

Balancing Authority, Midwest ISO will not take title to electric energy under any circumstances, but will buy or sell such energy "for and on behalf of" its Market Participants (as defined in the Midwest ISO Tariff) and will distribute revenues or collect the costs of such energy as set forth in the Tariff.

In addition, in operating as a Balancing Authority, Midwest ISO will be a member of a contingency reserve sharing group that includes Manitoba Hydro and proposes to export emergency energy to Manitoba Hydro under the terms of the contingency reserve sharing agreement.

Traditionally, DOE has required that the last entity to hold title to the electricity inside the U.S. obtain export authority. The rationale being that such an entity could affect the transfer and, therefore, impact the operational reliability of the system. Although Midwest ISO is not the title holder of the electricity being exported, DOE believes that as a Balancing Authority, Midwest ISO occupies the position of affecting the export and as an RTO, has the legal responsibility for the reliable operation of the electric system.

Based on the above, DOE believes that Midwest ISO must obtain authorization to export electricity under section 202(e) of the FPA. However, because of the fairly recent introduction of different types of entities, like RTOs, ISOs, Balancing Authorities, and similarly situated entities, each of whom may affect the transmission of electric energy from the United States to a foreign country and be responsible for the reliable operation of the electric system, DOE is inviting comments on the appropriateness of issuing export authorizations to entities like Midwest ISO. For the time being, DOE will address the question of whether a particular entity needs an export authorization on a case-by-case basis. DOE intends to initiate a proceeding in the near future to explore the more general question of what types of entities need an electricity export authorization from DOE. In that proceeding, DOE will be looking for ways to reduce the administrative burden on entities engaged in the international electricity market, while continuing to satisfy our statutory obligations.

The electric energy which Midwest ISO proposes to export to Canada would be transmitted over the international transmission facilities owned by International Transmission Co., Minnesota Power, Inc., Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., and Northern States Power Company/Xcel. The construction, operation, maintenance, and connection

of each of these international transmission facilities to be utilized by Midwest ISO has previously been authorized by a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended.

On December 22, 2008, Midwest ISO submitted an application for emergency temporary authorization to export electric energy to Canada in this docket, asserting that FERC had issued a final order on December 18, 2008, authorizing Midwest ISO to begin operating its Ancillary Services Market on January 6, 2009. The application requested that DOE issue an emergency temporary export authorization pending completion of this proceeding. On December 24, 2008, DOE granted Midwest ISO the temporary authority to export electric energy to Canada beginning January 6, 2009 as requested, until final resolution of the matter in this proceeding.

*Procedural Matters:* Any person desiring to become a party to these proceedings or to be heard by filing comments or protests to this application should file a petition to intervene, comment, or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each petition and protest should be filed with DOE on or before the date listed above.

Comments on the Midwest ISO application to export electric energy to Canada should be clearly marked with Docket No. EA-343. Additional copies are to be filed directly with Gregory A. Troxell, Assistant General Counsel, Midwest ISO, P.O. Box 4202, Carmel, Indiana 46082-4202. A final decision will be made on this application after the environmental impacts have been evaluated pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and a determination is made by DOE that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above, by accessing the program Web site at [http://www.oe.energy.gov/permits\\_pending.htm](http://www.oe.energy.gov/permits_pending.htm), or by e-mailing Odessa Hopkins at [Odessa.hopkins@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Odessa.hopkins@hq.doe.gov).

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 4, 2009.

**Anthony J. Como,**

*Director, Permitting and Siting, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.*

[FR Doc. E9-5167 Filed 3-10-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open teleconference meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces an open teleconference meeting of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee under the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that agencies publish these notices in the **Federal Register** to allow for public participation. This notice announces the meeting of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee.

**DATES:** March 19, 2009 at 11 a.m.–12 p.m. EST.

**ADDRESSES:** Meeting will be conducted via conference call. Call-in information can be obtained by contacting T.J. Heibel at (410) 997-7778 ext. 223; e-mail: [theibel@bcs-hq.com](mailto:theibel@bcs-hq.com).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Valri Lightner, Designated Federal Official for the Committee, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585; (202) 586-0937 or T.J. Heibel at (410) 997-7778 ext. 223; e-mail: [theibel@bcs-hq.com](mailto:theibel@bcs-hq.com)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and guidance that promotes research and development leading to the production of biobased fuels and biobased products.

