

publishing this appendix of suggested guidelines. It is recommended that all credit unions develop a program to prepare for a catastrophic act. The program should be developed with oversight and approval of the board of directors. It is recommended the program address the following five elements:

- (1) A business impact analysis to evaluate potential threats;
- (2) A risk assessment to determine critical systems and necessary resources;
- (3) A written plan addressing:
  - (i) Persons with authority to enact the plan;
  - (ii) Preservation and ability to restore vital records;
  - (iii) A method for restoring of vital member services through identification of alternate operating location(s) or mediums to provide services, such as telephone centers, shared service centers, agreements with other credit unions, or other appropriate methods;
  - (iv) Communication methods for employees and members;
  - (v) Notification of regulators as addressed in 12 CFR 748.1(b);
  - (vi) Training and documentation of training to ensure all employees and volunteer officials are aware of procedures to follow in the event of destruction of vital records or loss of vital member services; and
  - (vii) Testing procedures, including a means for documenting the testing results.
- (4) Internal controls for reviewing the plan at least annually and for revising the plan as circumstances warrant, for example, to address changes in the credit union's operations; and
- (5) Annual testing.

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### 18 CFR Part 292

[Docket No. RM07-11-000]

#### Applicability of Federal Power Act Section 215 to Qualifying Small Power Production and Cogeneration Facilities

March 16, 2007.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is proposing to amend its regulations governing qualifying small power production and cogeneration facilities, to eliminate the exemption from the requirements of section 215 of the Federal Power Act. From a reliability perspective, there does not appear to be a meaningful distinction between QF and non-QF generators that would warrant exemption of QFs from mandatory Reliability Standards.

**DATES:** Comments are due April 17, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. RM07-11-000, by one of the following methods:

- *Agency Web site:* <http://ferc.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments via the eFiling link found in the Comment Procedures section of the Preamble.

- *Mail:* Commenters unable to file comments electronically must mail or hand deliver an original and 14 copies of their comments to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC, 20426. Refer to the Comment Procedures section of the preamble for additional information on how to file paper comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Paul Singh (Technical Information), Office of Energy Markets and Reliability, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502-8576.

Samuel Higginbottom (Legal Information), Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502-8561.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Introduction

1. The Commission is proposing to amend the exemptions available to qualifying facilities (QFs) so that they would no longer be exempt from newly-added section 215 of the Federal Power Act (FPA).<sup>1</sup> From a reliability perspective, there does not appear to be a meaningful distinction between QF and non-QF generators that would warrant exemption of QFs from mandatory Reliability Standards. The benefit of this proposal will be increased reliability of the North American Bulk-Power System.

#### Background

2. On August 8, 2005, the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005, which is Title XII, Subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 2005), was enacted into law.<sup>2</sup> EPA 2005 adds a new section 215 to the Federal Power Act (FPA),<sup>3</sup> which requires a Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards, which are subject

to Commission review and approval. Once approved, the Reliability Standards may be enforced by the ERO, subject to Commission oversight.

3. On February 3, 2006, the Commission issued Order No. 672, which implements newly-added section 215 and provides specific processes for the certification of an entity as the ERO, the development and approval of mandatory Reliability Standards, and the compliance with and enforcement of approved Reliability Standards.<sup>4</sup> On April 4, 2006, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) made two filings: (1) An application for certification of NERC as the ERO; and (2) a petition for Commission approval of Reliability Standards, with eight regional differences and a glossary of terms. On July 20, 2006, the Commission issued an order certifying NERC as the ERO.<sup>5</sup> On October 20, 2006, the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to approve 83 of 107 proposed Reliability Standards.<sup>6</sup>

4. In response to the Reliability NOPR, Cogeneration Association of California and the Energy Producers and Users Coalition (CAC/EPUC) filed comments pointing out that QFs are exempt from section 215 by virtue of section 292.601(c) of the Commission's regulations.<sup>7</sup> CAC/EPUC suggest that the Commission intentionally exempted QFs from section 215. CAC/EPUC explain that in Order No. 671 issued on February 2, 2006,<sup>8</sup> the Commission stated that it saw no reason to exempt QFs from the newly added FPA sections 220, 221 and 222,<sup>9</sup> and explicitly excluded those sections of the FPA from the QF exemptions contained in section 292.601 of its regulations, while making no similar mention of section 215.

