

incremental firm transportation capacity.

On March 5, 2018, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) issued its Notice of Application for the Project. Among other things, that notice alerted agencies issuing federal authorizations of the requirement to complete all necessary reviews and to reach a final decision on a request for a federal authorization within 90 days of the date of issuance of the Commission staff's Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project. This instant notice identifies the FERC staff's planned schedule for the completion of the EA for the Project.

Schedule for Environmental Review

Issuance of EA—November 20, 2018
90-day Federal Authorization Decision
Deadline—February 18, 2019

If a schedule change becomes necessary, additional notice will be provided so that the relevant agencies are kept informed of the Project's progress.

Project Description

Empire proposes to construct and operate gas compression facilities in Tioga County, Pennsylvania and Ontario, New York. The Empire North Project would consist of the following facilities:

- A new 21,000 horsepower compressor station in Jackson Township, Tioga County, Pennsylvania;
- a new 32,000 horsepower compressor station in the Town of Farmington, Ontario County, New York;
- modifications of the existing regulator valves and station piping and installation of metering facilities at the existing New Victor Regulator Station in Ontario County, New York;
- minor modifications to the existing Jackson Meter and Regulator Station in Jackson Township, Tioga County, Pennsylvania; and
- upgrading the maximum allowable operating pressure of the Empire Connector Pipeline from 1,290 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) to 1,440 psig.

Background

On April 10, 2018, the Commission issued a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Empire North Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues* (NOI). The NOI was sent to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; Native American tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. In response to the NOI, the

Commission received comments from the New York State Thruway Authority and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The primary issues raised by the commentors are alternatives, accessing the site, the location of a construction staging area near a driveway, cumulative impacts analysis, climate change, air quality, safety, and environmental justice. All substantive comments will be addressed in the EA.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EA.

Additional Information

In order to receive notification of the issuance of the EA and to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription. 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 www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

Additional information about the Project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (866) 208-FERC or on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov). Using the eLibrary link, select General Search from the eLibrary menu, enter the selected date range and Docket Number excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP18–89), and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to eLibrary, the helpline can be reached at (866) 208–3676, TTY (202) 502–8659, or at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. The eLibrary link on the FERC website also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rule makings.

Dated: August 17, 2018.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018–18421 Filed 8–24–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2570–032]

AEP Generation Resources, Inc.; Notice of Intent To File License Application, Filing of Pre-Application Document (PAD), Commencement of Pre-Filing Process, and Scoping; Request for Comments on the Pad and Scoping Document, and Identification of Issues and Associated Study Requests

a. *Type of Filing:* Notice of Intent to File License Application for a New License and Commencing Pre-filing Process.

b. *Project No.:* 2570–032.

c. *Dated Filed:* July 2, 2018.

d. *Submitted by:* AEP Generation Resources, Inc.

e. *Name of Project:* Racine Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* The Racine Project is located at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Racine Locks and Dam on the Ohio River near the Town of Racine in Meigs County, Ohio. The project occupies 23 acres of federal land administered by the Corps.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* 18 CFR part 5 of the Commission's Regulations.

h. *Potential Applicant Contact:* Jonathan Magalski, Environmental Specialist Consultant, c/o Indiana Michigan Power Company, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, OH 43215; (614) 716–2240 or jmmagalski@aep.com.

i. *FERC Contact:* Jay Summers at (202) 502–8764 or email at jay.summers@ferc.gov.

j. *Cooperating agencies:* Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues that wish to cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document should follow the instructions for filing such requests described in paragraph o below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document cannot also intervene. See 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).

k. *With this notice, we are initiating informal consultation with:* (a) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or NOAA Fisheries under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 CFR, Part 402 and (b) the State Historic Preservation Officer, as required by section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the implementing

regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at 36 CFR 800.2.

l. With this notice, we are designating AEP Generation Resources, Inc. as the Commission's non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

m. AEP Generation Resources, Inc. filed with the Commission a Pre-Application Document (PAD; including a proposed process plan and schedule), pursuant to 18 CFR 5.6 of the Commission's regulations.

n. A copy of the PAD is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket 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, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in paragraph h.

