

a *National Interest Transmission Bottleneck* the bottleneck must meet one of three criteria:

1. The bottleneck jeopardizes national security;
2. The bottleneck creates a risk of widespread grid reliability problems or the likelihood that major customer load centers will be without adequate electricity supplies; or
3. The bottleneck creates the risk of significant consumer cost increases in electricity markets that could have serious consequences on the national or a broad regional economy or risks significant consumer cost increases over an area or region.

We note that Title XII of H.R.6, as reported by a joint U.S. Senate-House of Representatives Conference Committee, as well as Title XII of S. 2095, the comprehensive energy legislation now before the U.S. Congress, contain provisions that would require the Secretary of Energy, within one year after enactment into law, and every three years thereafter, to designate "National Interest Transmission Corridors."

The legislation would also give certain Federal "backstop" siting authority to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for facilities to be located within DOE-designated National Interest Transmission Corridors.

This Notice of Inquiry does not ask for comment on any of the National Interest Transmission Corridor and related provisions of pending energy legislation. Should those provisions be enacted into law, the Department will issue such notices and take other actions as may be authorized or directed by those provisions.

The Department has completed some preliminary scoping studies to support DOE identification of NIETBs. These include a survey of existing models and tools that could support bottleneck assessment by DOE and a survey of bottlenecks reported by regional transmission operators or independent system operators. These studies are available at: <http://www.electricity.doe.gov/bottlenecks>.

Additionally, DOE organized a workshop on July 14, 2004, in Salt Lake City, Utah, immediately following the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Summer Meeting. The purpose of this workshop was to learn from stakeholders what they believe to be the major issues associated with the designation of NIETBs, and how they believe the process should be designed to maximize its benefits to the users of the grid and to electricity consumers.

For proceedings from the workshop, please go to <http://www.electricity.doe.gov/bottlenecks>.

To assist DOE in developing a procedure for identifying, designating, and addressing NIETBs, we request comments on the three criteria for designation described above, and the following questions:

1. Are the Electricity Advisory Board's recommended criteria for designation of National Interest Electric Transmission Bottlenecks appropriate and sufficient? If not, what should they be? For example, should DOE also consider disaster recovery, economic development, and the enhancement of the ability to deal with market and system contingencies in designating NIETBs?

2. What should be the role of transmission grid operators, utilities, other market participants, regional entities, States, Federal agencies, Native American tribes and others in the process of identifying, designating, and addressing NIETBs? For example, should a NIETB be designated only if some entity applies to DOE for designation? Should DOE accept applications only from entities from regions that have an extant regional transmission (or resource) plan? Should DOE be able to designate a NIETB even if no entity asks DOE to do so?

3. How might DOE identify bottlenecks in regions where much pertinent data are not available, in contrast to regions where transmission expansion plans have been developed and made public?

4. What actions should DOE undertake to facilitate and monitor progress towards mitigation of designated NIETBs?

In addition to the above, commenters are encouraged to discuss, comment on, and make suggestions on other transmission bottleneck issues that may be relevant to the development of procedures to designate and address NIETBs. To the greatest extent consistent with law, comments submitted pursuant to this Notice of Inquiry will be deemed public and will not be treated as confidential.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 16, 2004.

James W. Glotfelty,

Director, Office of Electric Transmission and Distribution.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER04-928-000]

California Independent System Operator Corporation; Notice of Availability of Filing Instructions and Summary Template

July 15, 2004.

1. Pursuant to the Commission's June 17, 2004 Order in the above captioned proceeding, the Commission staff is hereby making available for parties' use instructions for filing information on Existing Transmission Contracts (ETCs).¹ This optional template for filing ETC information is available with this notice and on <http://www.ferc.gov> under "What's New."

2. Parties should review the instructions for the template before using it. Summary ETC information should be submitted using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling link at <http://www.ferc.gov>). Parties filing supplemental information should also use the eFiling system, provided the material is not restricted from publication and meets the maximum file number and file size restrictions for electronic filing.

3. All submissions are due by 5 p.m. eastern time on July 23, 2004.²

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

Instructions to All Parties for Filing Information on Existing Transmission Contracts Pursuant to the Commission's June 17, 2004 Order in Docket No. ER04-928-000

These instructions apply to all parties to Existing Transmission Contracts (ETCs) when making summary filings as required by the Commission's June 17 Order. These instructions include procedures for parties to submit: (1) Summary information using the Commission's *pro forma* template and (2) supplemental information. These instructions should be followed precisely.

All persons submitting information not restricted from publication must do so using the Commission's electronic filing system.

- If you do not already have an eRegistration account, you must create one before you can submit an electronic filing. Before you can use the account,

¹ California Independent System Operator Corporation, 107 FERC ¶ 61,274 (2004) (June 17 Order).

² This date was clarified by an Errata Notice issued on July 13, 2004, in this proceeding.

you must validate the e-mail address by clicking on the link in the e-mail that you will receive after you submit the eRegistration account information.

