

Section 203 of the Federal Power Act for authorization to assign two contracts between AE Supply and the California Department of Water Resources from AE Supply to ATF. The Applicants have requested Commission action on an expedited basis.

Also take notice that, in Docket No. ER03-65-000, on October 21, 2002, ATF filed proposed Market Rate Tariff, and a request for such waivers and blanket authorizations as have been granted in previous orders. ATF requests an effective date of October 22, 2002.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest these filings should file 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). 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. All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date, and, to the extent applicable, must be served on the applicant and on any other person designated on the official service list. This filing is available for review at the Commission or may 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 filed to access the document. For assistance, call (202) 502-8222 or TTY, (202) 502-8659. 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. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Comment Date: November 4, 2002.

Issued October 24, 2002.

By direction of the Commission. Commissioner Massey dissenting with a separate statement attached.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

MASSEY, Commissioner, dissenting:

I am concerned that a substantial shortening of our normal 21-day intervention period for this type of filing may not allow potential intervenors sufficient time to review the application

and to comment appropriately. Therefore, I dissent.

William L. Massey,
Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM01-12-000 et al.]

Remedying Undue Discrimination Through Open Access Transmission Service and Standard Electricity Market Design; Notice Announcing Process for Western Interconnection Market Design and Postponing Technical Conference

October 25, 2002.

Avista Corporation, Bonneville Power Administration, Idaho Power Company, Montana Power Company, Nevada Power Company, PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric Company, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., Sierra Pacific Power Company, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, Arizona Public Service Company, El Paso Electric Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Tucson Electric Power Company, WestConnect RTO, LLC [Docket No. EL02-9-000], California Independent System Operator Corporation, California Independent System Operator Corporation. [Docket No. RM01-12-000], [Docket No. RT01-35-000], [Docket No. RT02-1-000], [Docket No. ER02-1656-000], [Docket No. ER02-2576-000]

The Commission is announcing a process to develop compatible market designs in the Western Interconnect. The Commission wishes to build upon constructive ideas that emerged in technical meetings in Denver this week, comments from western commissioners at CREPC on October 1, and other outreach meetings around the West. In these meetings, participants learned about positive developments in RTO West, WestConnect, and the California ISO and flagged certain market design elements that may not be sufficiently compatible across the region. We note that the Seams Steering Group of the Western Interconnect (SSG-WI) and other regional organizations have been working to identify such elements in order to develop and support an evolving seamless western wholesale energy market that minimizes trade barriers and promotes common business practices for inter-RTO transmission services. We learned that SSG-WI is

pursuing plans to formalize its role and to re-structure in a way that allows for open participation, and that there has been further clarification of the roles of SSG-WI, the WECC, and CREPC.

Participants in these meetings asked FERC staff for an opportunity to resolve "seams" issues through these regional processes.

We are encouraged by these developments and offer FERC staff resources to support this effort. We believe that the seams resolution and market development process will be most successful if all market participants and representatives of public power and states fully participate, and if the process is driven by the market participants within the context of FERC's efforts. State participation is essential to this process, and states are encouraged to give their policy guidance through the appropriate regional organization. We request that SSG-WI develop a list of recommended market design elements appropriate for the western interconnect (*i.e.*, balancing market, transmission rights, planning process, etc.), which elements must be designed compatibly to avoid seams, and a plan and timeline for resolution of these issues that is coordinated with RTO development efforts. This plan would include specific tasks for each of the current SSG-WI working groups and any other working groups that may be necessary. We request that SSG-WI present that plan by mid-January, consistent with previously set SSG-WI deadlines.

To accommodate this process, we recognize that some flexibility in RTO timelines may be required. We envision a parallel track between this process and RTO development processes so that both can continue to move forward. We expect the SSG-WI process to clarify which remaining issues can be resolved in RTO proceedings and which should be coordinated through this collaborative process for the Western Interconnect.

We will defer the November 4, 2002, policy meeting scheduled in Portland, Oregon, to allow this alternative process a chance to succeed. We will schedule a public meeting, which Commissioners plan to attend, after a consensus plan has been presented. We expect further technical meetings between the parties during November and December to advance this process; our staff will participate.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,
Deputy Secretary.

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