

issuance of a new license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first. If issuance of a new license (or other disposition) does not take place on or before March 31, 2013, notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.18(c), an annual license under section 15(a)(1) of the FPA is renewed automatically without further order or notice by the Commission, unless the Commission orders otherwise. If the project is not subject to section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that the Madison Paper Industries, FPL Energy Maine Hydro, LLC, and Merimil Limited Partnership are authorized to continue operation of the Brassua Hydroelectric Project, until such time as the Commission acts on its application for a subsequent license.

Dated: April 9, 2012.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2012-9015 Filed 4-13-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PR12-20-000]

#### NorthWestern Corporation; Notice of Petition for Rate Approval

Take notice that on April 2, 2012, NorthWestern Corporation (NorthWestern) filed a Rate Election pursuant to 284.123(b)(1) of the Commissions regulations and to revise its Statement of Operating Conditions. NorthWestern proposes to utilize rates that are the same as those contained in NorthWestern's transportation rate schedules for comparable intrastate service on file with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission as more fully detailed in the petition.

Any person desiring to participate in this rate filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 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 date as indicated below. Anyone filing an intervention or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant. Anyone filing an intervention or protest on or before the intervention or protest

date need not 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 7 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 email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email [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 Monday, April 16, 2012.

Dated: April 4, 2012.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2012-9014 Filed 4-13-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Interconnection of the Grande Prairie Wind Farm, Holt County, NE

**AGENCY:** Western Area Power Administration, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and conduct scoping meetings; Notice of potential floodplain and wetlands involvement.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Area Power Administration (Western), an agency of the Department of Energy (DOE), intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed interconnection of the Grande Prairie Wind Farm (Project) in Holt County, near the city of O'Neill, Nebraska. Grande Prairie Wind, LLC (Grande Prairie Wind), a majority-owned subsidiary of Midwest Wind Energy, LLC, has applied to Western to interconnect their proposed wind energy generation project to Western's power transmission system. Western's Federal action would be to execute an interconnection agreement with Grande Prairie Wind and make any necessary

modifications to the transmission system to accommodate the interconnection at Grande Prairie Wind's expense. Western is issuing this notice to inform the public and interested parties about Western's intent to prepare an EIS, conduct a public scoping process, and invite the public to comment on the scope, proposed action, alternatives, and other issues to be addressed in the EIS.

Construction activities proposed by Grande Prairie Wind may affect floodplains and wetlands, so this Notice of Intent (NOI) also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action in accordance with DOE floodplain and wetland environmental review requirements.

**DATES:** The public scoping period begins with the publication of this notice and closes on May 16, 2012. To provide the public an opportunity to review the proposal and project information, Western will hold one public meeting in O'Neill, Nebraska. Western will announce the date and location of the public scoping meeting through local news media, and posting on the Western Web site at <http://www.wapa.gov/ugp/Environment/default.htm> at least 15 days prior to the meeting. While comments will be accepted at any time during the EIS process, submission of comments by the end of the scoping comment period will ensure full consideration in the Draft EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the scope of the EIS should be addressed to Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 35800, 2900 4th Avenue, North, Billings, MT 59107, fax (406) 255-2900 or email at [grandeprairie@wapa.gov](mailto:grandeprairie@wapa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 35800, 2900 4th Avenue, North, Billings, MT 59107, telephone (406) 255-2811, or email [grandeprairie@wapa.gov](mailto:grandeprairie@wapa.gov). For general information on DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review procedures or status of a NEPA review, contact Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-54, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756, fax (202) 586-7031.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Western, an agency within DOE, markets Federal hydroelectric power to preference customers, as specified by law. These customers include municipalities, cooperatives, irrigation districts, Federal and State agencies, and Native