

e. *Name of Project:* Broad Run Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On Broad Run at Lake Manassas, in Prince William County, Virginia.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)–825(r).

h. *Contact:* Mr. Allen P. Todd, Director of Utilities, City of Manassas, 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas, VA 22110, (703) 257–8226.

i. *FERC Contact:* Mr. Lynn R. Miles, (202) 219–2671.

j. *Comment Date:* February 20, 1998.

k. *Description of the Proposed Action:* The exemptee requests to surrender the exemption for its existing project.

l. This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs: B, C1, and D2.

B. *Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene*—Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

C1. *Filing and Service of Responsive Documents*—Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS", "PROTEST", OR "MOTION TO INTERVENE", as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

D2. *Agency Comments*—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also

be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98–509 Filed 1–8–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. GT98–11–000]

#### Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company; Notice of Filing

January 5, 1998.

Take notice that on December 24, 1997, Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company (Williston Basin), 200 North Third Street, Suite 300, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501, tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, the following revised tariff sheets to become effective December 24, 1997:

Second Revised Volume No. 1  
Ninth Revised Sheet No. 776  
Twentieth Revised Sheet No. 831

Williston Basin states that the revised tariff sheets are being filed simply to update its Master Receipt/Delivery Point List.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest this filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed as provided by Section 154.210 of the Commission's rules and regulations. 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 motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98–508 Filed 1–8–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Public Outreach Meeting; Birmingham, Alabama

January 5, 1998.

The Office of Hydropower Licensing will hold a public Outreach Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, on Thursday, January 29, 1998. The Outreach Meeting is scheduled to start at 9:00 am and finish at 5:00 pm.

The purpose of the Outreach program is to familiarize federal, state, and other government agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations, licensees, and other interested parties with the Commission's hydropower licensing program. The topics for the Outreach Meeting are pre-licensing, licensing, and post-licensing procedures for hydroelectric projects in Alabama and Georgia whose licenses expire between calendar years 2000 and 2010.

Staff from the Commission's Office of Hydropower Licensing will preside over the meetings.

The location of the Outreach Meeting is: Holiday Inn-Redmont, 2105 5th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203, (205) 324–2101.

If you plan to attend, notify Ron McKittrick or Theresa Gibson, Eastern Outreach Coordinators, fax: 202–219–2152; telephone: 202–219–2783 or 202–219–2793.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98–505 Filed 1–8–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PL98–3–000]

#### Process for Assuring Non-discriminatory Transmission Services as New Reliability Rules are Developed for Using the Transmission System; Notice of Conference

January 5, 1998.

I

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) hereby announces its intention to convene a public conference to discuss what procedures it should follow, in the absence of federal legislation on reliability issues, to address the effect of new reliability standards on jurisdictional electric transmission

service. Specifically, the Commission wishes to examine how it should go about ensuring non-discriminatory open access service under Order No. 888 as the power industry adopts new methods of protecting system reliability. This conference, described below, is for the limited purpose of discussing the procedures necessary for the Commission to meet this goal.

## II

The Commission requires all public utilities that own, control or operate facilities used for transmitting electric energy in interstate commerce to provide non-discriminatory transmission service to eligible customers and to take transmission service for their own uses under the same rates, terms and conditions applied to others.

Increased competition in wholesale electricity markets has resulted in many new market participants who do not own, control or operate transmission facilities, and has fostered a great increase in the number and variety of wholesale transmission and power sale arrangements, including ancillary services needed to accomplish transmission service. In addition, control over transmission facilities is shifting in some instances from traditional utility owners and operators to a regime of control that includes independent transmission system operators whose primary purpose is to ensure nondiscriminatory operation of transmission facilities.

In light of the changes taking place in the electric industry, the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) and its regional reliability councils are implementing changes in their rules to maintain transmission system security. These rules apply both to transmission-owning utilities and to the transmission customers of those utilities. Historically, the Commission has followed a "rule of reason" approach and not required each contract or practice that affects a jurisdictional service to be on file, even though section 205 of the Federal Power Act may lead to that result. If the new reliability rules become terms and conditions with which customers of Commission-jurisdictional utilities must comply as a predicate to obtaining transmission service, the Commission may need to reassess how it is applying the "rule of reason." If jurisdictional services can be denied or compromised under the new reliability rules, then section 205 appears to require that such rules be included in the transmission tariffs on file with the Commission.

The Commission is not proposing in this notice to judge the technical adequacy or appropriateness of any reliability standard. Nor is it proposing in this notice to approve the structure of NERC or the appropriateness of any organization that establishes reliability standards under existing laws and circumstances. Indeed, the Commission's authority to act on such matters is at best unclear. As described in a recent position paper of the task force that is charged with advising the Secretary of Energy on electric system reliability:

It is not clear whether the FERC has sufficient statutory authority to enforce NERC rules. The FERC has issued several orders requiring parties to abide by the NERC standards and parties have assented to the requirements. However, the use of FERC's conditioning authority to enforce NERC standards has not yet been challenged. Others question whether the FERC *should* enforce these rules in light of concerns over NERC's governance and decision-making procedures.<sup>1</sup>

## III

The Commission is committed to ensuring that competitive developments in the industry take place in a manner that safeguards the reliability of the nation's electric transmission system. The Commission is equally committed to ensuring that the rules and practices for reliable operation of the grid are compatible with open, non-discriminatory use of transmission systems.

The Commission believes that it would be beneficial at this juncture to further explore this matter with interested parties in an informal setting. To that end, we are announcing today our intention to convene a round-table discussion on developing an appropriate procedure or procedures for the Commission to address potentially service-affecting reliability practices in the context of non-discriminatory transmission access. We emphasize that the purpose of the round-table is to discuss procedures and not to discuss the merits of any particular reliability rule, practice or organization. The round-table will take place on February 20, 1998, in Washington, DC.

The Commission has identified certain possible procedures and expects that participants will be prepared to discuss these procedures as well as to identify others. One approach might be to prohibit any public utility from

imposing new terms or conditions related to reliability on any customer unless and until that utility had first incorporated those terms and conditions into its transmission tariff under an appropriately noticed section 205 filing. An alternative might be to have the appropriate reliability organization (NERC or one of the regional reliability councils) file a request for a declaratory order setting forth proposed changes to its existing reliability rules, so that appropriate notice and opportunity for comment could be given. Once the Commission issued a declaratory order, utilities could then incorporate the results of the declaratory order proceeding in their tariffs through what would amount to a compliance filing. This process could apply to those changes in reliability rules that determine whether a transmission customer obtains or loses transmission service, or it could apply to a larger group of reliability rule changes.

Staff will contact industry representatives to develop a broadly representative panel. We expect the panel to have no more than fifteen participants. Persons wishing to be considered for inclusion on the panel should contact: David N. Cook, Office of General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, 202-208-0955.

Persons wishing to file written comments on possible procedural approaches to these issues should do so by January 30, 1998. The Commission will issue a notice identifying the panel members and giving further details on the round-table discussion in the near future.

By direction of the Commission.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-529 Filed 1-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5487-8]

### Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 OR (202) 564-7153.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements Filed December 29, 1997 Through January 2, 1998 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.  
EIS No. 970498, Draft Supplement, COE, OR, WA, Columbia and Lower Willamette River Federal Navigation

<sup>1</sup> "Maintaining Bulk-Power Reliability Through Use of a Self-Regulating Organization: Position Paper." Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, Task Force on Electric-System Reliability (November 6, 1997).