

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. EL16–63–000]

Indicated RTO Transmission Owners; Notice of Petition for Declaratory Order

Take notice that on April 26, 2016, pursuant to Rule 207(a)(2) of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.207(a)(2) (2015), the Indicated RTO Transmission Owners (RTO)¹ filed a petition for declaratory order finding that RTO may use single-issue ratemaking in future filings under section 205 of the Federal Power Act to modify existing Commission jurisdictional rates, all as more fully explained in the petition.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest in this proceeding must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified 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 notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Petitioner.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper, using the FERC Online links at <http://www.ferc.gov>. To facilitate electronic service, persons with Internet access who will eFile a document and/or be listed as a contact for an intervenor must create and validate an eRegistration account using the

eRegistration link. Select the eFiling link to log on and submit the intervention or protests.

Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 5 copies of the intervention or protest to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The filings in the above proceeding are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by clicking on the appropriate link in the above list. They are also available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an eSubscription link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

Comment Date: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on May 26, 2016.

Dated: May 2, 2016.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016–10769 Filed 5–6–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. EL16–59–000]

MidAmerican Energy Company; Notice of Institution of Section 206 Proceeding and Refund Effective Date

On May 2, 2016, the Commission issued an order in Docket No. EL16–59–000, pursuant to section 206 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. 824e (2012), instituting an investigation into the justness and reasonableness of MidAmerican Energy Company's proposed rate reduction. *MidAmerican Energy Company*, 155 FERC ¶ 61, 122 (2016).

The refund effective date in Docket No. EL16–59–000, established pursuant to section 206(b) of the FPA, will be the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: May 3, 2016.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016–10785 Filed 5–6–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
ADMINISTRATION****Western Area Power Administration****Record of Decision for the San Luis Transmission Project (DOE/EIS–0496)**

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Record of decision and statement of floodplain findings.

SUMMARY: The Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power marketing administration within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority), a California joint powers agency, have prepared a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP or Proposed Project). Western is the Federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Authority is the state lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is a NEPA Cooperating Agency. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is a CEQA Responsible Agency. Western proposes to construct, own, operate, and maintain approximately 95 miles of new transmission lines within easements ranging from 125 to 250 feet wide through Alameda, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties along the foothills of the western San Joaquin Valley. Western also would upgrade or expand its existing substations, make the necessary arrangements to upgrade or expand existing Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) substations, or construct new substations to accommodate the interconnections of these new transmission lines. The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Final EIS/EIR was published in the **Federal Register** on March 25, 2016 (81 FR 16175). After considering the environmental impacts, Western has decided to construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line and other project components within the corridors identified as the Agency Preferred Alternative in the Final EIS/EIR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Donald Lash, NEPA Document Manager, Western Area Power Administration, Sierra Nevada Region, 114 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, CA 95630–4710; telephone (916) 353–4048. Hard copies of the EIS/EIR are available from Mr. Lash upon request. For general information on DOE's NEPA review

¹ American Electric Power Service Corporation, on behalf of its affiliates Appalachian Power Company, Indiana Michigan Power Company, Kentucky Power Company, Kingsport Power Company, Ohio Power Company, Wheeling Power Company, AEP Appalachian Transmission Company, AEP Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, AEP Kentucky Transmission Company, AEP Ohio Transmission Company, AEP West Virginia Transmission Company, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, Southwestern Electric Power Company, AEP Oklahoma Transmission Company, Inc., AEP Southwestern Transmission Company, Inc., Transource Missouri, LLC, Transource Kansas, LLC, Transource Wisconsin, LLC, Transource West Virginia, LLC; Kansas City Power & Light Company and KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company; Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company; Westar Energy, Inc., Prairie Wind Transmission, LLC, and Kanstar Transmission.

process, please contact Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-20, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585; telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

For information related to Reclamation's participation, contact Mr. Russell Grimes, Chief, Environmental Compliance and Conservation, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95818, telephone (916) 978-5051, email at rwgrimes@usbr.gov. For information related to the Authority's participation and the CEQA process, contact Ms. Frances Mizuno, General Manager, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, 15990 Kelso Road, Byron, CA 94514, telephone (209) 832-6200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Western delivers Federal electric power (mostly hydroelectric power) to Federal preference customers defined to include municipalities, rural electric cooperatives, public utilities, irrigation districts, Federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes. Western also is responsible for making the necessary arrangements to deliver federal power to Federally authorized projects.

