

is crucial that we define the scope of our authority under Section 202(a).

I fully support the Notice of Intent to Consult and look forward to our discussions with state commissioners and, later on, with other parties. This dialogue is important and necessary. However, I do not want the Commission to lose sight of fundamental, threshold issues pertaining to the establishment of regional boundaries and the formation of RTOs. I therefore respectfully concur with this decision.

Linda K. Breathitt,

Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 98-31959 Filed 11-30-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Privacy Act of 1974; New System of Records

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of existence and character of new system of records.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Commission" or "FERC"), under the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, is publishing a description of a new system of records.

DATES: Comments may be filed on or before February 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to the following address: Julia A. Lake, Privacy Act Officer, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 91-21, Washington, DC 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia A. Lake, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 91-21, Washington, DC 20426; 202-208-0457.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, requires that each agency publish a notice of the existence and character of each new or altered "system of records." 5 U.S.C. 552a(a)(5). This Notice identifies and describes the Commission's new system of records. There are no altered systems to report. A copy of this Notice identifies and describes the Commission's new system of records. There are no altered systems to report. A copy of this report has been distributed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate, as the Act requires.

The new system of records does not duplicate any existing agency systems. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4), the Commission lists below the following information about this system: name; location; categories of individuals on whom the records are maintained; categories of records in the system; authority for maintenance of the system; each routine use; the policies and practices governing storage, retrievability, access controls, retention, and disposal; the title and business address of the agency official responsible for the system of records; procedures for notification, access and contesting the records of each system; and the sources of the records in the system.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

FERC/36

SYSTEM NAME:

Management, Administrative, and Payroll System "MAPS" FERC/36.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Hard copy of personnel and timekeeping data is located at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Washington, D.C. 20426. Hard copy of payroll transactions and reports are located at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Shared Services Center (SSC), Topeka, Kansas 66604 and the Department of Veterans Affairs, Financial Services Center (FSC), Austin, Texas 78772, respectively. Computerized data is located at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Austin Automation Center (AAC), Austin, Texas 78772.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

All employees (Senior Executive Service and non-Senior Executive Service, bargaining unit and non-bargaining unit) employed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

All official personnel action and/or payroll transaction information on Commission employees.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

5 U.S.C. 301, 2302(b)(20)(B), 2302(b)(10), 7311, 7313; Executive Order 10450; 5 CFR 731.103.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSE OF SUCH USES:

- To the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the Federal Labor

Relations Authority, in connection with functions vested in those agencies.

- To a Congressional office in response to an inquiry made at the request of that individual.
- To the Office of Management and Budget in connection with private relief legislation.
- In litigation before a court or in an administrative proceeding being conducted by a Federal agency.
- To the National Archives and Records Administration for records management inspections.
- To Federal agencies as a data source for management information through the production of summary descriptive statistics and analytical studies in support of the functions for which the records are maintained for related studies.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

On paper in Official Folders located at the FERC, SSC, and FSC. Computerized on a DEC Alpha Server which resides at the AAC.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Data can be retrieved by employee's name, employee identification number, or social security number.

SAFEGUARDS:

The Austin Automation Center is located in a secured Federal complex. Within this secured building, the Computer Operations Center is located in a controlled access room. Specific employees have been identified as system and database administrators having specific responsibilities allowing access to FERC personnel and payroll data. Security is embedded within the software, in both the operating system and at the application level. Individuals not granted access rights cannot view or change data. The database is monitored by software applications that provide audits of log-ins, both successful and failed.

Output documents from the system are maintained as hard copy documents by FERC's Human Resources Division and the VA's Payroll Operations and Finance Offices and are safeguarded in secured cabinets located within secured rooms.

SYSTEM MANAGERS(S) AND ADDRESS:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs share responsibility for system management. The first point of contact is the Director, Division of Management, Administrative and

Payroll Support, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

Director, Division of Management, Administrative, and Payroll Support.

RECORDS ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Same as notification procedures.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Same as notification procedures. Involvement by the Office of Personnel Management may be necessary, as provided in the Federal Personnel Manual, Chapter 731.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Department of Energy's Corporate Human Resource Information System (CHRIS); FERC's Payroll Utilization Reporting System (PURS); the employee's supervisors; and the employee.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Power Allocation Issues

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Inquiry on the Impact of Electric Utility Industry Restructuring.

