

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Russell (Program Office), 202-586-9624 or Michael Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-2793.

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. Existing Presidential permits are not transferable or assignable. However, in the event of a proposed voluntary transfer of physical facilities, in accordance with the regulations at 10 CFR 205.323, the existing holder of a permit and the transferee are required to file joint application for transfer with the Department of Energy (DOE) that includes a statement of reasons for the transfer.

In addition, exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)). In accordance with the regulation at 10 CFR 205.305, an authorization to export electric energy is not transferable or assignable. Providing written notice is given to DOE, the authorization may continue in effect until a decision is made on a new application for a permanent authorization.

On August 5, 1983, DOE issued Presidential Permit PP-80 to Citizens Utilities Company (now Citizens Communications Company) for two 25,000-volt (25-kV) electric transmission lines that cross the United States border with Canada near Canaan, and Norton, Vermont, respectively. Both transmission lines interconnect with similar transmission facilities in Canada owned by Hydro Quebec.

On December 17, 2003, Citizens and VEC (collectively, the "Applicants") jointly filed an application with DOE to transfer Presidential Permit PP-80 from Citizens to VEC. VEC is a consumer-owned electric distribution cooperative providing retail electric services to residential, small commercial, and industrial customers in rural Vermont. VEC does not own any electric generating facilities. VEC proposes to purchase from Citizens the transmission facilities that are the subject of PP-80. In this application, the Applicants state that there will be no physical changes to the existing permitted facilities.

In Docket EA-66, Citizens is authorized to export electric energy to Canada using the international

transmission facilities authorized in Presidential Permit PP-66-1 issued to Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc., on November 5, 2003. In its joint application, Citizens and VEC request that this export authorization held by Citizens (EA-66-B) be rescinded and that VEC be simultaneously authorized to export electric energy to Canada using the 120-kV international transmission line authorized in PP-66-1 and located at Derby Line, Vermont. Subject to the same limitations set forth in EA-66-B, to become effective upon the financial closing of the transfer of ownership of certain of Citizen's transmission and distribution facilities in Vermont to VEC.

Procedural Matters: Any person desiring to become a party to these proceedings or to be heard by filing comments or protests to these applications 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.

Comments on the joint application to transfer Presidential Permit PP-66 from Citizens to VELCO should be clearly marked with Docket PP-66-1. Comments on VEC's application to export electric energy to Canada should be clearly marked with Docket EA-288. Additional copies are to be filed directly with L. Russell Mitten, Esq., VP, General Counsel, Citizens Communications Company, 3 High Ridge Park, Stamford, CT 06905; Ms. Kelly Enright, Vice President and Executive Manager, Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc., 182 School Street, Johnson, VT 05656 and Kenneth G. Hurwitz, Esq., Haynes and Boone, LLP, 1615 L Street, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036; and Michael L. Burak, Esq., Burak, Anderson & Melloni, P.O. Box 787, Burlington, VT 05402-0787.

Before a Presidential permit or electricity export authorization may be issued or amended, the DOE must determine that the proposed action(s) 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(s) (*i.e.*, granting the Presidential permit and/or export authorization with any conditions and limitations, or denying one or both) 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 these applications will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above or by accessing the Fossil Energy Home Page at <http://www.fe.doe.gov>. Upon reaching the Fossil Energy Home page, select "Electricity Regulation," and then "Pending Proceedings" from the options menus.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 9, 2004.

Anthony J. Como,

Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal & Power Import/Export, Office of Coal & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 04-3217 Filed 2-12-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. ER02-1656-017 and ER02-1656-018]

California Independent System Operator Corporation; Notice of Staff Technical Conference

February 6, 2004.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Staff is convening a technical conference regarding the California Independent System Operator Corporation's Revised Comprehensive Market Design Proposal 2002 (MD02), pursuant to the Commission Order issued on October 28, 2003,¹ to further facilitate and better understand several aspects of the proposed MD02. The conference will be held March 3-5, 2004, in San Francisco, California. A separate notice will be issued by the Commission to announce the exact location and final agenda of the Staff Technical Conference.

In addition, by this notice we inform interested parties that the Commission has cancelled the plans for the February 24-25, 2004, technical conference discussed during the conference on January 28-29, 2004.

The conference is open for the public to attend, and registration is not required. For more information about the conference, please contact: Olga

¹ California Independent System Operator Corporation, 1.

