

Dated: June 29, 2000.

Claudio Prieto,

*Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of
Postsecondary Education.*

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket No. EA-225]

Application To Export Electric Energy; Split Rock Energy LLC

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: Split Rock Energy LLC (Split Rock) has applied for authority to transmit electric energy from the United States to Canada pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

DATES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before August 4, 2000.

ADDRESS: Comments, protests or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex (FE-27), Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0350 (FAX 202-287-5736).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Xavier Puskowski (Program Office) 202-586-4708 or Michael Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-2793.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)).

On June 5, 2000, the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) received an application from Split Rock to transmit electric energy from the United States to Canada. Split Rock is a Minnesota limited liability company jointly owned by Minnesota Power, Inc. and Great River Energy, a public power cooperative. Split Rock, a power marketer, intends to export energy produced by Minnesota Power Inc. or purchased from electric utilities and other suppliers in the United States.

Split Rock proposes to arrange for the delivery of electric energy to Canada over the existing international transmission facilities owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bonneville Power Administration, Citizens Utilities, Detroit Edison Company, Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Joint Owners of the Highgate Project, Long Sault, Inc., Maine Electric Power Company, Maine Public Service Company, Minnesota Power Inc.,

Minnkota Power Cooperative, New York Power Authority, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, Northern States Power, and Vermont Electric Transmission Company. The construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of each of the international transmission facilities to be utilized by Split Rock, as more fully described in the application, has previously been authorized by a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended.

Procedural Matters

Any person desiring to become a party to this proceeding or to be heard by filing comments or protests to this application should file a petition to intervene, comment or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the FERC's rules of practice and procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each petition and protest should be filed with the DOE on or before the date listed above.

Comments on the Split Rock application to export electric energy to Canada should be clearly marked with Docket EA-225. Additional copies are to be filed directly with Steven W. Tyacke, Esq., Split Rock Energy LLC, 30 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802.

A final decision will be made on this application after the environmental impacts have been evaluated pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and a determination is made by the DOE that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above or by accessing the Fossil Energy Home Page at <http://www.fe.doe.gov>. Upon reaching the Fossil Energy Home page, select "Regulatory Programs," then "Electricity Regulation," and then "Pending Proceedings" from the options menus.

Issued in Washington, DC., on June 27, 2000.

Anthony J. Como,

*Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation,
Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex, Office of Coal
& Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.*

[FR Doc. 00-16807 Filed 7-3-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket No. EA-185-A]

Application To Export Electric Energy; Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc.

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc. (Morgan Stanley) has applied for renewal of its authority to transmit electric energy from the United States to Canada pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

DATES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before August 4, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex (FE-27), Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0350 (FAX 202-287-5736).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Xavier Puskowski (Program Office) 202-586-4708 or Michael Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-2793.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 21, 1998, the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) authorized Morgan Stanley to transmit electric energy from the United States to Canada as a power marketer using the international electric transmission facilities owned and operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bonneville Power Administration, Citizens Utilities, Detroit Edison, Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Joint Owners of the Highgate Project, Maine Electric Power Company, Maine Public Service Company, Company, Minnesota Power, Inc., Minnkota Power, New York Power Authority, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., Northern States Power, and Vermont Electric Transmission Company. That two-year authorization will expire on August 21, 2000. On June 21, 2000, Morgan Stanley filed an application with FE for renewal of this export authority, requested that the Order be issued for an additional five-year term, and also requested that the international transmission facilities of Long Sault be added to the list of authorized export points.

Procedural Matters

Any person desiring to become a party to this proceeding or to be heard by filing comments or protests to this application should file a petition to intervene, comment or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the

FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each petition and protest should be filed with the DOE on or before the date listed above.

Comments on the Morgan Stanley request to export to Canada should be clearly marked with Docket EA-185-A. Additional copies are to be filed directly with William H. Penniman, Esq., Daniel E. Frank, Esq. Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, 1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004-2415 and William F. McCoy, Esq., Principal and Counsel, Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, 27th Floor, New York, NY 10020.