SUMMARY: The Western Area Power Administration (Western) is initiating an inquiry to explore the impact of electric utility industry restructuring on Western's power allocation policies.

DATES: The consultation and comment period will begin on the date of publication of this **Federal Register** notice and will end January 15, 1999. A public comment forum at which Western will receive oral and written comments will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 1999, beginning at 1 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, at the Four Points Denver Central Hotel, 3535 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado. To be assured of consideration, written comments must be received by the end of the consultation and comment period.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be hand-delivered, mailed, emailed, or faxed to Robert C. Fullerton, Project Manager, Corporate Services Office, Western Area Power Administration, 1627 Cole Boulevard, P.O. Box 3402, Golden, CO 80401-0098, telephone (303) 275-2700, fax (303) 275-1290, email: fullerto@wapa.gov. All

documentation developed or retained by Western during the course of this public process will be available for inspection and copying at this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert C. Fullerton, Project Manager, Corporate Services Office, Western Area Power Administration, 1627 Cole Boulevard, P. O. Box 3402, Golden, CO 80401-0098, telephone (303) 275-2700, email: fullerto@wapa.gov.

Joel K. Bladow, Regional Manager, Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539-3003, telephone (970) 490-7201, email: bladow@wapa.gov.

J. Tyler Carlson, Regional Manager, Desert Southwest Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, telephone (602) 352-2453, email: carlson@wapa.gov.

David Sabo, Customer Service Center Manager, Colorado River Storage Project, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 11606, Salt Lake City, UT 84147-0606, telephone (801) 524-6372, email: sabo@wapa.gov.

Jerry W. Toenyes, Regional Manager, Sierra Nevada Region, Western Area Power Administration, 114 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, CA 95630-4710, telephone (916) 353-4418, email: toenyes@wapa.gov.

Gerald C. Wegner, Regional Manager, Upper Great Plains Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800, telephone (406) 247-7405, email: wegner@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authorities

This public process is being conducted pursuant to the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101, *et seq.*); the Reclamation Act of 1902 (43 U.S.C. 371, *et seq.*), as amended and supplemented by subsequent enactments, particularly section 9(c) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h(c)); and other acts specifically applicable to the projects involved.

Background

Western is a Federal power marketing administration, charged with the responsibility of marketing electricity generated by power plants operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Corps of Engineers, and the International Boundary and Water Commission. Created in 1977, Western markets on a wholesale basis and transmits Federal

hydroelectric power throughout 1.3 million square miles to more than 600 customers, including rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities, public utility districts, Federal and State agencies, and irrigation districts. Western's power customers, in turn, provide service to millions of consumers in 15 western States.

Western markets power on a project-specific basis. A marketing plan for each project is developed through a public process, with opportunity for comment on a marketing proposal before publication of the final marketing plan in the **Federal Register**. Reclamation law governs how Western markets electricity, including the requirement that Western offer power first to non-profit entities such as rural electric cooperatives and municipalities.

In the first decade of Western's existence, marketing plans were relatively inflexible. Unless new generation was available, the amount of power made available for potential new customers was relatively small. Contracts with terms up to 30 years were negotiated and signed. No capability existed under contracts to adjust Western's marketable resources in the event that power plant operational changes were necessary due to environmental considerations.

In recent years, Western added more flexibility to its marketing policies and power sales contracts. On October 20, 1995, Western adopted a final rule for the Energy Planning and Management Program (Program) (60 FR 54151), which established a framework for the project-specific allocation of hydropower. Pursuant to the Program, Western signed resource extension contracts with existing customers for the sale of power from the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program-Eastern Division and the Loveland Area Projects. These 20-year contracts contain withdrawal opportunities at 5 and 10 years to meet the needs of potential new customers and other purposes as determined by Western. Western also reserved the contractual ability to adjust power commitments in response to changes in operations and hydrology. In addition, Western has full flexibility to adjust its power rates under the terms of the contracts. Resource pools of up to 6 percent of the marketable resource were set aside to meet the needs of new customers, including Indian tribes.

While the Program did not immediately impact the marketing of power from the Central Valley Project (CVP), Washoe Project, and Salt Lake City Area Integrated Projects (SLCA/IP), Western anticipated that Program