

scientific study should be conducted in order to form an adequate factual basis for a complete analysis of the application on its merit, the resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person must file a request for a study with the Commission not later than 60 days from the date of this notice and serve a copy of the request on the applicant.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-11572 Filed 4-30-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission

April 27, 1998.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- a. *Type of Application:* Exemption of a Constructed Small Hydroelectric Power Project 5 Megawatts or less.
- b. *Project No.:* 11613-000.
- c. *Date filed:* February 25, 1998.
- d. *Applicant:* Ronald Lizotte.
- e. *Name of Project:* HE 257.
- f. *Location:* In the Tiller Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, Francis Creek, Sections 27 and 28, Tn.29S., R.1W. Willamette Meridian, Douglas County, Oregon.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).
- h. *Applicant Contact:* Ronald Lizotte, P.O. Box 193, Tiller, Oregon 97484, (541) 825-3942.
- i. *FERC Contact:* Gaylord W. Hoisington, (202) 219-2756.
- j. *Brief Description of Project:* The project consists of: (1) a 24-inch-high concrete diversion dam; (2) a 1,280-foot-long, 3-inch-diameter PVC pipe; (3) a 12-inch pelton wheel; (4) a 55-volt, 53-amp Davidson Marine alternator; (5) a 5,000-watt inverter; (6) a 1,800-foot-long transmission line; (7) a 0.6-mile-long access road; and (8) other appurtenances.
- k. With this notice, we are initiating consultation with the Oregon State

Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), as required by § 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR 800.4.

1. Under Section 4.32(b)(7) of the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 4.32(b)(7)), if any resource agency, SHPO, Indian Tribe, or person believes that the applicant should conduct an additional scientific study to form an adequate, factual basis for a complete analysis of this application on its merits, they must file a request for the study with the Commission, together with justification for such request, not later than 60 days after application is filed, and must serve a copy of the request on the applicant. In this case, we will extend the comment period until June 25, 1998.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-11578 Filed 4-30-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. PL98-5-000 through -007]

Inquiry Concerning the Commission's Policy on Independent System Operators; Notice of Regional Conferences

April 27, 1998.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) will convene seven public conferences of one day or less to discuss regional factors relevant to our policy concerning Independent System Operators (ISOs). The conferences will be held between May 28 and June 8, 1998.

I. Introduction

In Order Nos. 888 and 889 and their progeny,¹ the Commission established fundamental principles of non-discriminatory open access transmission services and encouraged, but did not require, the formation of ISOs. On March 13, 199, the Commission initiated an Inquiry Concerning the Commission's Policy on ISOs in Docket

No. PL98-5-000. A two-day public conference was held at the Commission's headquarters in Washington, D.C. on April 15-16, 1998. The Commission received input on a range of ISO issues from 40 speakers participating on seven topical panels. Approximately 400 individuals attended the conference on each day, while numerous others observed the proceedings electronically. By design, this first conference addressed the Commission's general ISO policies.

To comprehensively examine ISO issues, the Commission believes it is important to provide an adequate forum to explore regional factors that should be taken into account in the Commission's consideration of its ISO policy. For this reason, the Commission will hold seven regional conference between May 28 and June 8, 1998.

The Commission intends each regional conference to examine specific regional characteristics and institutional factors that bear upon the formation, governance, design and functions of ISOs or other types of organizations formed to administer the electric transmission grid on a regional basis. It wishes to examine whether the incorporation of such considerations into the Commission's policy on ISOs will foster more rapid ISO formation. The Commission also wishes to examine whether regional factors present barriers to the formation of ISOs, including ISOs of appropriate size, scope and membership as may be necessary to promote competition and reliability in bulk power markets and to support state initiatives providing for retain customer choice and direct access, and, if so, what actions can be undertaken to remove or reduce such barriers.

II. Regional Conferences

The Commission will hold seven regional conferences as described below. A single Commissioner will preside at each conference. The Commissioner will be accompanied by a Commission staff member who will help direct questions to the panelists. Starting and ending times will be announced in a subsequent order.

Presiding commissioner	Conference date	City and conference location	Docket No.
Comm. Massey	May 28, 1998	Phoenix, AR, Hyatt Regency Phoenix, 122 North Second Street, Phoenix, AR 85004, (602) 252-1234.	PL98-5-001

¹ See Promoting Wholesale Completion Through Open Access Nondiscriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities; and Recovery of Stranded Costs by Public Utilities and Transmitting Utilities, Order No. 888, 61 Fed. Reg. 21,540 (1996), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,036 (1996), *order on reh'g*,

Order No. 888-A, 62 Fed. Reg. 12,274 (1997), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,048 (1997), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 888-B, 81 FERC ¶ 61,248 (1997), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 888-C, 82 FERC ¶ 61,046 (1998). Open-Access Same-Time Information System and Standards of Conduct, Order No. 889, 61 Fed. Reg.