Reclamation is the largest wholesaler of water in the country, supplying more than 31 million people, and providing one out of five western farmers with irrigation water for 10 million acres of farmland. Reclamation is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States with 53 power plants that provide more than 40 billion kilowatt hours annually and generate nearly a billion dollars in power revenues. Reclamation's mission is to assist in meeting the increasing water demands of the West while protecting the environment and the public's investment in these structures. Reclamation emphasizes fulfilling its water delivery obligations, water conservation, water recycling, and reuse goals; developing partnerships with customers, states, and Native American tribes; and finding ways to address the competing needs for limited water resources.

The Authority is a California joint powers agency, comprised of water agencies representing approximately 28 Federal and exchange water service contractors within the western San Joaquin Valley, San Benito and Santa Clara counties. One of the primary purposes of establishing the Authority was to assume the operation and maintenance responsibilities of certain Reclamation facilities located in the Central Valley, and to do so at an optimum level and at a lower cost than

Reclamation. The Authority also has the mission of pursuing additional reliable water supply for its member districts and delivering the water with a reliable system in a cost efficient manner.

Reclamation entered into a contract with PG&E in 1965 for power transmission and distribution service between Western's Tracy Substation and Reclamation's San Luis Unit (SLU) facilities. The existing transmission contract with PG&E expired in March 2016, and PG&E has stated it will not be renewed. Without the contract or a federal transmission line to serve the primary SLU facilities, the Federal Government will have to take transmission service under the California Independent System Operator Tariff. This would substantially increase Reclamation's transmission costs, which are paid by its water service contractors, including members of the Authority. Reclamation submitted a transmission service request to Western to consider various transmission service arrangements, including the construction of new Federal transmission lines for Reclamation's continued delivery of federal water after the PG&E contract expires. To meet its purpose and need Western must respond to Reclamation's request for transmission service consistent with Western's Open Access Transmission Tariff and existing laws. In October 2013, Duke American Transmission Company (DATC) submitted a transmission service request to Western for transmission service within the same corridor as requested by Reclamation. Western evaluated both requests jointly in order to determine if it can satisfy Reclamation's need and DATC's request with a single project.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS/EIR was published in the **Federal Register** on November 22, 2013 (78 FR 70035). Formal public scoping for the EIS/EIR began with the publication of the NOI and ended on January 21, 2014. Two public scoping meetings were held on January 8 and 9, 2014. Western distributed notices to 75 local agencies, 8 state agencies, 6 Federal agencies, 21 organizations, and 39 elected officials. Western also sent postcards announcing the public scoping meetings and comment period to all property owners within or adjacent to the Proposed Project or alternative routes, and published advertisements on the meetings and comment period in five local newspapers. The NOA for the Draft EIS/EIR was published in the **Federal Register** on July 17, 2015 (80 FR 42491). The NOA established a 45-day public comment period that ended August 31, 2015. Two public meetings

on the Draft EIS/EIR were held in Tracy, California, on August 10, 2015 and Los Banos, California, on August 11, 2015. Notice of the meeting was provided through an advertisement in the local newspaper and direct mailing to approximately 475 addressees. Four individuals provided oral comments during the public meetings. Western received 26 comment letters and emails on the Draft EIS/EIR during the comment period, and Western considered all comments received in developing the Final EIS/EIR. The NOA for the Final EIS/EIR was published in the **Federal Register** on March 25, 2016 (81 FR 16175). Approximately 500 notifications were sent to landowners in the Project area and other agencies and stakeholders, and notices were published in online and printed versions of the local newspaper on March 25, 2016. Copies of the Final EIS/EIR were available for review at two local reading rooms and were available for download from Western SNR's Web site and the project Web site. A copy of the EIS/EIR was sent to those who requested one.

Proposed Action

The SLTP would consist of: (1) A new 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line about 65 miles in length between the new Tracy East and Los Banos West Substations; (2) a new 230-kV transmission line about 3 miles in length between the new Los Banos West Substation and Western's existing San Luis Substation; (3) a new 230-kV transmission line about 20 miles in length between Western's existing San Luis Substation and Western's existing Dos Amigos Substation or a new 230-kV transmission line about 18 miles in length between the new Los Banos West Substation and Western's existing Dos Amigos Substation; (4) an interconnection with the existing Western 500-kV Los Banos-Gates No. 3 transmission line just south of PG&E's existing Los Banos Substation into the new Los Banos West Substation; and (5) a new 70-kV transmission line about 7 miles in length between the existing San Luis and O'Neill Substations.

Additional components of the SLTP would include new 230-kV line terminal bays at Western's San Luis and Dos Amigos Substations, as well as a new 230/70-kV transformer bank and interconnection facilities at the San Luis Substation. The SLTP also would include ancillary facilities, such as communication facilities, improvements to existing access roads, new permanent access roads, and temporary access roads to facilitate construction activities. Western would acquire the

necessary easements and fee land for the Proposed Project.

