

efficiency, environmental, and economic improvement compared to currently available state-of-the-art alternatives. The solicitation is also open to technologies capable of producing any combination of heat, fuels, chemicals, or other useful byproducts in conjunction with power generation. Prospective projects must ensure that coal is used for at least 75% of the fuel energy input to the process. Additionally, prospective projects must show the potential for rapid market penetration upon successful demonstration of the technology or concept.

The advanced technologies to be demonstrated under this program will be vital to the role that coal and other solid fuels will play on the world power production scene. Production of more electricity while creating a cleaner environment at lower cost has the potential to raise the standard of living of not only the citizens of the United States, but of the world as a whole.

Prospective applicants who would like to be notified as soon as the draft solicitation is available should register at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business>. Click on the "Business Alert Registration and follow the instructions. Once you subscribe, you will receive an announcement by E-mail that the draft solicitation has been released to the public. Telephone requests, written requests, E-mail requests, or facsimile requests for a copy of the draft solicitation package will not be accepted and/or honored. The draft solicitation will be open for public comments on December 21, 2001. A public meeting/webcast will be held on January 17, 2002 and the draft solicitation will be closed to public comments on January 23, 2002.

The final solicitation will be made available on or about February 18, 2002. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the solicitation. The final solicitation document will allow for requests for explanation and/or interpretation.

Issued in Pittsburgh, PA on December 19, 2001.

Dale A. Siciliano,

Deputy Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Bonneville Power Administration

COB Energy Facility

AGENCY: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: This notice announces BPA's intention to prepare an EIS, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), on a proposed electrical interconnection requested by Peoples Energy Resources Corporation (Peoples Energy), to integrate electrical power from the COB Energy Facility into the Federal transmission grid. BPA proposes to execute an agreement with Peoples Energy to provide them with an interconnection.

DATES: Written comments on the NEPA scoping process are due to the address below no later than February 26, 2002. Comments may also be made at an EIS scoping open house meeting to be held on January 15, 2002, at the address below.

ADDRESSES: Send letters with comments and suggestions on the proposed scope of the Draft EIS to Communications, Bonneville Power Administration—KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212. You may also call BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519; name this project, and record your complete name, address, and comments. Comments may also be sent to the BPA Internet address at comment@bpa.gov. To be placed on the project mail list, call 1-800-622-4520.

An open house will be held on January 15, 2002, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Bonanza Public Library, 31703 Highway 70, Bonanza, Oregon. At this informal scoping meeting, BPA staff will answer questions and accept oral and written comments, and representatives of BPA and Peoples Energy will be available to discuss the proposed project and topics to be addressed in the EIS. Information on the proposed project will be available for review.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas C. McKinney, Bonneville Power Administration—KEC-4, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon 97208-3621; toll-free telephone 1-800-282-3713; direct telephone 503-230-4749; or e-mail tcmckinney@bpa.gov. Additional information can be found at BPA's web site: www.bpa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS will assess the environmental consequences of the agreement which

BPA proposes with Peoples Energy, and the consequences of any modifications to the transmission system needed to provide an electrical connection under the terms of the agreement. In addition to these Federal actions, the EIS will consider the environmental consequences of construction and operation of the COB Energy Facility.

The proposed project has several components. In addition to the generating facility itself (described below), other components may include: (1) An electrical connection into the BPA's electrical transmission system, (2) upgrades to existing BPA Substations, (3) a new substation on-site, (4) potential system upgrades to be defined through impact studies of the facility, (5) a natural gas pipeline, and (6) water supply and process water pipelines.

A. Proposed Action

The proposed COB Energy Facility would be a power development project beginning as a simple-cycle generation facility and expanding to a combined-cycle electric generating facility. Nominal generating capacity is 600 megawatts in the simple-cycle configuration and 1,150 megawatts in the combined-cycle configuration. The facility site would be located approximately 3 miles south of the City of Bonanza, on the east side of West Langell Valley Road No. 520 in Klamath County. The combined-cycle facility would consist of four combustion turbine generators, and each turbine generator would be coupled with a heat-recovery steam generator (HRSG) and two HRSG's will couple with a steam turbine generator.

The proposed COB Energy Facility would be fueled by natural gas from the existing Pacific Gas & Electric Gas Transmission Northwest (PG&E GTN) pipeline and delivered through a new, approximately 4.6-mile natural-gas pipeline. Natural gas would be burned in the combustion turbines. Expanding gases from combustion would turn rotors within the turbines that are connected to electric generators. The hot gases exhausted from the combustion turbines would be used to raise steam in the HRSGs. Steam from the HRSGs would be expanded through a steam turbine that drives its own electric generator. To increase steam-generating capacity, a duct burner system will be included in each HRSG. The duct burner will increase the steam generated in the HRSGs and increase the steam generator's electrical output.

