

Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" and follow the instructions (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). 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.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 02-27052 Filed 10-24-02; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 346-037-Minnesota]

#### Minnesota Power, Inc. d.b.a. ALLETE, Inc.; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

October 17, 2002.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for a new license for the Blanchard Project located on the Mississippi River, in Morrison County, Minnesota, and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project. In the EA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental effects of the project and has concluded that approval of the project, with appropriate environmental measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

A copy of the EA is on file with the Commission and is available for public inspection. The EA may also be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, call toll free 1-866-208-3676.

Any comments should be filed within 30 days from the issuance date of this notice and should be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1-A, Washington, DC 20426. Please affix "Blanchard Project No. 346" to all comments. Comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18

CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Website under the "e-Filing" link. For further information, contact Tom Dean at (202) 502-6041.

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

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM02-16-000]

#### Notice of Public Forum and Agenda

October 21, 2002.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of public forum and agenda.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will host a public forum to discuss issues and proposals associated with establishing a new licensing process. This one-day forum will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The FERC Commissioners will attend, and representatives from federal and state agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and the industry have been invited to participate. All interested persons are invited to attend.

**DATES:** November 7, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426/

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Timothy Welch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502-8760.

#### Hydroelectric Licensing Regulations Under the Federal Power Act; Notice of Public Forum and Agenda

[Docket No. RM02-16-000]

October 18, 2002.

As announced in the Notice Requesting Comments and Establishing Public Forums and Procedures and Schedule, issued on September 12, 2002, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) will host a public forum on November 7, 2002, to discuss issues and proposals associated with establishing a new licensing process. This one-day forum will be held in the Commission meeting room, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The FERC Commissioners will attend, and representatives from federal and state agencies, tribes, non-government

organizations, and the industry have been invited to participate. All interested persons are invited to attend. The goal is to identify the need for a new licensing process, key issues a new process should address, as well as how a new licensing process can better accommodate all interested parties' needs. Time will be allotted for audience comment and response to the panelists. We look forward to an informative discussion of the issues associated with development of a new licensing process.

The Forum is not intended to address issues pending in individually docketed hydropower cases before the Commission. Therefore, all participants are requested to address the agenda topics and avoid discussing the merits of individual proceedings. The agenda may be viewed on the Commission's Web site: [www.ferc.gov/hydro/docs/hydro](http://www.ferc.gov/hydro/docs/hydro).

#### Requirements for Paper and Electronic Filings

Comments or other documents related to this forum may be filed in paper format or electronically. Those filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing.

For paper filings, an original and 8 copies of the comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. Paper filings should, at the top of the first page, refer to Docket No. RM02-16-000. The deadline to file comments is December 6, 2002.

Comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. Documents filed electronically via the Internet must be prepared in WordPerfect, MS Word, Portable Document Format, or ASCII format. To file the document, access the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>, click on "e-Filing" and then follow the instructions on the screen. First-time users will have to establish a user name and password. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgment to the sender's e-mail address upon receipt of comments. User assistance for electronic filing is available at 202-502-8258 or by e-mail to [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov). Comments should not be submitted to the E-mail address.

All comments will be placed in the Commission's public files and will be available for inspection in the Commission's Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, during regular business hours. Additionally, all comments may be viewed on the

Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link. For assistance, call 202-502-8371, or toll free 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY 202-502-8659, or by e-mail to FERCONLINESUPPORT@ferc.gov.

### Opportunities for Listening and Viewing the Workshop Offsite and for Obtaining a Transcript

The Capitol Connection offers the opportunity for remote listening and viewing of the forum, which is available for a fee, live over the Internet, via C-Band Satellite. Persons interested in receiving the broadcast, or who need information on making arrangements should contact David Reininger or Julia Morelli at the Capitol Connection (703-993-3100) as soon as possible or visit the Capitol Connection Web site at <http://www.capitolconnection.gmu.edu> and click on "FERC".

The forum will be transcribed. Those interested in obtaining a copy of the transcript immediately for a fee should contact Ace-Federal Reporters, Inc. at 202-347-3700, or 1-800-336-6646. Two weeks after the forum, the transcript will be available for free on the Commission's FERRIS system.

