaking initiative are to establish a standardized transmission service and wholesale electric market design that will provide a non-discriminatory level playing field for all entities that seek to participate in wholesale electric markets.

The Commission proposes to provide new choices through a flexible transmission service, promote efficient grid operations, establish a market design that minimizes the opportunities for market manipulation and gaming, mitigate market power and provide the right pricing signals for investment in transmission and generation facilities, as well as investment in demand reduction.

3. *The EA Process:* The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from the issuance of a rulemaking. NEPA also requires the Commission to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposed federal actions. This process is referred to as "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local

government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern. The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of implementation of the proposed rulemaking.

4. We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposal or portions of the proposal, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid environmental impacts. Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected industry representatives, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

5. To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section below.

6. *Currently Identified Environmental Issues:* We have already examined the likely environmental effects of establishing competitive wholesale markets for electric power in an Environmental Impact Statement for Order No. 888 (Docket Nos. RM95-8-000 and RM94-7-001) and an Environmental Assessment for Order No. 2000 (Docket No. RM99-2-000). We intend to focus this assessment on any relevant changes that may have arisen since those other two studies, effects that particular aspects of Standard Market Design may have, and environmental effects not contemplated earlier.

7. *Public Participation:* You can provide us with specific comments or concerns about the proposal. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded.

8. Send an original and two copies of your letter to: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission, 888 First St., NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

9. Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Office of Market Oversight and Investigation.

10. Reference Docket No. RM01-12-000.

11. Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before September 3, 2002.

12. Please note that we are continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. As a result, we will include all comments that we receive within a reasonable time frame in our environmental analysis of this proposal. However, the Commission encourages electronic filing of any comments to this proceeding. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create a free account which can be created by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."

13. *Scoping Meeting:* A public Scoping Meeting will be held at 2:00 PM, August 12, 2002, at FERC Headquarters; 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. All those wishing to present oral comments at the scoping meeting are encouraged to contact Lonnie Lister, at (202) 208-2191, to have their name placed on the Speakers List. Further opportunity will be provided for anyone to present their comments at the meeting after the pre-registered speakers have made their statements. A court reporter will transcribe the meeting, and copies of the transcript will be available from the reporting service. A formal copy of the transcript will be placed in the public record in Docket No. RM01-12-000 approximately ten days after the meeting.

14. *Environmental Mailing List:* This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities

interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed rulemaking.

15. Additional Information:

Additional information about the proposed rulemaking is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, call toll-free at 1-866-208-FERC, or you can call the FERC operator at 1-800-847-8885 and ask for External Affairs. Information is also available on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

16. Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-19411 Filed 7-31-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission**

[Docket No. RM98-1-000]

**Regulations Governing Off-the-Record
Communications; Public Notice**

July 26, 2002.

This constitutes notice, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2201(h), of the receipt of exempt and prohibited off-the-record communications.

Order No. 607 (64 FR 51222, September 22, 1999) requires Commission decisional employees, who make or receive an exempt or a

prohibited off-the-record communication relevant to the merits of a contested on-the-record proceeding, to deliver a copy of the communication, if written, or a summary of the substance of any oral communication, to the Secretary.

Prohibited communications will be included in a public, non-decisional file associated with, but not part of, the decisional record of the proceeding. Unless the Commission determines that the prohibited communication and any responses thereto should become part of the decisional record, the prohibited off-the-record communication will not be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision. Parties to a proceeding may seek the opportunity to respond to any facts or contentions made in a prohibited off-the-record communication, and may request that the Commission place the prohibited communication and responses thereto in the decisional record. The Commission will grant such requests only when it determines that fairness so requires. Any person identified below as having made a prohibited off-the-record communication should serve the document on all parties listed on the official service list for the applicable proceeding in accordance with Rule 2010, 18 CFR 385.2010.

Exempt off-the-record communications will be included in the decisional record of the proceeding, unless the communication was with a cooperating agency as described by 40 CFR 1501.6, made under 18 CFR 385.2201(e)(1)(v).

The following is a list of exempt and prohibited off-the-record communications recently received in the Office of the Secretary. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. The documents may 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).

EXEMPT

Docket No.	Date filed	Presenter or Requester
CP01-415-000	7-23-02	Medha Kochhar.
CP01-361-000	7-25-02	Nancy and Dave Morris.