5. Section 215(b) grants the Commission jurisdiction over "all users, owners, and operators of the bulk-power system" for "purposes of approving

<sup>4</sup> *Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; Procedures for the Establishment, Approval and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, 71 FR 8662 (Feb. 17, 2006), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,204 (2006), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 672-A, 71 FR 19814 (Apr. 18, 2006), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,212 (2006).

<sup>5</sup> *North American Electric Reliability Corporation*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062 (2006).

<sup>6</sup> *Mandatory Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power Market*, 72 FR 64770 (Oct. 20, 2006), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 32,608 (2006) (Reliability NOPR).

<sup>7</sup> 18 CFR 292.601(c).

<sup>8</sup> *Revised Regulations Governing Small Power Production and Cogeneration Facilities*, Order No. 671, 71 FR 7852 (Feb. 2, 2006), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,203 (2006), *order on rehearing*, Order No. 771-A, 71 FERC 30583 (May 22, 2006), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,219 (2006).

<sup>9</sup> 16 U.S.C. 824t-v.

<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. 824o.

<sup>2</sup> Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No 109-58, Title XII, Subtitle A, 119 Stat. 594, 941 (2005).

<sup>3</sup> 16 U.S.C. 824o.

reliability standards. . . . and enforcing compliance with [section 215]”, and further provides that “[a]ll users, owners and operators of the bulk-power system shall comply with reliability standards that take effect under this section.”<sup>10</sup> Given the statutory directive that all users, owners and operators of the bulk-power system must comply with the reliability standards that take effect under section 215, it may no longer be appropriate to allow QFs a continued exemption from compliance with the newly-adopted mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards that apply to generator owners and operators.<sup>11</sup> Moreover, from a reliability perspective, there would seem to be no meaningful distinction between QF and non-QF generators that would warrant exemption of QFs from the newly-adopted mandatory Reliability Standards. Indeed, QF generators would seem to affect the reliability of the Bulk-Power System as much as non-QF generators, and so QF generators should be subject to the newly-adopted mandatory Reliability Standards. In this regard, we note that while many QFs are small facilities, others are quite large. We see no justification for large facilities to be exempt from the newly-adopted mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards. Accordingly, we are proposing to amend § 292.601(c)(3) to add section 215 to the list of FPA sections from which QFs are not exempt.

6. The threshold for applicability of the Reliability Standards to generating units is 20 MVA (gross nameplate rating) for an individual generating unit, or 75 MVA (gross nameplate rating) in aggregate for a generating plant.<sup>12</sup> In addition, the Reliability Standards are applicable to: any generator, regardless of size that is a blackstart unit material to and designated as part of a transmission operator entity’s restoration plan; or any generator, regardless of size, that is material to the reliability of the bulk-power system; the determination to include an otherwise exempt facility would be made on a facility-by-facility basis by the ERO or Regional Entity. However, an entity that disagrees with NERC’s determination to place it in the compliance registry may submit a challenge in writing to NERC

and, if still not satisfied, may lodge an appeal with the Commission. Therefore, a small entity may appeal to the Commission if it believes it should not be required to comply with the Reliability Standards. According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the total universe of qualifying facilities is 3,265 entities. Of these, 2,423 entities are below 20 MW (which, as noted above, roughly corresponds to the 20 MVA standard for applicability of the reliability standards), which leaves 842 entities that could be potentially impacted by the reliability standards. Of these 842 entities, only 745 are listed by EIA as being interconnected to the grid. Thus, out of a total of 3265 QFs, only 745, or 23 percent of all QFs would meet the generally applicable threshold of 20 MVA (although some other QFs may be specified as either blackstart units material to and designated as part of a transmission operator entity’s restoration plan or as generators material to the reliability of the bulk-power system). In sum, while there would seem to be no basis to exempt all QFs from the mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards, as a result of the threshold for applicability of the Reliability Standards to generating units, and based on EIA data, it appears that less than a quarter of all QFs will, in fact, be affected by our proposal to eliminate the QF exemption from the requirements of section 215 of the FPA.

