

Copies of the filing have been provided to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Maryland Public Service Commission, the Virginia State Corporation Commission, the West Virginia Public Service Commission, and all parties of record.

*Comment date:* September 13, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

### 30. Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

[Docket No. ER99-4200-000]

Take notice that on August 24, 1999, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison) tendered for filing a service agreement to provide firm transmission service pursuant to its Open Access Transmission to Southern Company Energy Marketing L.P. (Southern).

*Comment date:* September 13, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

### Standard Paragraphs

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. 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 these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 4737-005]

### Morgan J. Langan; Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

September 1, 1999.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) regulations, the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application requesting the Commission's authorization to surrender the exemption from licensing for the existing Trinity Alps Hydroelectric Project, located on Trinity Alps Creek in Trinity County, California, and has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed action.

In the DEA, Commission staff concludes that approval of the subject surrender of exemption from licensing would not produce any significant adverse environmental impacts; consequently, the proposal would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the DEA can be viewed at the Commission's Public Reference Room, Room 2A, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The DEA also may be viewed on the Web at [www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm](http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm). Call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

Any comments on the DEA should be filed within 45 days from the date of this notice and should be addressed to David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Please affix "Trinity Alps Project Surrender of Exemption from Licensing, Project No. 4737-005" to all comments. For further information, please contact Jim Haines at (202) 219-2780.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-23264 Filed 9-7-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2169 NC/TN]

### Tapoco, Inc.; Notice of Scoping Meetings Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment

September 1, 1999.

Pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 1992, and as part of the license application, Tapoco, Inc. (Tapoco) intends to prepare an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA) to file along with the license application, with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) for the Tapoco Project, FERC No. 2169. The license for the project expires on February 28, 2005.

In June, 1998, Tapoco initiated the cooperative consultation process with federal and state resource agencies, local interests, Indian tribes and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) for the relicensing of the Tapoco Project. Tapoco obtained support from the parties involved in the cooperative process to pursue the Alternative Licensing Process (ALP) for the relicensing of the Tapoco Project. On September 30, 1998, Tapoco, Inc. requested, and on February 9, 1999, the Commission approved the use of the ALP. The process has involved identification of environmental issues associated with the relicensing of the Tapoco Project, including a project site visit for agencies/stakeholders and a public meeting to solicit comments on the Initial Consultation Document (ICD) and initiate issue identification on April 13 and 14, 1999 and additional public meetings on June 15 and 16, 1999 to continue issue identification.

As part of the ALP, Tapoco, with the Commission has prepared a Scoping Document I (SDI), which provides information on the scoping process, an APEA preparation schedule, background information, environmental issues, and proposed project alternatives.

The purpose of this notice is to: (1) Advise all parties as to the proposed scope of the environmental analysis, including cumulative effects, and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis; and (2) advise all parties of their opportunity for comment.

### Scoping Process

The purpose of the scoping process is to identify significant issues related to the proposed action and to determine

what issues should be addressed in the document to be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The SDI will be circulated to enable appropriate federal, state, and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and other interested parties to participate in the scoping process. SDI provides a brief description of the proposed action, project alternatives, the geographic and temporal scope of a cumulative effects analysis, and a list of issues.

### Scoping Meetings

Tapoco and FERC staff will conduct two scoping meetings. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend and assist in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the APEA.

The first scoping meeting will be held on October 5, 1999, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Tapoco Lodge in Tapoco, NC, and the second scoping meeting will be held on October 5, 1999, from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Blount County Chamber of Commerce Board Room, 201 South Washington Street, Maryville, TN. Each meeting will commence with a presentation by Tapoco representatives followed by the opportunity for participants to provide information on resources at issue or which should be analyzed in the APEA. For more details, interested parties should contact Sue Fugate at Tapoco at (423) 977-3321, prior to the meeting date.

### Objectives

At the scoping meetings, Tapoco and FERC staff will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues identified for analysis in the APEA; (2) identify reasonable alternatives to be addressed in the APEA, (3) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantified data, on the resources at issue, and (4) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the APEA. Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed.

### Meeting Procedures

The meetings will be conducted according to the procedures used at Commission scoping meetings. Because these meetings will be NEPA scoping meetings, the Commission will not conduct another scoping meeting after the application and APEA are filed with the Commission.

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and become a part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the relicensing of the Tapoco Project. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to identify themselves for the record. Speaking time allowed for individuals will be determined before each meeting, based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the approximate amount of time available for the session. Persons choosing not to speak but wishing to express an opinion, as well as speakers unable to summarize their positions within their allotted time, may submit written statements for inclusion in the public record no later than December 4, 1999.

All filings should contain an original and 8 copies. Failure to file an original and 8 copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner. All comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, and should clearly show the following captions on the first page: Tapoco Project, FERC No. 2169. A copy of each filing should also be sent to Norm Pierson, Tapoco, Inc., 300 North Hall Road, Alcoa, TN 37701 and to Paul Shiers, Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation, 245 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210.

Based on all comments, a Scoping Document II (SDII) may be issued. SDII will include a revised list of issues, based on the scoping sessions and written statements received.

For further information regarding the scoping process, please contact Ronald McKittrick, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Atlanta Regional Office, Parkridge 85 North, Suite 300, 3125 Presidential Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30340 at (770) 452-3778, E-mail [ronald.mckittrick@ferc.fed.us](mailto:ronald.mckittrick@ferc.fed.us), or Norm Pierson at Tapoco at (423) 977-3326.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Intent to Eliminate the Remote Public Access System (RPA) and the Records Information Management System-Remote Public Access System (RIMS-RPA)

September 1, 1999.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the Commission), hereby gives notice that it intends to eliminate the Commission's dial up systems effective on or about September 30, 1999. These systems include the Remote Public Access System (RPA) and the Records Information Management System-Remote Public Access System (RIMS-RPA). The majority of the data and information currently available on these dial up systems is available through the Commission's Internet website.<sup>1</sup>

Government agencies are required to be "Y2K" compliant. However, the dial up systems are not year 2000 compliant. In addition, OMB Circular A-130, Section 8(a)(5)(d)(i) directs agencies, when disseminating information, to achieve "the best balance between the goals of maximizing the usefulness of the information and minimizing the cost to the government and the public." Eliminating the two dial up systems, RIMS-RPA and RPA, is consistent with these goals and will eliminate costly duplication.

These systems rely on technology that is being used less and less popular with the advent of the Internet. Moreover, accessing the systems available through the Internet is much simpler than accessing the same systems by dialing in.<sup>2</sup> Since the Commission has limited resources, we must eliminate the cost of supporting duplicative systems that rely on older technology. Moreover, given the Commission's fiscal year ends on September 30, the greatest cost savings to the taxpayer will accrue if these systems are eliminated but the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, the

<sup>1</sup> The one system not yet available on the Commission's website is the Rates and Tariff Indexing System (RATIS). The Commission is currently revising RATIS to make it compatible with the web. The successor to RATIS will be known as the Automated Numbering System (ANS). Every effort is being made to make it available by the Commission's deadline for discontinuing the dial up systems. See Appendix A for the location on the Internet of the information currently on the dial up systems.

<sup>2</sup> The dial-up technology requires users to obtain a password and user ID to access the systems. Anyone with access to the Internet may use RIMS and the Docket Sheet and Service List System without obtaining a user ID and password.