(RAS). The Commission directed its staff to convene this technical conference in an April 19, 2005 Order.[1] Issues the participants will be asked to address include but are not limited to:

(1) What is the rationale underlying the assignment of RAS costs based on load obligation? How well does the current cost allocation match the costs of the RAS with the benefits received from the service? How many and what type of market participants (*e.g.*, financial marketers, generators, etc.) are negatively affected by the current rate design?

(2) What is the rationale for assigning RAS costs as proposed under the alternative cost allocation? How well does the alternative cost allocation match the costs of the RAS with the benefits received from the service? Explain why exports should be treated differently from all other load obligations?

(3) Quantify the impact that the asserted ''seam'' caused by the current RAS rate design has had (and would have) on cross-border transactions? Assess the overall impact of both rate designs on the liquidity and efficiency of New England markets.

(4) Are the rate designs used by NYISO and PJM for similar reliability services the same as the alternative rate design proposed here? If not, how do they differ and what effect would the differences have on the costs assessed for a participant with the same load profile obligation in each of the RTO/ISOs? Would seams still exist if the alternative rate design were adopted by ISO–NE?

FERC conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations please send an e-mail to *accessibility@ferc.gov* or call toll free (866) 208–3372 (voice) or 202–208–01659 (TTY), or send a FAX to 202–208–2106 with the required accommodations.

All interested persons are permitted to attend. There will be no transcript of the conference. For further information please contact Elizabeth Arnold at (202) 502–8818 or e-mail *elizabeth.arnold@ferc.gov.*

**Magalie R. Salas,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E5–2610 Filed 5–24–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

[1] *ISO New England Inc.,* 111 FERC ¶ 61,096 (2005).

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**[Docket No RM93–11–000]**

### Revisions to Oil Pipeline Regulations Pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 1992; Notice of Annual Change in the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods

May 17, 2005.

The Commission's regulations include a methodology for oil pipelines to change their rates through use of an index system that establishes ceiling levels for such rates. The Commission bases the index system, found at 18 CFR 342.3, on the annual change in the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods (PPI–FG). This rule now provides that pipelines should use PPI–FG as the oil pricing index factor, 18 CFR 342.3(d)(2).[1] The Commission determined in an order on remand issued February 24, 2003, that the PPI–FGE *without* the minus 1 percent is the appropriate oil pricing index factor for pipelines to use.[2]

The regulations provide that the Commission will publish annually, an index figure reflecting the final change in the PPI–FG, after the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes the final PPG–FG in May of each calendar year. The annual average PPI–FG index figure for 2003 was 143.3. The annual average PPI–FG index figure for 2004 was 148.5. [3] Thus, the percent change (expressed as a decimal) in the annual average PPI–FG from 2003 to 2004 is positive .036288. [4] Oil pipelines must multiply their July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, index ceiling levels by positive 1.036288 [5] to compute their index ceiling levels for July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006, in accordance with 18 CFR § 342.3(d). For guidance in calculating the ceiling levels for each 12 month period beginning January 1, 1995 [6] see *Explorer Pipeline Company*, 71 FERC 61,416 at n.6 (1995).

In addition to publishing the full text of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print this Notice via the Internet through FERC's Home Page (*http://www.ferc.gov*) and in FERC's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time) at 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington DC 20426. The full text of this Notice is available on FERC's Home Page at the eLibrary link. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field and follow other directions on the search page.

User assistance is available for eLibrary and other aspects of FERC's Web site during normal business hours. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov* or toll free at (866) 208–3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502–8659.

**Magalie R. Salas,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E5–2623 Filed 5–24–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

[1] 108 FERC ¶ 61,210 (2004).

[2] 102 FERC ¶ 61,195 at P 1 (2003).

[3] Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) publishes the final figure in mid-May of each year. This figure is publicly available from the Division of Industrial Prices and Price Indexes of the BLS, at (202) 691–7705, and in print in August in Table 1 of the annual data supplement to the BLS publication Producer Price Indexes via the Internet at [*http://www.bls.gov/ppi*]. To obtain the BLS data, click on ''Get Detailed PPI Statistics,'' and then under the heading ''Most Requested Statistics'' click on ''Commodity Data.'' At the next screen, under the heading ''Producer Price Index—Commodity,'' select the first box, ''Finished goods—WPUSOP3000'', then scroll all the way to the bottom of this screen and click on Retrieve data.

[4] [148.5—143.3]/143.3 = 0.036288.

[5] 1 + 0.036288 = 1.036288

[6] For a listing of all prior multipliers issued by the Commission, see the Commission's website, *www.ferc.gov.* The table of multipliers can be found under the headings ''Oil'' and ''Index''.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**[Docket No. AD05–3–000]**

### Promoting Regional Transmission Planning and Expansion To Facilitate Fuel Diversity Including Expanded Uses of Coal-Fired Resources; Post-Technical Conference Notice Inviting Comments

May 18, 2005.

On May 13, 2005, the Commission convened a technical conference in Charleston, West Virginia, in order to identify regional solutions to promote regional transmission planning, expansion and enhancement to facilitate fuel diversity including increased integration of coal-fired resources to the transmission grid. As announced at the conclusion of the conference, entities are invited to file comments in the above-captioned docket on the topics discussed at the conference. Comments are due on May 27, 2005.