

Dated: October 25, 2013.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013-26029 Filed 10-31-13; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER13-2124-000]

#### Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.; Notice of Technical Conference

By order dated October 16, 2013, in Docket No. ER13-2124-000, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) directed staff to convene a technical conference regarding a proposal by Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) to modify the allocation of real-time Revenue Sufficiency Guarantee (RSG) costs.<sup>1</sup> In its order, the Commission accepted and suspended for five months MISO's filing, subject to the outcome of the technical conference and further Commission order.

Take notice that such conference will be held on November 19, 2013, at the Commission's headquarters at 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426, beginning at 9:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) in Hearing Room 6. The technical conference will be led by Commission staff.

The purpose of the technical conference is to discuss the issues raised by MISO's proposed revisions to its real-time RSG cost allocation methodology. A subsequent notice detailing the topics to be discussed will be issued in advance of the conference. Following the conference, the parties will have an opportunity to file written comments that will be included in the formal record of the proceeding, which, together with the record developed to date, will form the basis for further Commission action.

FERC conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations please send an email to [accessibility@ferc.gov](mailto:accessibility@ferc.gov) or call toll free 1-866-208-3372 (voice) or 202-208-8659 (TTY); or send a fax to 202-208-2106 with the required accommodations.

All parties are permitted to attend. For more information on this conference, please contact Cristie DeVoss at [cristie.devoss@ferc.gov](mailto:cristie.devoss@ferc.gov) or

202-502-8441, or Melissa Nimit at [melissa.nimit@ferc.gov](mailto:melissa.nimit@ferc.gov) or 202-502-6638.

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Recommendation From the Western Area Power Administration To Pursue Regional Transmission Organization Membership

**AGENCY:** Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of Western Area Power Administration Recommendation to Pursue Regional Transmission Organization Membership.

**SUMMARY:** Western Area Power Administration (Western), Upper Great Plains Region (Western-UGP), a power marketing administration (PMA) of the Department of Energy (DOE), is publishing a recommendation to pursue formal negotiations with the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), concerning membership. Western is seeking public comment from Western's customers, Tribes, stakeholders, and the public at large. A decision to pursue implementation of the recommendation will be posted to Western's Web site.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, all comments should be received by Western at the address below on or before 4 p.m. MST December 16, 2013. Western will present a detailed explanation of the recommendation and listen to customer and stakeholder comments in Lincoln, Nebraska, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota, or Fargo, North Dakota. The specific times and locations of these forums will be posted on Western's Web site at <http://www.wapa.gov/ugp/powermarketing/AlternateOperationsStudy/AOS.htm>.

The information gathered and analyzed by Western subject matter experts, combined with stakeholder comments, detailed discussions with the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), and the SPP, formed the basis of the recommendation that is now being published for comment. A decision to pursue the recommendation will be informed by comments received in response to this Notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Western at: [AOS@wapa.gov](mailto:AOS@wapa.gov). Information

regarding the recommendation, including comments, letters, and other supporting documents made or retained by Western are for the purpose of pursuing this recommendation. Comments may also be delivered by mail to: Upper Great Plains Region, Western Area Power Administration, 2900 4th Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101-1266.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jody S. Sundsted, Power Marketing Manager, Upper Great Plains Region, Western Area Power Administration, 2900 4th Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101-1266, telephone (406) 255-2910, email [sundsted@wapa.gov](mailto:sundsted@wapa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Western-UGP markets Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program—Eastern Division (P-SMBP-ED) hydroelectric power and energy to preference entities in Montana east of the continental divide, North and South Dakota, western Minnesota and Iowa, and eastern Nebraska. In 1998, Western-UGP, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, and Heartland Consumers Power District implemented the Integrated Transmission System (IS). The IS includes approximately 9,848 miles of transmission lines owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Heartland Consumers Power District, and Western. Transmission service over the IS is provided under Western's Open Access Transmission Tariff, with Western-UGP serving as tariff administrator for the IS. Prior to the IS, the Joint Transmission System (JTS) was formed and documented in the Missouri Basin Systems Group (MBSG) Pooling Agreement dated January 31, 1963. The IS comprises transmission facilities located on both the eastern and western electrical interconnected systems separated by the Miles City DC tie and the Fort Peck Power Plant. Western-UGP also operates two balancing authority areas, WAWU and WAUE, within the IS that are also separated by the Miles City DC Tie and the Fort Peck Power Plant.

#### RTO History

RTOs are not a new concept within the utility industry. The concept of joint planning, joint power supply, cost sharing, and in some cases, joint transmission, has occurred for decades between utilities with a common mission and goal. In Western-UGP, the roots of RTO-like agreements can be traced back to the January 31, 1963, MBSG Pooling Agreement that was signed by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior and 105 utility systems across six states, for participation in the Federal transmission system. This agreement established the JTS, now

<sup>1</sup> *Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator, Inc.*, 145 FERC ¶ 61,044 (2013).