Anyone without access to the Commission's Web site or who have questions about the forum should contact Tim Welch at 202-502-8760, or e-mail [timothy.welch@ferc.gov](mailto:timothy.welch@ferc.gov).

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

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD02-22-000]

### Notice of Technical Conference and Agenda; Midwest Energy Infrastructure Conference

October 17, 2002.

As announced in the Notice of Conference issued on September 13, 2002, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will hold a conference on November 13, 2002 to discuss issues regarding energy infrastructure in the midwestern states. These states include Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma. This half-day conference will begin at 1 p.m. and conclude at approximately 6 p.m., and will be held

at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, 301 East North Water Street, Chicago, Illinois (1-800-325-3535). All interested persons are invited to attend.

The conference will focus on the adequacy of the electric, gas and other energy infrastructure in the Midwest. The FERC Commissioners will attend, and the Governors and state utility commissioners of the midwestern states have been invited to participate. The goal is to identify the current state of infrastructure in the Midwest, present and future infrastructure needs, and the means for and barriers to fulfilling those needs. We look forward to an informative discussion of the issues to clarify how we can facilitate and enhance a comprehensive, collaborative approach to energy infrastructure development and reliability for the midwestern states. It is becoming increasingly clear that a well-functioning energy infrastructure is necessary to meet America's energy demands and achieve workable, competitive markets.

The conference Agenda is appended to this Notice. As indicated, the purpose of the conference is to discuss regional infrastructure issues among the panelists, and federal and state officials. It is not intended to deal with issues pending in individually docketed cases before the Commission, such as applications involving hydropower, natural gas certificates, or the formation of Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs). Therefore, all participants are requested to address the agenda topics and avoid discussing the merits of individual proceedings.

### Opportunities for Listening to and Obtaining Transcripts of the Conference

The Capitol Connection will offer this meeting live via telephone and audio on the internet for a fee. There will not be live video coverage or videotapes of the conference. For more information about Capitol Connection's services, contact David Reininger or Julia Morelli (703-993-3100), or go to <http://www.capitolconnection.org>.

Audio tapes of the meeting will be available from VISCOM (703-715-7999).

Additionally, transcripts of the conference will be immediately available from Ace Reporting Company (202-347-3700 or 1-800-336-6646), for a fee. They will be available for the public on the Commission's FERRIS system two weeks after the conference.

A reminder to please register for the conference online on the Commission Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov/calendar/courses-outreach/coursesoutreach.htm>. Scroll down and

click on "Midwest Energy Infrastructure Conference". There is no registration fee.

Questions about the conference program should be directed to: Carol Connors, Office of External Affairs, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, [carol.connors@ferc.gov](mailto:carol.connors@ferc.gov).

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

*Deputy Secretary.*

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Midwest Energy Infrastructure Conference

[Docket No. AD02-22-000]

#### Conference Agenda

Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers 301 East North Water Street Chicago, Illinois November 13, 2002

#### I. Opening Remarks and Introductions—1 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Chairman Pat Wood, Commissioner Nora Mead Brownell, Commissioner William Massey and Commissioner Linda Breathitt

#### II. Overview of Current Energy Infrastructure 1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

- Jeff Wright, Office of Energy Projects, FERC

#### III. Forecasts for Future Energy Use and Economic Impacts of Energy—1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

- Rick Mattoon, Senior Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

#### IV. Cross Border Issues/Future Energy Relations and Energy Transfer With Canada—2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Roundtable discussion on infrastructure constraints and improvements needed in energy supply and transmission to and from our neighboring trading partner, Canada.

- Ga,tan Caron, Chief Operating Officer, National Energy Board—Canada
- Kelly Hunter, Market Access Officer, Export Power Marketing Department, Manitoba Hydro
- Dennis Prince, Vice President, Regulatory Strategy, Alliance Pipeline
- [To be announced]

#### V. Powering New Generation—3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Roundtable discussion of infrastructure limitations in the Midwest in the delivery and production of natural gas, electricity and renewable energy (e.g., barriers to siting, construction, and investment).

- Jim Cleary, President, ANR Pipeline Company