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

o. With this notice, we are soliciting comments on the PAD and Commission's staff Scoping Document 1 (SD1), as well as study requests. All comments on the PAD and SD1, and study requests should be sent to the address above in paragraph h. In addition, all comments on the PAD and SD1, study requests, requests for cooperating agency status, and all communications to and from Commission staff related to the merits of the potential application must be filed with the Commission.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file all documents using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street

NE, Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-2570-032.

All filings with the Commission must bear the appropriate heading: "Comments on Pre-Application Document," "Study Requests," "Comments on Scoping Document 1," "Request for Cooperating Agency Status," or "Communications to and from Commission Staff." Any individual or entity interested in submitting study requests, commenting on the PAD or SD1, and any agency requesting cooperating status must do so by October 30, 2018.

p. Although our current intent is to prepare an environmental assessment (EA), there is the possibility that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required. Nevertheless, the meetings listed below will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether an EA or EIS is issued by the Commission.

Scoping Meetings

Commission staff will hold two scoping meetings in the vicinity of the project at the times and places noted below. The daytime meeting will focus on resource agency, Indian tribes, and non-governmental organization concerns, while the evening meeting is primarily for receiving input from the public. We invite all interested individuals, organizations, and agencies to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist staff in identifying particular study needs, as well as the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the environmental document. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Evening Scoping Meeting—Pomeroy, Ohio

Date and Time: Tuesday, September 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Farmers Bank and Savings Company, 640 E Main St., Pomeroy, OH 45769, (740) 992-2136.

Daytime Scoping Meeting—Pomeroy, Ohio

Date and Time: Wednesday, September 27, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Farmers Bank and Savings Company, 640 E Main St., Pomeroy, OH 45769, (740) 992-2136.

SD1, which outlines the subject areas to be addressed in the environmental document, was mailed to the individuals and entities on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of SD1 will be available at the scoping meetings, or may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link. Follow the directions

for accessing information in paragraph n. Based on all oral and written comments, a Scoping Document 2 (SD2) may be issued. SD2 may include a revised process plan and schedule, as well as a list of issues, identified through the scoping process.

Environmental Site Review

The potential applicant and Commission staff will conduct an Environmental Site Review of the project on Tuesday, September 26, 2018, starting at 2:00 p.m. All participants should meet at the Racine Hydroelectric Project's public fishing/picnic access parking lot, which is located on the Ohio River Scenic Byway, State Route 124, approximately 3 miles south of Racine, Ohio. If you plan to attend the environmental site review, please email Jonathan Magalski of AEP Generation Resources at jmmagalski@aep.com (preferred contact) or (614) 716-2240 by September 21, 2018, and indicate how many participants will be attending with you. AEP Generation Resources' safety policies require that all environmental site review participants wear sturdy footwear; no open toe, sandals, high heels, etc.

Meeting Objectives

At the scoping meetings, staff will: (1) Initiate scoping of the issues; (2) review and discuss existing conditions and resource management objectives; (3) review and discuss existing information and identify preliminary information and study needs; (4) review and discuss the process plan and schedule for pre-filing activity that incorporates the time frames provided for in Part 5 of the Commission's regulations and, to the extent possible, maximizes coordination of federal, state, and tribal permitting and certification processes; and (5) discuss the appropriateness of any federal or state agency or Indian tribe acting as a cooperating agency for development of an environmental document.

Meeting participants should come prepared to discuss their issues and/or concerns. Please review the PAD in preparation for the scoping meetings. Directions on how to obtain a copy of the PAD and SD1 are included in paragraph n of this document.

Meeting Procedures

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and will be placed in the public records of the project.

Dated: August 21, 2018.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-18463 Filed 8-24-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings #2

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric corporate filings:

Docket Numbers: EC18-78-000.

Applicants: Florida Power & Light Company.

Description: Second Supplement to July 5, 2018 Response to June 5, 2018 Deficiency Letter of Florida Power & Light Company.

Filed Date: 8/21/18.

Accession Number: 20180821-5084.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/11/18.

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

Docket Numbers: ER18-1286-001.

Applicants: FirstEnergy Solutions Corp.

Description: Compliance filing: Notice of Transaction Closing and Effective Date of Rate Schedule FERC No. 1 to be effective 7/31/2018.

Filed Date: 8/21/18.

Accession Number: 20180821-5050.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/11/18.

Docket Numbers: ER18-2264-000.

Applicants: Macquarie Energy Trading LLC.

Description: Baseline eTariff Filing: MBR Application to be effective 10/21/2018.

Filed Date: 8/21/18.

Accession Number: 20180821-5042.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/11/18.

Docket Numbers: ER18-2265-000.

Applicants: PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Amendment to First Revised ISA No. 3255; Queue No. W4-073 to be effective 11/2/2016.

Filed Date: 8/21/18.

Accession Number: 20180821-5043.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/11/18.

Docket Numbers: ER18-2266-000.

Applicants: Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: 1910R12 Southwestern Public Service Company to be effective 8/1/2018.

Filed Date: 8/21/18.

Accession Number: 20180821-5046.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/11/18.

Docket Numbers: ER18-2267-000.

Applicants: Entergy Texas, Inc.

Description: Tariff Cancellation: ETI-Kirbyville Wholesale Distribution Service Agreement to be effective 7/11/2018.

Filed Date: 8/21/18.

Accession Number: 20180821-5047.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/11/18.

Docket Numbers: ER18-2268-000.

Applicants: Entergy Services, Inc.

Description: Tariff Cancellation: Kirbyville-EES Local Balancing Authority Agreement to be effective 7/11/2018.

Filed Date: 8/21/18.

Accession Number: 20180821-5048.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/11/18.

Docket Numbers: ER18-2269-000.

Applicants: PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

Description: Tariff Cancellation: Notice of Cancellation of ISA/SA No. 4606; Queue No. AA1-046 to be effective 8/20/2018.

Filed Date: 8/21/18.

Accession Number: 20180821-5064.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/11/18.

Docket Numbers: ER18-2270-000.

Applicants: Paulding Wind Farm III LLC.

Description: Baseline eTariff Filing: Reactive Power Compensation Filing to be effective 10/20/2018.

Filed Date: 8/21/18.

Accession Number: 20180821-5069.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/11/18.

Docket Numbers: ER18-2271-000.

Applicants: Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: 2018-08-21_SA 3158 ATC-Plymouth Project Commitment Agreement to be effective 10/21/2018.

Filed Date: 8/21/18.

Accession Number: 20180821-5077.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/11/18.

Docket Numbers: ER18-2272-000.

Applicants: Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: 2018-08-21_SA 3144 Entergy Texas-Liberty County-Entergy Texas MPFCA (J472 J483) to be effective 8/7/2018.

Filed Date: 8/21/18.

Accession Number: 20180821-5093.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 9/11/18.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by clicking on the links or querying the docket number.

Any person desiring to intervene or protest in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern

time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For other information, call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Dated: August 21, 2018.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-18469 Filed 8-24-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM98-1-000]

Public Notice: Records Governing Off-the-Record Communications

This constitutes notice, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2201(b), of the receipt of prohibited and exempt off-the-record communications.

Order No. 607 (64 FR 51222, September 22, 1999) requires Commission decisional employees, who make or receive a prohibited or exempt off-the-record communication relevant to the merits of a contested proceeding, to deliver to the Secretary of the Commission, a copy of the communication, if written, or a summary of the substance of any oral communication.

Prohibited communications are included in a public, non-decisional file associated with, but not a part of, the decisional record of the proceeding. Unless the Commission determines that the prohibited communication and any responses thereto should become a part of the decisional record, the prohibited off-the-record communication will not be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision. Parties to a proceeding may seek the opportunity to respond to any facts or contentions made in a prohibited off-the-record communication, and may request that the Commission place the prohibited communication and responses thereto in the decisional record. The Commission will grant such a request only when it determines that fairness so requires. Any person identified below as having made a prohibited off-the-record communication shall serve the document on all parties listed on the official service list for the applicable