#### Information Collection Statement

7. The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)<sup>13</sup> requires each Federal agency to seek and obtain OMB approval before undertaking a collection of information directed to ten or more persons, or continuing a collection for which the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval and validity of the control number are about to expire.<sup>14</sup> The PRA defines the phrase “collection of information” to be the “obtaining, causing to be obtained, soliciting, or requiring the disclosure to third parties or the public, of facts or opinions by or for an agency, regardless of form or format, calling for either—(i) answers to identical questions posed to, or identical reporting or recordkeeping requirements imposed on ten or more persons, other than agencies, instrumentalities, or employees of the United States; or (ii) answers to questions posed to agencies, instrumentalities, or employees of the United States which are to be used for

general statistical purposes.”<sup>15</sup> OMB regulations require approval of certain information collection requirements imposed by agency rules.<sup>16</sup>

8. As noted above, the Commission is proposing to amend the exemption available to qualifying facilities from the requirements of section 215 of the FPA. Because the Commission is not proposing information collections in this rulemaking, it is not subject to OMB review under the PRA. However, the Commission will submit for informational purposes only a copy of this rulemaking to OMB.

#### Environmental Analysis

9. The Commission is required to prepare an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement for any action that may have a significant adverse effect on the human environment.<sup>17</sup> The Commission has categorically excluded certain actions from this requirement as not having a significant effect on the human environment. As explained above, this proposed rule carries out the intent of legislation, specifically section 215 of the FPA. It lifts an exemption and thus makes section 215 of the FPA applicable to QFs; it does not substantially change the effect of the legislation. Accordingly, no environmental consideration is necessary.<sup>18</sup>

#### Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis

10. The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA)<sup>19</sup> generally requires a description and analysis of rules that will have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The total universe of qualifying facilities is 3,265 entities. Of these, 2,423 entities are below 20 MW (the threshold for applicability of the Reliability Standards is 20 MVA for an individual generating unit, or 75 MVA in aggregate for a generating plant<sup>20</sup>) which leaves 842 entities that could be potentially impacted by the reliability standards. Of these 842 entities, only 745 are listed as being interconnected to the grid. Accordingly, we estimate that out of a total of 3265 QFs, only 745, or 23 per cent of all QFs would likely be affected by the change in regulations proposed here. Thus, most, if not all, QFs affected by this rule do not fall

<sup>10</sup> 16 U.S.C. 824o(b). Section 215(b) also states that entities described in section 201(f), entities that are otherwise exempt from Part II of the FPA unless a provision is specifically applicable to those entities, are subject to section 215. *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> *Mandatory Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System*, Order No. 693, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,242 (2007) (issued concurrently with this NOPR).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* A 20 MVA threshold corresponds to 20 MW, if a unit is operating at a unity power factor.

<sup>13</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

<sup>14</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3502(3)(A)(i), 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(3).

<sup>15</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3502(3)(A).

<sup>16</sup> 5 CFR 1320.11.

<sup>17</sup> *Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act*, Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897 (Dec. 17, 1987), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 30,783 (1987).

<sup>18</sup> 18 CFR 380.4(a)(2)(ii).

<sup>19</sup> 5 U.S.C. 601–12.

<sup>20</sup> The 20 MVA threshold corresponds to 20 MW, if a unit is operating at a unity power factor.

within the definition of small entities,<sup>21</sup> nor do they meet the threshold criteria for applicability of the RFA to electric utilities established by the Small Business Administration, which is based on a size standard of 4 million MWh.<sup>22</sup>

#### Comment Procedures

11. The Commission invites interested persons to submit comments on the change proposed in this notice to be adopted, including any related matters or alternative proposals that commenters may wish to discuss. Comments are due April 16, 2007. Comments must refer to Docket No. RM07-11-000, and must include the commenter's name, the organization they represent, if applicable, and their address in their comments. Comments and reply comments may be filed either in electronic or paper format.