Western implements Environmental Protection Measures (EPMs) and Construction Standards to reduce environmental consequences associated with its construction and maintenance activities. The Final EIS analysis of environmental consequences considered the EPMs listed in Table 2–5 and the Construction Standards presented in

Appendix F to the Final EIS as integral components of the Proposed Action. These EPMs and Construction Standards would be implemented as part of the Proposed Project.

Description of Alternatives

Western analyzed six corridor alternatives and the No Action/No Project alternative in the EIS/EIR. An additional seven alternatives were

considered in a screening process and eliminated from further review based on feasibility considerations. Western divided the Proposed Project, at common points of the corridors, into four segments (North, Central, San Luis, South) and examined available alternatives. Alternative corridors are presented by segment in Table 1, with the Agency Preferred Alternative shown in highlight:

Table 1: Route Corridors and Alternatives

Route Corridor	Alternative	Alternative	Alternative	Alternative
North Segment	Proposed Route	No Action	No Identified Alternatives	
Central Segment	Proposed Route	No Action	Patterson Pass Road	
San Luis Segment (500kV)	Proposed Route	No Action	Butts Road	West of Cemetery
San Luis Segment (70kV)	Proposed Route	No Action	West of O'Neil Forebay	
South Segment	Proposed Route	No Action	San Luis to Dos Amigos Alternative	Billy Wright Road

The No Action/No Project Alternative is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative because it would avoid any adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative environmental impacts. However, the No Action/No Project Alternative would not achieve the purpose and need or basic project objectives. Therefore, an environmentally preferred action alternative was identified among the other (*i.e.*, action) alternatives. The Environmentally Preferred Action Alternative is comprised of:

North Segment—Proposed Route;
Central Segment—Patterson Pass Road Alternative;
San Luis Segment (500-kV)—Proposed Route;
San Luis Segment (70-kV)—Proposed Route; and
South Segment—San Luis to Dos Amigos Alternative.

After analysis of public comments and further internal review of the EIS/EIR, Western has determined its Agency Preferred Alternative is the same as the Environmentally Preferred Action Alternative in the Northern and San Luis (500-kV and 70-kV) segments. In the Central Segment, the Proposed

Route is the Agency Preferred Alternative. Although it would be closer to residences and have slight increases in the associated visual and temporary noise impacts, it would have less of an impact on biological resources. In particular, it would impact fewer special-status plant species. Additionally, it would require fewer crossings of the existing high voltage transmission lines, which would increase reliability by providing more space between circuits. In the South Segment, the Billy Wright Road Alternative is the Agency Preferred Alternative. Although it would have greater recreation impacts by crossing the Path of the Padres Trail and slightly greater soil disturbance due to its longer length, it would avoid conflicts with the Wright Solar Park, which is now fully permitted and expected to begin construction in 2016.

The Agency Preferred Alternative is comprised of:

North Segment—Proposed Route;
Central Segment—Proposed Route;
San Luis Segment (500-kV)—Proposed Route;

San Luis Segment (70-kV)—Proposed Route; and
South Segment—Billy Wright Road Alternative.

Mitigation Measures

All methods identified in Final EIS Table 6.1 to avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental impacts from the selected alternative are adopted in this Record of Decision. Western's standard practices and project-specific protection measures, listed in the Final EIS/EIR, will be implemented as part of the Proposed Action, as will all terms and conditions of any required permits or consultation agreements.

Floodplain Statement of Findings

In accordance with 10 CFR part 1022, Western considered the potential impacts of the Project on floodplains and wetlands. The Project could affect floodplains through ground disturbance associated with construction and operations and maintenance activities, including operation of heavy equipment, grading, and vegetation clearing for access roads, site leveling,

auguring of transmission tower foundations, and other infrastructure excavations. The Project will place new structures outside of floodplains where possible. In areas where floodplains cannot be avoided, Western will engineer transmission towers to withstand a 100-year flood. Additionally, new structures will be located and designed so as not to impede flood flows. All construction within a designated 100-year floodplain will be undertaken in consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. No floodwater will be blocked, nor will floodwater be diverted outside of an existing floodplain. If avoidance is infeasible, transmission towers will be located and engineered so as not to block or substantially alter the natural drainage pattern. In accordance with Western's Environmental Protection Measures and Construction Standard 13, culverts or bridges will be installed where needed to avoid surface water impacts during construction of transmission line structures.

