

information. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend and present oral comments on the draft EIS. Transcripts of the meetings will be prepared.

After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the draft EIS and draft General Conformity Determination, a final EIS, including a final General Conformity Determination, will be published and distributed by the staff. The final EIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments received on the draft EIS and draft General Conformity Determination.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor 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).

Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this draft EIS. You must file your request to intervene as specified above.¹ You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

The draft EIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference Room, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502-8371.

A limited number of copies are available from the Public Reference Room identified above. In addition, copies of the draft EIS have been mailed to Federal, State, and local agencies; public interest groups; individuals and affected landowners who requested a copy of the draft EIS; libraries; newspapers; and parties to this proceeding.

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1-866-208-FERC or on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary

link on the FERC Internet Web site also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to the documents. Go to the eSubscription link on the FERC Internet Web site.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Soliciting Additional Study Requests

July 30, 2004.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

- a. *Type of Application:* Major license.
- b. *Project No.:* 11945-001.
- c. *Date Filed:* June 30, 2004.
- d. *Applicant:* Symbiotics, LLC.
- e. *Name of Project:* Dorena Lake Dam Project.

f. *Location:* On the Row River, near the Town of Cottage Grove, Lane County, Oregon. The project would occupy less than 1 acre of Federal lands administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791 (a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Brent L. Smith, Northwest Power Services, Inc., P.O. Box 535, Rigby, Idaho 83442, (208) 745-0834.

i. *FERC Contact:* Dianne Rodman, (202) 502-6077, dianne.rodman@ferc.gov.

j. *Cooperating agencies:* We are asking Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to cooperate with us in the preparation of the environmental document. Agencies who would like to request cooperating status should follow the instructions for filing comments described in item l below.

k. Pursuant to § 4.32(b)(7) of 18 CFR of the Commission's regulations, if any

resource agency, Indian tribe, or person believes that an additional scientific study should be conducted in order to form an adequate factual basis for a complete analysis of the application on its merit, the resource agency, Indian tribe, or person must file a request for a study with the Commission not later than 60 days from the date of filing of the application, and serve a copy of the request on the applicant.

l. Deadline for filing additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status: August 30, 2004.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

Additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status 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 Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the "e-Filing" link.

m. The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

n. The proposed project would utilize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' existing Dorena Lake dam and reservoir, and would consist of the following facilities: (1) A 9-foot-diameter steel pipe, about 350 feet long, extending from the reservoir through the north dam abutment; (2) a new powerhouse, near the existing spillway stilling basin 250 feet downstream from the concrete section of the dam, having a total installed capacity of 8,300 kilowatts; (3) a new concrete-lined channel discharging flows into the river channel immediately below the existing stilling basin; (4) a new valve house near the existing stilling basin; (5) a new 15-kilovolt underground transmission line, about 500 feet long; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The average annual generation is estimated to be 17.5 gigawatthours.

o. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket

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

number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via e-mail of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

p. With this notice, we are initiating consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), as required by section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR 800.4.

q. *Procedural schedule:* The application will be processed according to the following Hydro Licensing Schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

Issue Acceptance or Deficiency Letter: August 2004.

Request Additional Information: August 2004.

Issue Acceptance Letter: December 2004.

Issue Scoping Document 1 for comments: January 2005.

Request Additional Information (if necessary): March 2005.

Issue Scoping Document 2: March 2005.

Notice of application is ready for environmental analysis: March 2005.

Notice of the availability of the draft EA: September 2005.

Initiate 10(j) Process: November 2005.

Notice of the availability of the final EA: March 2006.

Ready for Commission's decision on the application: June 2006.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-1732 Filed 8-5-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD04-10-000]

Enhanced Reporting of Natural Gas Storage Inventory Information; Notice of Technical Conference and Request for Written Comments on Enhanced Reporting of Natural Gas Storage Inventory Information

August 2, 2004.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) will hold a technical conference to explore whether the Commission should institute a generic rulemaking to consider whether the Commission should require interstate natural gas pipeline companies and other owners and operators of natural gas storage facilities to electronically post each day actual natural gas storage inventory levels on their systems for the preceding day. Specifically, the technical conference will explore the feasibility, usefulness and appropriateness of requiring posting on a standardized basis for the previous gas day (1) Net aggregate actual injection or withdrawal data; (2) actual total available working gas; and (3) actual total storage inventory volume. The conference will take place on September 28, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. (e.s.t.) in the Commission Meeting Room at the Commission's headquarters, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC. The Commission's staff will conduct the conference and members of the Commission may attend it. In preparation for the technical conference, the Commission invites all interested parties to submit written comments, addressing the subject and questions discussed below, on or before September 10, 2004.¹

Background

Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. (e.s.t.), the United States Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA) releases a report of natural gas storage inventory levels for the United States, including for Eastern, Western and Producing regions. The EIA compiles this report based on information provided to it by a sampling of storage owners and operators, usually

on the Monday that precedes the Thursday report. The reporting companies provide weekly net aggregate storage inventory information for the week that ended with the gas day that ended on the preceding Friday. The EIA's release of its weekly report is a regularly watched event in the natural gas industry because changes in natural gas storage inventory levels can affect commodity prices, the price of NYMEX natural gas futures contracts, other physical and financial transactions, and a variety of transportation and storage transactions. Increased volatility observed in the trading of NYMEX natural gas futures contracts immediately following the EIA's release of its weekly storage report suggests the importance to many industry participants of information related to natural gas storage inventory levels. In addition, the order the Commission is issuing today approving Stipulation and Consent Agreements (Agreements) in Docket No. IN04-2-000, indicates that some market participants obtained non-public storage inventory information sourced from interstate pipelines, or in one case, a local distribution company (LDC), because of the perceived market value of this information.

The Commission currently requires interstate pipelines that provide service under blanket certificates pursuant to subparts B and G of part 284 of the Commission's regulations, to post the availability of all transportation services whenever capacity is scheduled at receipt points, on the mainline, at delivery points and at storage fields. 18 CFR 284.13(d)(1). This regulation does not address storage activity that is not subject to daily nomination and scheduling, such as no-notice storage and transportation services. Accordingly, pipelines have reported storage activities in different ways.

The interstate pipeline companies that executed the Agreements in Docket No. IN04-2-000 have indicated that they are, or soon will be, posting weekly net aggregate storage inventory information. Other interstate natural gas pipelines post storage inventory information on a daily basis, but may post injections and withdrawals attributable to no-notice contractual service on a weekly basis. Alternatively, storage activities attributable to no-notice contractual service may be partially posted, depending on whether customers make nominations at the pipeline's storage points for this service.

Inconsistent posting of storage activities and inventories hinders efforts to compare and make sense of this information, leading to less efficient market outcomes. Current posting

¹ The Commission issued an order today, in Docket No. IN04-2-000, approving three Stipulation and Consent Agreements (Agreements). These Agreements state that the two interstate natural gas pipeline companies and one local distribution company that signed the Agreements communicated their respective non-public storage inventory information to customers or industry participants.