Kolotushkina at (202) 502-6024 or at olga.kolotushkina@ferc.gov.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-268 Filed 2-12-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PL04-3-000]

Natural Gas Interchangeability; Agenda for February 18, 2004, Public Conference

February 6, 2004.

1. On January 15, the Commission issued a notice announcing its intention to conduct a public conference on natural gas interchangeability and gas quality issues. The notice indicated that the Public Conference would be held on February 18, 2004, and that the Commission would issue a conference agenda at a future time. Accordingly, the following is the agenda as it now stands:

9:30 a.m. Opening Remarks, Conference Guidelines

Focus: Legal context for Commission action, to date and going forward; technical background underlying the need for the conference; *ex parte* considerations, and what may not be discussed; and, procedures for "open mike" discussion.

9:45-10:15 Natural Gas Council Presentation

Focus: Status of gas industry efforts to develop a statement of principles on the issue of natural gas quality standards.

10:15-11:45 Panel I: Technical Perspectives on Gas Interchangeability and Quality: "Gas Quality and Interchangeability 101"

Focus: Technical and scientific background: Reliability; equipment; pipeline tariff and contract conditions; gas processing; LNG distinctives; and, geographic variations in gas quality.

- Jeryl L. Mohn, Sr. Vice President, Operations and Engineering, Panhandle Energy;
- David Rue, Manager, Industrial Combustion Processes, Gas Technology Institute;
- Lori Traweek, Senior Vice President, Operations and Engineering Management, American Gas Association;
- Bob Dimitroff, Topsides Design Manager, Regasification Projects,

International Gas, ChevronTexaco Overseas Petroleum;

- Joel D. Moxley, Vice President, Processing and NGL Group, El Paso Field Services.

11:45-1:15 Panel II: Addressing Gas Interchangeability and Quality Concerns

Focus: Standardization efforts (historical and current); tariff differences; economic incentives; new electric generation needs; cost shifting and cost causation.

- Randy Barnard, V.P. of Operations and Gas Control, Williams Gas Pipelines;
- Adrian P. Chapman, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Energy Acquisition, Washington Gas Light Company;
- Keith C. Wilson, PE, Ammonia Technology Manager, PCS Nitrogen Fertilizer, LP;
- W. Collin Harper, Senior Vice President, Fuels, Tractebel North America;
- Richard Brent, Director of Government Affairs, Solar Turbines Incorporated;
- Keith Barnett, Vice President, Fundamental Analysis, American Electric Power;
- Robert Wilson, Director, Environmental Engineering and Operations, KeySpan;
- Alfred Fatica, Director NGL Assets, BP America Inc.

1:15-2:15 Break for Lunch

2:15-3:45 Panel III: Next steps * * *

Focus: What are the possible approaches the Commission, the North American Energy Standards Board, other standards-setting organizations, the industry, and commercial partners might take on natural gas interchangeability and natural gas quality? Is there a need for nation-wide standards, and if there is a need, which organizations need to take responsibility to craft such standards?

- Rae McQuade, Executive Director, North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB);
- Douglas A. Moser, Vice President, Gas Management, Philadelphia Gas Works;
- Lee Stewart, Senior Vice President, Gas Transmission, Southern California Gas;
- Terry D. Boss, Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs—Safety and Environment, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America;
- John Hritcko, Jr., Vice President Strategy and Development, Shell U.S. Gas and Power;

- William ("Bill") G. Cope, Vice President, Southern LNG Inc.
- James R. Newman, Senior Engineering Designer, Rheem Air Conditioning Division.

3:45-4:45 "Open Mike" Opportunity

4:45-5:00 Closing Remarks

The foregoing agenda may be subject to change.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-267 Filed 2-12-04; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OA-2003-0009, FRL-7618-8]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Information Collection Request for Obtaining Feedback on Public Involvement Activities and Processes, EPA ICR Number OA-2003-0009

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the EPA is planning to submit a request for a new Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, the EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 15, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, referencing docket ID number OA-2003-0009, to EPA online using EDOCKET (our preferred method), by e-mail to oei.docket@epa.gov, or by mail to EPA Docket Center, OEI Docket Mail Code-2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW., Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pat Bonner, Office of the Administrator/Public Involvement Staff—Mail Code 1807T, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: 202-566-2204; fax number: 202-566-2200 and e-mail: bonner.patricia@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has established a public docket for this ICR under Docket ID number OA-2003-