DOE notes that the circumstances described in this application are virtually identical to those for which export authority had previously been granted in FE Order EA-185. Consequently, DOE believes that it has adequately satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 through the documentation of a categorical exclusion in the FE Docket EA-185 proceeding.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above or by accessing the Fossil Energy Home Page at <http://www.fe.doe.gov>. Upon reaching the Fossil Energy Home page, select "Regulatory Programs," then "Electricity Regulation," and then "Pending Proceedings" from the options menus.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on June 28, 2000.

Anthony J. Como,

Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex, Office of Coal & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 00-16930 Filed 7-3-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Bonneville Power Administration

Condon Wind Project

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and notice of floodplain and wetlands involvement.

SUMMARY: BPA intends to prepare an EIS on a proposed Condon Wind Project, located northwest of the town of Condon in Gilliam County, Oregon.

SeaWest WindPower, Inc. (SeaWest) proposes to construct and operate the 24.3 to 24.75 megawatt (MW) wind generation facility. BPA proposes to purchase the electrical output from the project and to provide transmission services. The EIS will be site-specific as to the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the wind project itself, as well as all related transmission facilities. In addition, the EIS will take a broad programmatic look at the balance of the project study area. This action may involve wetlands located in Gilliam County, Oregon. In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with wetlands environmental review requirements, BPA will prepare a wetlands assessment and will perform this proposed action in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected wetlands. The assessment will be included in the EIS being prepared for the proposed project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

DATES: BPA has established a 30-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. Written comments are due to the address below no later than August 7, 2000. Comments may also be made at the EIS scoping meetings to be held on July 19 and 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: BPA invites comments and suggestions on the proposed scope of the Draft EIS. Send comment letters and requests to be placed on the project mailing list to Communications, Bonneville Power Administration—KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon, 97212. The phone number of the Communications office is 503-230-3478 in Portland; toll-free 1-800-622-4519 outside of Portland. Comments may also be sent to the BPA Internet address: comment@bpa.gov.

The EIS scoping meetings will be held at the City of Arlington Municipal Building, Council Chambers, Locust and First Streets, Arlington, Oregon, on July 19, 2000, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and at the Gilliam County Courthouse, Circuit Court Room, 221 S. Oregon Street, Condon, Oregon, on July 20, 2000, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. At these informal meetings, SeaWest will provide information, including maps, about the

wind project. Written information will be available, and BPA staff will answer questions and accept oral and written comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tiffany B. B. Branum, KEC-4, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon 97208-3621, phone number 503-230-5115, fax number 503-230-5699.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restructuring in the electric utility industry has resulted in increased demand for energy produced by new renewable resources. Part of this demand is due to the increased ability consumers have to choose their power provider. Some of these consumers want to encourage the development of renewable energy resources, and want their power provider to give them options for doing this. Some Northwest states (such as Oregon) have passed laws that require utilities to offer their customers a power rate that includes significant new renewable energy resources. In other cases, individual utilities have chosen to dedicate a portion of their wholesale power purchases to new renewable resources and are relying on BPA to supply them. In addition, the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fourth Conservation and Electric Power Plan recommends that Northwest utilities offer green power purchase opportunities as a way to help the region integrate renewable resources into the power system in the future.

Purpose and Need

In the face of regional growth in electrical loads and increasing constraints on the existing energy resource base, BPA needs to acquire resources that will contribute to diversification of the long-term power supply prospects in the region. The purposes of acquiring a diverse resource portfolio include:

- Protecting BPA and its customers against risk;
- Assuring consistency with BPA's responsibility under the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (Northwest Power Act) to encourage the development of renewable energy resources;
- Meeting customer demand for energy from renewable energy resources, thereby assuring consistency with BPA's Business Plan EIS (DOE/EIS-0183, June 1995) and Business Plan Record of Decision (ROD);
- Assuring consistency with the resource acquisition strategy of BPA's