Decision

Western's decision is to construct the project along the Agency Preferred Alternative described in the Final EIS/EIR. The measures identified in Final EIS Table 6.1 are adopted as part of this decision. The selection of the Agency Preferred Alternative, the adopted measures from Final EIS Table 6.1, and all terms and conditions of required permits and consultation agreements satisfies Western's statutory mission while minimizing harm to the environment. This decision is based on the information in the Final EIS/EIR. The EIS including this Record of Decision was prepared according to the requirements of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and DOE's procedures for implementing NEPA (10 CFR part 1021).

Dated: April 29, 2016.

Mark A. Gabriel,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2016–10802 Filed 5–6–16; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–9941–97–OEI]

Agency Information Collection Activities OMB Responses

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) responses to Agency Clearance requests, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR chapter 15.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Courtney Kerwin (202) 566–1669, or email at kerwin.courtney@epa.gov and please refer to the appropriate EPA Information Collection Request (ICR) Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Responses to Agency Clearance Requests

OMB Approvals

EPA ICR Number 1362.10; NESHAP for Coke Oven Batteries (Renewal); 40 CFR part 63, subparts A and L; was approved without change on 1/27/2016; OMB Number 2060–0253; expires on 1/31/2019.

EPA ICR Number 2491.02; Agricultural Worker Protection Standard Training, Notification and Recordkeeping (Final Rule); 40 CFR part 170; was approved without change on 1/21/2016; OMB Number 2070–0190; expires on 1/31/2019.

EPA ICR Number 1360.15; Revision of Information Collection Request for Underground Storage Tanks: Technical and Financial Requirements, and State Program Approval Procedures (Final Rule); 40 CFR parts 280 and 281; was approved without change on 1/14/2016; OMB Number 2050–0068; expires on 1/31/2019.

EPA ICR Number 1656.15; Risk Management Program Requirements and Petitions to Modify the List of Regulated Substances under Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act (Renewal); 40 CFR part 68; was approved without change on 1/14/2016; OMB Number 2050–0144; expires on 1/31/2019.

EPA ICR Number 1867.06; Voluntary Aluminium Industrial Partnership (VAIP) (Renewal); was approved without change on 1/14/2016; OMB Number 2060–0411; expires on 1/31/2019.

EPA ICR Number 1821.08; NESHAP for Steel Pickling, HCl Process Facilities and Hydrochloric Acid Regeneration Plants (Renewal); 40 CFR part 63, subparts A and CCC; was approved without change on 1/12/2016; OMB

Number 2060–0419; expires on 1/31/2019.

EPA ICR Number 2468.02; NPDES Electronic Reporting (Final Rule); 40 CFR parts 122, 123, 127, 403, 501, and 503; was approved without change on 1/11/2016; OMB Number 2020–0035; expires on 1/31/2019.

EPA ICR Number 2507.01; Lead Training, Certification, Accreditation and Authorization Activities (New); 40 CFR part 745; was approved with change on 1/8/2016; OMB Number 2070–0195; expires on 1/31/2019.

EPA ICR Number 0107.11; Air Stationary Source Compliance and Enforcement Information Reporting (Renewal); 40 CFR parts 51, 52, 60, 61, and 63; was approved without change on 1/5/2016; OMB Number 2060–0096; expires on 1/31/2019.

EPA ICR Number 2203.05; Amendments to the Protocol Gas Verification Program, and Minimum Competency Requirements for Air Emission (Renewal); 40 CFR parts 72 and 75; was approved without change on 1/5/2016; OMB Number 2060–0626; expires on 1/31/2019.

EPA ICR Number 1783.08; NESHAP for Flexible Polyurethane Foam Product (Final Rule); 40 CFR part 63, subparts A and III; was approved with change on 1/4/2016; OMB Number 2060–0357; expires on 1/31/2019.

EPA ICR Number 2475.02; Labeling Change for Certain Minimum Risk Pesticides under FIFRA Section 25(b) (New); 40 CFR part 152; was approved with change on 2/22/2016; OMB Number 2070–0187; expires on 2/28/2019.

EPA ICR Number 1426.11; EPA Worker Protection Standards for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (Renewal); 40 CFR part 311; was approved without change on 2/3/2016; OMB Number 2050–0105; expires on 2/28/2019.

Comment Filed

EPA ICR Number 2493.02; Categorical Non-Waste Determination for Selected Non-Hazardous Secondary Materials (NHSM): Construction and Demolition Wood, Paper Recycling Residuals, and Creosote-Treated Railroad Ties (Additions to List of Section 241.4 Categorical Non-Waste Fuels) (Proposed Rule); 40 CFR parts 63 and 241; OMB filed comment on 1/20/2016.

Courtney Kerwin,

Acting Director, Collections Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 2016–10755 Filed 5–6–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P