- The eFiling system can only accept 10 files per session with a maximum file size of 10 Mb for each file. Use multiple sessions if you have more than 10 files; documents larger than 10 Mb must be submitted on CD ROM.

- File names are limited to 25 characters, including the file extension, but not including the directory path. All file names should contain only letters, numbers, and the underscore symbol. Do NOT use spaces, hyphens, ampersands, or other special characters.

- Privileged material must be submitted on CD ROM and paper. The eFiling system can only accept Public documents.

Composing Summary Filings (Templates)

Summary filings should be submitted using the Commission's template created for this purpose and by using the eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Parties should submit a separate template for each ETC. Download the Excel template posted on the FERC Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under "What's New", and copy and save the template under a unique file name for each ETC reported.

The following list describes the step-by-step instructions for completing the template for each ETC.

Item 1. Insert the name of the entity responsible under the contract for scheduling the contract.

Item 2. Insert the type of agreement, e.g., point to point, system integration.

Item 3. Insert the source point(s) applicable to the ETC.

Item 4. Insert the sink point(s) applicable to the ETC.

Item 5. Insert the maximum number of megawatts transmitted pursuant to the ETC for each set of source and sink points.

Item 6. Check the appropriate entry to indicate whether any modification of the ETC is subject to a "just and reasonable" standard of review or a *Mobile-Sierra* "public interest" standard of review. Select "mixed" if some provisions of the existing transmission contract are subject to *Mobile-Sierra* and some provisions are subject to the "just and reasonable" standard. If mixed, provide supplemental information in a separate file.

Item 7. Insert the contract termination date.

Item 8. Insert the FERC designation for the contract, if applicable.

Item 9. Insert the contract identifier or designation commonly used to refer to the contract.

Item 10. Indicate whether this is a firm contract (Yes/No/Undetermined). If undetermined, provide supplemental information.

Item 11. Identify the filing party.

Item 12. Specify the names of the other one or more parties to the ETC.

Item 13. Enter the date you are submitting the contract information to FERC.

Save the file (25 character limit, including the extension; do not use spaces, hyphens, or special characters other than an underscore in the file name).

Submitting Summary Filings and Any Supplemental Information (Use FERC's Electronic Filing System if All Documents Are Public)

1. Go to <http://www.ferc.gov> and select the eFiling link.

2. Log in with your e-mail address and password.

3. Select the filing type "Production of Document."

4. Select the signer and organization you are filing on behalf of if different from the login account information. If there are multiple parties, you will add that information in Step 6.

5. On the Docket screen, enter ER04-928, click on Query, and select ER04-928-000.

6. At the Submission Description screen, please amend the default description as follows (255-character limit): Amend the default description to read: "Summary Filing for ETC [contract designation] between [filing party] and [other party(ies) names] in Docket No. ER04-928, *et al.*" Use abbreviations or acronyms for party names, if necessary, to stay within the 255 character limit.

7. On the File Upload screen, click on Browse; in the Choose File box, locate and highlight the summary Excel file, then click on Open; the directory string and file name will be added to the Select File box—do not make changes to the directory string and file name at this point.

8. There is an optional description field to provide more detail about the file.

9. Click on Attach—the file appears in a table below the Attach icon.

10. Repeat the process if you need to select additional files (max of 10 files—use another eFiling session if you have more than 10 files to submit; for multiple sessions, indicate Part 1, Part 2, etc. in the description). Attach files in order, or use the Up/Down keys to revise the order after selection.

11. After attaching all files, click on Submit Files.

12. On the Confirmation screen, click on Done to complete the transaction.

13. You will receive conformation e-mails for your submission.

Filing Privileged Material or Documents That Exceed eFiling File Size Limits

Supplemental information containing privileged material should be filed on CD ROM with a separate CD ROM, paper original, and two paper copies for both the privileged material (complete filing) and the redacted public version. Use the same procedure if any supplemental information files exceed 10 Mb.

Use the following description in the cover letter: "Supplemental Information for ETC [contract designation] between [filing party] and [other party(ies) names] in Docket No. ER04-928, *et al.*"

Mark or stamp the original and two paper copies of the public material as "Public". Mark or stamp the original and two paper copies of the privileged material as "Privileged" or "Non-Public."

Label each CD with the Party Name, the title or description of the contents, and the security access level of the CD—Public or Privileged.

The media and paper copies should be delivered to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Room 1A, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Help Resources

Content of Summary Filings: (202) 502-6822.

Template (copying/saving/using): (202) 502-8426.

e-Filing Assistance/Problems:

FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or call (202) 502-6652 or 1 (866) 208-3676 (toll free).

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP04-346-000]

CenterPoint Energy—Mississippi River Transmission Corporation; Notice of Application

July 15, 2004.

On July 14, 2004, CenterPoint Energy—Mississippi River Transmission Corporation (MRT), whose main office is located at 1111 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77210, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to convert the blanket certificate authority proceeding into an application for authorization pursuant to section