

n. *Scoping Process*: The Commission intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS will consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action.

Scoping Meetings

FERC staff will hold four scoping meetings in the project area. We invite all interested agencies, non-governmental organizations, Native American tribes, and individuals to attend one or more of the meetings and to assist the staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues to be analyzed in the EIS. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Evening Scoping Meetings

When: Tuesday, May 18, 2004, 7 p.m.–9 p.m.

Where: The Klamath County Fair Grounds, 3531 South Sixth Street, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

When: Thursday, May 20, 2004, 7 p.m.–9 p.m.

Where: The Boston Shaft Restaurant, 1801 Fort Jones Road, Yreka, California.

Morning Scoping Meetings

When: Thursday, May 20, 2004, 9 a.m. to noon.

Where: The Hilton Garden Inn, 3609 Bechelli Lane, Redding, California.

When: Friday, May 21, 2004, 9 a.m. to noon.

Where: The Ashland Springs Hotel, 212 East Main Street, Ashland, Oregon.

Copies of the Scoping Document (SD1) outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the EIS are being distributed to the parties on the Commission's mailing list under separate cover. Copies of the SD1 will be available at the scoping meeting or may be viewed on the Web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link (see item m above).

Site Visit

We also will visit the project facilities on May 18 (Oregon facilities) and 19 (California facilities), meeting at the north end of the Link River Trail, off Lake Shore Drive, Klamath Falls, Oregon on Tuesday, May 18 at 9 a.m., and at the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery parking lot, off Copco Road, on Wednesday, May 19 at 9 a.m. Participants on the site visits will need to provide their own transportation and bring their own lunch.

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EIS, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views; (4) determine the resource issues to be addressed in the EIS; and (5) identify those issues that require a detailed analysis, as well as those issues that do not require a detailed analysis.

Procedures

The meetings are recorded by a stenographer and become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meeting and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the EIS.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP04-12-000]

Florida Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

April 16, 2004.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in this proceeding commencing at 1 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2004, and continuing at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27 thru Friday, April 30, 2004, at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, for the purpose of exploring the possible settlement of the above-referenced dockets.

Any party, as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(c), or any participant as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(b), is invited to attend. Persons wishing to become a party must move to intervene and receive intervenor status pursuant to the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 385.214).

For additional information, please contact Hollis Alpert at 202-502-8783, hollis.alpert@ferc.gov.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PL04-5-000]

Policy Statement on Matters Related to Bulk Power System Reliability

Issued April 19, 2004.

Before Commissioners: Pat Wood, III, Chairman; Nora Mead Brownell, Joseph T. Kelliher, and Suedeem G. Kelly.

1. This Policy Statement responds to recommendations in the U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force's (Task Force) Interim and Final Blackout Reports on initiatives the Commission should undertake. This Policy Statement also responds to comments submitted after the Commission's December 1, 2003 public conference, in Docket No. RM04-2-000, on actions the Commission should take to promote reliable transmission service in interstate commerce (December 1 Reliability Conference). As such, the Policy Statement addresses a number of issues that relate to the Commission's role and policies regarding reliability of the nation's interstate bulk power systems. In particular, the Policy Statement clarifies Commission policy with regard to: the need to expeditiously modify existing bulk power system reliability standards,¹ to translate them into clear and enforceable requirements; public utility compliance with industry reliability standards and possible Commission action to address specific bulk power system reliability issues; cost recovery of prudent bulk power system reliability expenditures; the need for communication and cooperation between the Commission and the States; the need for communication and cooperation among

¹ Current industry reliability standards are found in the North American Electricity Reliability Council's (NERC) Planning Standards and the NERC Operating Manual, with operating standards set forth in operating policies contained in the Operating Manual and Appendices. The operating policies include "standards" and "requirements," along with "guidelines" and "criteria." For purposes of this Policy Statement, the term "reliability standards" refers to the entirety of reliability-related policies now in the NERC Operating Manual and Planning Standards and those evolving through the formal standards development process.