*Tentative Agenda:* Agenda will include the following:

- Feedstock Subcommittee Report Out.

*Public Participation:* In keeping with procedures, members of the public are welcome to observe the business of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee. To attend the meeting and/or to make oral statements regarding any of the items on the agenda, you should contact Valri Lightner at 202-586-0937; e-mail:

valri.lightner@ee.doe.gov or T.J. Heibel at (410) 997-7778 ext. 223; e-mail: theibel@bcs-hq.com You must make your request for an oral statement at least 5 business days before the meeting. Members of the public will be heard in the order in which they sign up at the beginning of the meeting. Reasonable provision will be made to include the scheduled oral statements on the agenda. The Chair of the Committee will make every effort to hear the views of all interested parties. If you would like to file a written statement with the Committee, you may do so either before or after the meeting. The Chair will conduct the meeting to facilitate the orderly conduct of business. This notice is being published less than 15 days before the date of the meeting due to programmatic issues.

*Minutes:* The minutes of the meeting will be available for public review and copying at <http://www.brdisolutions.com/publications/default.aspx#meetings>.

Issued at Washington, DC on March 4, 2009.

**Rachel Samuel,**

*Deputy Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. E9-5074 Filed 3-10-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 13348-000]

#### **Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District; Notice of Conduit Exemption Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comment, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications**

March 4, 2009.

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

a. *Application Type:* Application for Exemption for Small Conduit Facility.

b. *Project No.:* 13348-000.

c. *Date Filed:* December 19, 2008.

d. *Applicant:* Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District.

e. *Name of Project:* South Extension Canal Project.

f. *Location:* The project is located near the town of Buckeye in Maricopa County, Arizona.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Ed Gerak, General Manager, Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District, P.O.

Box 1726, Buckeye, AZ 85326, (623) 386-2196.

i. *FERC Contact:* Anthony DeLuca, (202) 502-6632

j. Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 45 days from the issuance of this notice. Comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "e-Filing" link. If unable to be filed electronically, documents may be paper-filed. To paper-file, an original and eight copies should be mailed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. For more information on how to submit these types of filings please go to the Commission's Web site located at <http://www.ferc.gov/filing-comments.asp>. More information about this project can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number (P-13348) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, call toll-free 1-866-208-3372.

k. *Description of Request:* Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District (BWCDD) requests Commission approval for exemption for small conduit hydroelectric facility. This proposal consists of adding a steel tube penstock, one Schneider Linear Hydroengine (SLH), and a draft tube to a recently improved impoundment structure located on a BWCDD canal known as the South Extension Canal (SEC). The canal is operated for the distribution of water for agricultural purposes and there are no consumptive water supply facilities associated with the SEC project. The hydraulic capacity of the plant will be 0.52 cubic meters per second (18.4 cubic feet per second) and SLH will have an estimated average annual generation of 32,000 kWh.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E9-5251 Filed 3-10-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER09-747-000]

#### **Robbins Energy LLC; Supplemental Notice That Initial Market-Based Rate Filing Includes Request for Blanket Section 204 Authorization**

March 3, 2009.

This is a supplemental notice in the above-referenced proceeding, of Robbins Energy LLC's application for market-based rate authority, with an accompanying rate schedule, noting that such application includes a request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest 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). Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing protests with regard to the applicant's request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability is March 23, 2009.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper, using the FERC Online links at <http://www.ferc.gov>. To facilitate electronic service, persons with Internet access who will eFile a document and/or be listed as a contact for an intervenor must create and validate an eRegistration account using the eRegistration link. Select the eFiling link to log on and submit the intervention or protests.

Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 14 copies of the intervention or protest to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The filings in the above-referenced proceeding(s) are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by clicking on the appropriate link in the above list. They are also available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an eSubscription link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive e-mail notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC