

### § 35.31

pursuant to section 5(c) of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 830–839h. The ASC is determined by BPA in accordance with 18 CFR part 301.

(b) *Effectiveness of rates.* (1) During the period between the date of BPA's determination of ASC and the date of the final order issued by the Commission, the utility may charge the rate based on the ASC determined by BPA, subject to § 35.31(c) of this part.

(2) Except as otherwise provided under this section, the ASC ordered by the Commission will be deemed in effect from the beginning of the relevant exchange period, as defined in § 301.1(b)(95) of this chapter. For any initial exchange period after the Commission approves a new ASC methodology, the ASC will be effective retroactively under this paragraph only if the utility files its new ASC within the time allowed under BPA procedures. Any utility that files a revised ASC with BPA in accordance with this paragraph must promptly file with the Commission a notice of timely filing of the new ASC.

(c) *Filing requirements.* Within 15 business days of the date of issuance of the BPA report on a utility's ASC, the utility must file with the Commission the ASC determined by BPA, the BPA written report, the utility's ASC schedules, material necessary to comply with 18 CFR 35.13(c), and any other material requested by the Commission or its staff.

[Order 337, 48 FR 46976, Oct. 17, 1983, as amended by Order 400, 49 FR 39300, Oct. 5, 1984]

### § 35.31 Commission review.

(a) *Procedures.* Filings under this subpart are subject to the procedures applicable to other filings under section 205 of the Federal Power Act, as the Commission deems appropriate.

(b) *Commission standard.* With respect to any filing under this subpart, the Commission will determine whether the ASC set by BPA for the applicable exchange period was determined in accordance with the ASC methodology set forth at 18 CFR 301.1. If the ASC is not in accord with the methodology, the Commission will order that BPA amend the ASC to conform with the

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methodology. If the ASC is in accord with the methodology, the rate is deemed just and reasonable.

(c) *Refunds and adjustments.* (1) Any ASC-based rate charged by a public utility under this subpart pending Commission order is subject to refund or to adjustment that increases the ASC-based rate.

(2) Any interest on refunds ordered by the Commission under this subpart is computed in accordance with 18 CFR 35.19a. Interest on any increase ordered by the Commission will be at the rate charged to BPA by the U.S. Treasury during that period, unless the Commission orders another interest rate.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1902–0096)

[Order 337, 48 FR 46976, Oct. 17, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 1177, Jan. 10, 1984]

## Subpart E—Regulations Governing Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Trust Funds

### § 35.32 General provisions.

(a) If a public utility has elected to provide for the decommissioning of a nuclear power plant through a nuclear plant decommissioning trust fund (Fund), the Fund must meet the following criteria:

(1) The Fund must be an external trust fund in the United States, established pursuant to a written trust agreement, that is independent of the utility, its subsidiaries, affiliates or associates. If the trust fund includes monies collected both in Commission-jurisdictional rates and in non-Commission-jurisdictional rates, then a separate account of the Commission-jurisdictional monies shall be maintained.

(2) The utility may provide overall investment policy to the Trustee or Investment Manager, but it may do so only in writing, and neither the utility nor its subsidiaries, affiliates or associates may serve as Investment Manager or otherwise engage in day-to-day management of the Fund or mandate individual investment decisions.

(3) The Fund's Investment Manager must exercise the standard of care, whether in investing or otherwise, that a prudent investor would use in the

same circumstances. The term “prudent investor” means a prudent investor as described in Restatement of the Law (Third), Trusts §227, including general comments and reporter’s notes, pages 8-101. St. Paul, MN: American Law Institute Publishers, (1992). ISBN 0-314-84246-2. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from the American Law Institute, 4025 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, and are also available in local law libraries. Copies may be inspected at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s Library, Room 95-01, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC or at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202-741-6030, or go to: [http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/code\\_of\\_federal\\_regulations/ibr\\_locations.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html).

(4) The Trustee shall have a net worth of at least \$100 million. In calculating the \$100 million net worth requirement, the net worth of the Trustee’s parent corporation and/or affiliates may be taken into account only if such entities guarantee the Trustee’s responsibilities to the Fund.

(5) The Trustee or Investment Manager shall keep accurate and detailed accounts of all investments, receipts, disbursements and transactions of the Fund. All accounts, books and records relating to the Fund shall be open to inspection and audit at reasonable times by the utility or its designee or by the Commission or its designee. The utility or its designee must notify the Commission prior to performing any such inspection or audit. The Commission may direct the utility to conduct an audit or inspection.

(6) Absent the express authorization of the Commission, no part of the assets of the Fund may be used for, or diverted to, any purpose other than to fund the costs of decommissioning the nuclear power plant to which the Fund relates, and to pay administrative costs and other incidental expenses, including taxes, of the Fund.

(7) If the Fund balances exceed the amount actually expended for decom-

missioning after decommissioning has been completed, the utility shall return the excess jurisdictional amount to ratepayers, in a manner the Commission determines.

(8) Except for investments tied to market indexes or other mutual funds, the Investment Manager shall not invest in any securities of the utility for which it manages the funds or in that utility’s subsidiaries, affiliates, or associates or their successors or assigns.

(9) The utility and the Fiduciary shall seek to obtain the best possible tax treatment of amounts collected for nuclear plant decommissioning. In this regard, the utility and the Fiduciary shall take maximum advantage of tax deductions and credits, when it is consistent with sound business practices to do so.

(10) Each utility shall deposit in the Fund at least quarterly all amounts included in Commission-jurisdictional rates to fund nuclear power plant decommissioning.

(b) The establishment, organization, and maintenance of the Fund shall not relieve the utility or its subsidiaries, affiliates or associates of any obligations it may have as to the decommissioning of the nuclear power plant. It is not the responsibility of the Fiduciary to ensure that the amount of monies that a Fund contains are adequate to pay for a nuclear unit’s decommissioning.

(c) A utility may establish both qualified and non-qualified Funds with respect to a utility’s interest in a specific nuclear plant. This section applies to both “qualified” (under the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 468A, or any successor section) and non-qualified Funds.

(d) A utility must regularly supply to the Fund’s Investment Manager, and regularly update, essential information about the nuclear unit covered by the Trust Fund Agreement, including its description, location, expected remaining useful life, the decommissioning plan the utility proposes to follow, the utility’s liquidity needs once decommissioning begins, and any other information that the Fund’s Investment Manager would need to construct and maintain, over time, a sound investment plan.

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(e) A utility should monitor the performance of all Fiduciaries of the Fund and, if necessary, replace them if they are not properly performing assigned responsibilities.

[Order 580-A, 62 FR 33348, June 19, 1997, as amended at 69 FR 18803, Apr. 9, 2004]

#### § 35.33 Specific provisions.

(a) In addition to the general provisions of § 35.32, the Trustee must observe the provisions of this section.

(b) The Trustee may use Fund assets only to:

(1) Satisfy the liability of a utility for decommissioning costs of the nuclear power plant to which the Fund relates as provided by § 35.32; and

(2) Pay administrative costs and other incidental expenses, including taxes, of the Fund as provided by § 35.32.

(c) To the extent that the Trustee does not currently require the assets of the Fund for the purposes described in paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section, the Investment Manager, when investing Fund assets, must exercise the same standard of care that a reasonable person would exercise in the same circumstances. In this context, a "reasonable person" means a prudent investor as described in Restatement of the Law (Third), Trusts § 227, including general comments and reporter's notes, pages 8-101. St. Paul, MN: American Law Institute Publishers, 1992. ISBN 0-314-84246-2. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from the American Law Institute, 4025 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, and are also available in local law libraries. Copies may be inspected at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC or at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202-741-6030, or go to: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

(d) The utility must submit to the Commission by March 31 of each year, one original and three conformed copies of the financial report furnished to

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the utility by the Fund's Trustee that shows for the previous calendar year:

(1) Fund assets and liabilities at the beginning of the period;

(2) Activity of the Fund during the period, including amounts received from the utility, a summary amount for purchases of fund investments and a summary amount for sales of fund investments, gains and losses from investment activity, disbursements from the Fund for decommissioning activity and payment of Fund expenses, including taxes; and

(3) Fund assets and liabilities at the end of the period. The report should not include the liability for decommissioning.

(4) Public utilities owning nuclear plants must maintain records of individual purchase and sales transactions until after decommissioning has been completed and any excess jurisdictional amounts have been returned to ratepayers in a manner that the Commission determines. The public utility need not include these records in the financial report that it furnishes to the Commission by March 31 of each year.

(e) The utility must also mail a copy of the financial report provided to the Commission pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section to anyone who requests it.

(f) If an independent public accountant has expressed an opinion on the report or on any portion of the report, then that opinion must accompany the report.

[Order 580-A, 62 FR 33348, June 19, 1997, as amended at 69 FR 18803, Apr. 9, 2004; Order 658, 70 FR 34343, June 14, 2005; Order 737, 75 FR 43404, July 26, 2010]

## Subpart F—Procedures and Requirements Regarding Regional Transmission Organizations

### § 35.34 Regional Transmission Organizations.

(a) *Purpose.* This section establishes required characteristics and functions for Regional Transmission Organizations for the purpose of promoting efficiency and reliability in the operation and planning of the electric transmission grid and ensuring non-discrimination in the provision of electric