Water would be needed at the facility to generate steam and cool the steam process. Water would be supplied from an existing well, known as the Babson

well, located approximately 2.8 miles from the facility. The well would draw water from the deep basalt aquifer, which is isolated from the shallow well aquifer in the area. Process water from the facility would be discharged either for land application through nearby irrigation district systems, land applied on site for irrigation, or discharged to the Lost River during periods allowed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The COB Energy Facility would deliver electric power to the regional power grid through an interconnection to existing electric transmission lines that cross the facility site. The facility would tie into two or three of the existing electric transmission lines, owned by BPA, PacifiCorp, and Portland General Electric. A transmission planning study conducted by the three utilities will determine the optimal interconnection among the transmission lines. The study also will identify any upgrades to the existing lines or the Malin Substation that may be needed.

B. Process to Date

BPA is the lead Federal agency for the project EIS. The State of Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council is currently evaluating the Notice of Intent to Apply for a Site Certificate for the COB Energy Facility. Oregon's site evaluation process, like NEPA, provides opportunity for public participation, and a public meeting will be held by representatives from the Oregon Office of Energy at the January 15 meeting in Bonanza.

C. Alternatives Proposed for Consideration

Alternatives thus far identified for evaluation in the EIS are: (1) The proposed action and (2) no action. Other alternatives may be identified through the scoping process.

D. Public Participation and Identification of Environmental Issues

BPA intends to prepare an EIS addressing both the COB Energy Facility and the associated electric power interconnection facilities. BPA has established a 45-day scoping period during which affected landowners, concerned citizens, special interest groups, local governments, and any other interested parties are invited to comment on the scope of the proposed EIS. Scoping will help BPA ensure that a full range of issues related to this proposal is addressed in the EIS and also will identify significant or potentially significant impacts that may result from the proposed project. When

completed, the Draft EIS will be circulated for review and comment, and BPA will hold a public comment meeting on the Draft EIS. BPA will consider and respond in the Final EIS to comments received on the Draft EIS.

BPA decided to prepare the EIS for the following reasons: (1) The COB Energy Facility would depend on an interconnect to existing electric transmission lines that may include a BPA line, (2) the interconnect could require upgrades to the existing BPA line, (3) the interconnection may include a new substation on the site, (4) the interconnection may require upgrades to the BPA Malin Substation, (5) the interconnect may result in other system impacts identified in the transmission study, and (6) no other Federal or State agency is currently preparing an EIS on the proposed project. Because no other EIS is being prepared, the scope of BPA's EIS will cover both the interconnection elements and the COB Energy Facility itself.

The principal issues identified thus far for consideration in the Draft EIS with respect to the COB Energy Facility are as follows: (1) Air and water quality impacts, (2) noise impacts from plant operation, (3) aesthetic impacts, (4) socioeconomic impacts created by an influx of construction workers into a sparsely populated area, (5) impacts on wildlife habitat, and (6) cultural resource impacts. The principal issues identified thus far for consideration in the Draft EIS with respect to the electric power transmission facilities are impacts of electrical interconnection on the grid system.

These issues, together with any additional significant issues identified through the scoping process, will be addressed in the EIS.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on December 21, 2001.

Stephen J. Wright,

Acting Administrator and Chief Executive Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-210 Filed 1-3-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 271-062—Arkansas]

Entergy Arkansas, Inc.; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

December 28, 2001.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and

the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for new license for the Carpenter-Rommel Hydro Project, located on the Ouachita River in Garland and Hot Springs Counties, Arkansas, and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA). In the EA, the Commission staff has analyzed the potential environmental effects of the project and has concluded that approval of the project, with appropriate environmental measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the EA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2-A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. The EA may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.gov> using the "RIMS" link, select "Docket#" and follow the instructions. Please call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

Any comments should be filed within 45 days from the date of this notice and should be addressed to Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1-A, Washington, DC 20426. Please affix "Carpenter-Rommel Hydroelectric Project No. 271-062" to all comments. For further information, contact Ed Lee at (202) 219-2809. Comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "e-Filing" link.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-175 Filed 1-3-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL02-44-000]

Indeck Maine Energy, L.L.C., Complainant, v. ISO New England, Inc., Respondent; Notice of Complaint

December 28, 2001.

Take notice that on December 27, 2001, Indeck Maine Energy, L.L.C. (Indeck Maine) filed a Complaint and Request for Appointment of Settlement Judgement against the ISO New England, Inc. (ISO NE) requesting that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) find (i) ISO-NE's actions in soliciting and