12. Comments and reply comments may be filed electronically via the eFiling link on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>. The Commission accepts most standard word processing formats and commenters may attach additional files with supporting information in certain other file formats. Commenters filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing. Commenters that are not able to file comments and reply comments electronically must send an original and 14 copies of their comments to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC, 20426.

13. All comments and reply comments will be placed in the Commission's public files and may be viewed, printed, or downloaded remotely as described in the Document Availability section below. Commenters on this proposal are not required to serve copies of their comments and reply comments on other commenters.

#### Document Availability

14. In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to

view and/or print the contents of this document via the Internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) and in the Commission's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time) at 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington DC 20426.

15. From the Commission's Home Page on the Internet, this information is available in the Commission's document management system, eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing, printing, and/or downloading. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field.

16. User assistance is available for eLibrary and the Commission's Web site during normal business hours. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at 1-866-208-3676 (toll free) or (202) 502-8222 (e-mail at [FERCOnlineSupport@FERC.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@FERC.gov)), or the Public Reference Room at (202) 502-8371, TTY (202) 502-8659 (e-mail at [public.reference.room@ferc.gov](mailto:public.reference.room@ferc.gov)).

#### List of Subjects in 18 CFR Part 292

Electric power, Electric power plants, Electric utilities, Natural gas, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

By direction of the Commission.

**Philis J. Posey,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

In consideration of the foregoing, the Commission proposes to amend part 292, Chapter I, Title 18, *Code of Federal Regulations*, to read as follows.

#### PART 292—REGULATIONS UNDER SECTIONS 201 AND 210 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978 WITH REGARD TO SMALL POWER PRODUCTION AND COGENERATION

1. The authority citation for part 292 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 791a-825r, 2601-2645; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 42 U.S.C. 7101-7352.

2. In § 292.601 paragraph (c)(3) is revised to read as follows:

#### § 292.601 Exemption to qualifying facilities from the Federal Power Act.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \*

(3) Sections 202(c), 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 220, 221 and 222;

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. E7-5285 Filed 3-26-07; 8:45 am]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

#### Defense Acquisition Regulations System

#### 48 CFR Parts 204 and 244

**RIN 0750-AF61**

#### Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Closeout of Contract Files (DFARS Case 2006-D045)

**AGENCY:** Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule with request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** DoD is proposing to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to remove text addressing DoD procedures for closeout of contract files. The text proposed for removal will be relocated to the DFARS companion resource, Procedures, Guidance, and Information. **DATES:** Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted in writing to the address shown below on or before May 29, 2007, to be considered in the formation of the final rule.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by DFARS Case 2006-D045, using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *E-mail:* [dfars@osd.mil](mailto:dfars@osd.mil). Include DFARS Case 2006-D045 in the subject line of the message.

- *Fax:* (703) 602-0350.

- *Mail:* Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Attn: Ms. Deborah Tronic, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DARS), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Crystal Square 4, Suite 200A, 241 18th Street, Arlington, VA 22202-3402.

Comments received generally will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Deborah Tronic, (703) 602-0289.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### A. Background

This proposed rule revises DFARS 204.804 to remove text addressing DoD procedures for closeout of contract files. The text will be relocated to the DFARS companion resource, Procedures, Guidance, and Information (PGI). The proposed rule also amends DFARS 244.304 to clarify an existing reference to corresponding PGI text.

<sup>21</sup> The RFA definition of "small entity" refers to the definition provided in the Small Business Act, which defines a "small business concern" as a business that is independently owned and operated and that is not dominant in its field of operation. See 15 U.S.C. 632.

<sup>22</sup> The Small Business Size Standard component of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) defines a small utility as one that, including its affiliates, is primarily engaged in generation, transmission, and/or distribution of electric energy for sale and whose total electric output for the preceding fiscal years did not exceed 4 million MWh. 13 CFR 121.201.