

ensure that analyses needed to satisfy its NEPA obligations for its loan guarantee decision are included.

*Agency Purpose and Need:* Western's purpose and need for the RSEP is to respond to RSE's requested interconnection in accordance with Western's Open Access Transmission Tariff. LGP's purpose and need for the RSEP is to determine whether RSE's project is eligible for a guarantee under EPLRA 2005. DOE is using the NEPA process to assist in determining whether to issue a loan guarantee to RSE to support the proposed project. The BLM's purpose and need for the RSEP is to respond to RSE's application under Title V of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1761) for a ROW grant to construct the 161-kV/230-kV transmission line, substation, access road, and fiber optic line on public lands in compliance with FLPMA, BLM ROW regulations, and other applicable Federal laws. The BLM will respond to RSE's ROW application by approving, approving with modifications, or denying RSE'S application.

*Proposed Agency Actions:* Western's proposed action is to interconnect the proposed Project to Western's existing Parker-Blythe transmission line and to replace an overhead ground wire on its existing Parker-Blythe transmission with a fiber optic ground wire to allow communication from the new plant to the existing system. The LGP's proposed action is to issue a loan guarantee to RSE. The BLM's proposed action is to authorize a ROW in favor of a 161-kV/230-kV transmission line, access road, and fiber optic line. The BLM would also amend the CDCA Plan to include this project. The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended), states that new electric transmission facilities on lands designated as Multiple-Use Class M may be allowed only within designated corridors. If the BLM decides to grant a ROW for this Project, the CDCA Plan would be amended to designate a new utility corridor in support of the 161-kV/230-kV electrical transmission towers and cables.

Western, LGP, BLM, and the CEC have agreed to conduct a joint environmental review of the proposed Project in a single combined NEPA/CEQA process and document. For purposes of NEPA compliance, Western, on behalf of DOE, is serving as the lead Federal agency with the BLM acting as a cooperating agency. The Draft EIS/SA analyzes site-specific impacts on air quality, biological resources, recreation, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources and hazards, hazardous materials handling, land use, noise, paleontological resources,

wilderness characteristics, public health, socioeconomic, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, waste management, worker safety and fire protection, as well as facility design engineering, efficiency, reliability, transmission system engineering, and transmission line safety and nuisance.

As required under NEPA, the draft EIS/SA analyzes a no action alternative that would not require a CDCA Plan amendment. The draft EIS/SA also analyzes two no-project alternatives that reject the proposed Project but amend the CDCA Plan to (1) designate the project area as available to future solar energy power generation projects or (2) designate the project area as unavailable to future solar energy power generation projects.

Dated: October 8, 2010.

**Timothy J. Meeks,**

*Administrator.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL09-24-000]

#### National Grid USA; Notice of Filing

October 20, 2010.

Take notice that on October 15, 2010, pursuant to Rule 215 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), National Grid USA filed an amended petition supplementing and clarifying its request, originally filed on May 19, 2010, for waiver of certain of the affiliate pricing rules as established by the Commission's Order Nos. 707 and 707-A.<sup>1</sup>

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211, 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 notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. On or before the comment date, it is not necessary to

<sup>1</sup> *Cross-Subsidization Restrictions on Affiliate Transactions*, Order No. 707, 73 FR 11013 (Feb. 29, 2008), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,264, at P 4-5, *order on rehearing*, Order No. 707-A, 73 FR 43072 (Jul. 24, 2008), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,272 (2008).

serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 14 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link and is 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 Online service, please e-mail [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

*Comment Date:* 5 p.m. Eastern Time on November 5, 2010.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2010-27128 Filed 10-26-10; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 13586-000]

#### Bishop Tungsten Development, LLC; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications

October 20, 2010.

On November 9, 2009, Bishop Tungsten Development, LLC filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of the Lower Pine Creek Mine Canyon Hydroelectric Project to be located near the town of Bishop, in Inyo County, California. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

An existing network of penstocks collect and convey the existing Pine Creek Mine discharge water above the