21,737 (1996), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,035 (1996), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 889-A, 62 Fed. Reg. 12,484 (1997), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,049 (1997), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 889-B, 81 FERC ¶ 61,253 (1997).

Presiding commissioner	Conference date	City and conference location	Docket No.
Comm. Massey	May 29, 1998	Kansas City, MO, Embassy Suites, 7640 N.W. Tiffany Springs Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64153, (816) 891-7788.	PL98-5-002
Comm. Hebert	June 1, 1998	New Orleans, LA, Doubletree Inn, 300 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 581-1300.	PL98-5-003
Comm. Bailey	June 4, 1998	Indianapolis, IN, Adams Mark, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN, (317) 248-2481.	PL98-5-004
Chr. Hoecker	June 5, 1998	Portland, OR, Sheraton Portland, Airport Hotel, 8235 N.E. Airport Way, Portland, OR 97220, (503) 281-2500.	PL98-5-005
Comm. Bailey	June 8, 1998	Richmond, Va, Richmond Airport, Holiday Inn, 5203 Williamsburg Road, Richmond, VA 23150, (804) 222-6450.	PL98-5-006
Comm. Breathitt	June 8, 1998	Orlando, FL, Marriott Orlando Airport, 7499 Augusta National Dr., Orlando, FL 32822, (407) 851-9000.	PL98-5-007

All conferences will be open to the general public. No pre-registration is required. No food service is provided as part of these conferences. Requests for hotel accommodations should be directed to the hotels identified above for each conference or to other hotels in the area.

III. Participation in Conference

at this time, the Commission does not envision the use of topical panels at each of the regional conferences. However, we may group speakers expressing interests in common or similar issues on a single panel. Potential participants may wish to examine the extensive list of questions and topics appended to the Commission's initial order in this proceeding to become familiar with the scope of the Commission's interests.

Persons wishing to speak at one of the conferences must submit a request to make a statement in the applicable subdocket in Docket No. PL98-5-000. The first page of the request should clearly specify the name, title and organization (if any) of the person desiring to speak, the party or parties the speaker represents, and the city for which participation is requested. The request must also include a brief synopsis (not to exceed three pages) of the regional issue or issues that each speaker wishes to address. The synopsis for each speaker should begin on a separate page.² All requests must be filed (with an original and fourteen copies) with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, on or before May 8, 1998. The Commission may also contact industry experts to participate in each conference. The Commission will issue a further notice listing the speakers and panels for each conference.

² A party may submit requests to speak for more than one speaker or for more than one city. However, requests should be organized by city and should clearly identify the region-specific issues that the speaker will address.

In addition, all interested persons are invited to submit written comments (not to exceed 10 pages) addressing topics to be discussed at the regional conferences on or before June 25, 1998. Comments must be filed (with an original and fourteen copies) with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Comments should pertain directly to the characteristics or institutional factors associated with a particular region and should be captioned with one of the particular subdocket(s) identified above. Comments of a general nature concerning regional issues should be submitted in Docket No. PL98-5-000.³ Comments in all subdockets as well as the lead docket will be considered in the Commission's examination of its ISO policies. All comments will be placed in the Commission's public files and will be available for inspection or copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room during normal business hours. Comments are also accessible via the Commission's Records Information Management System (RIMS) on the Commission's Internet web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us>.

The Commission does not intend to broadcast the regional conferences. However, the Commission will arrange for a court reporter to transcribe the proceedings in each city. Persons interested in receiving a copy of one or more of the regional conference transcripts for a fee should contact Ace-Federal Reporters, Inc., at 202-347-3700.

For further information concerning requests to speak at one of the regional conferences, contact:

E. Allen Mosher, Office of Electric Power Regulation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, Voice: 202-208-0889, Fax: 202-208-

³ This order does not extend the May 1, 1998 deadline in Docket No. PL98-5-000 for written comments that do not concern region-specific issues.

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For further information concerning
conference logistics, contact: Wanda V.
Washington, Office of Executive
Director and Chief Financial Officer,
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,
888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.
20426, Voice: 202-208-1460, Fax: 202-
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Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6007-2]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Electric Utility Steam Generating Unit Mercury Emissions Collection Effort

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: A public meeting will be held by the Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards to review the EPA's announced plan to submit the following proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Electric Utility Steam Generating Unit Mercury Emissions Information Collection Effort Information Collection Request; EPA ICR No. 1858.01. A 60-day period of public review of the proposed information collection was announced in the **Federal Register** on April 9, 1998 (63 FR 17406).