

SW., Room 1E-190, Washington, DC 20585, Phone: (202) 586-5955, or Fax: (202) 586-0575; and U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, Public Reading Room, 171 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801, Phone: (803) 641-3320, or Fax: (803) 641-3302.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As of November 2005 there are 36.4 million gallons (Mgal) of liquid radioactive waste stored in underground waste storage tanks at SRS. The waste consists of two distinct kinds of material: approximately 2.6 Mgal of sludge, comprised primarily of metals that settled at the bottom of the tanks; and approximately 33.8 Mgal of salt waste, which is comprised of concentrated salt solution (supernate) and crystallized saltcake.

DOE's plans call for stabilizing and disposing of retrieved sludge in a deep geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. This will be done by stabilizing the HLW in a borosilicate glass matrix through vitrification in a facility known as the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). This process has been ongoing since 1996.

Regarding the salt waste, DOE plans to remove cesium, strontium, and actinides from these materials using a variety of technologies, combining the removed cesium, strontium, and actinides with the sludge being vitrified in DWPF, and solidifying the remaining low-activity salt stream into a grout matrix, known as saltstone grout, suitable for disposal in vaults at the Saltstone Disposal Facility at SRS. The disposal of this low-activity salt stream on site is the subject of this section 3116 determination.

DOE is separating the salt waste to segregate the low-activity fraction using a two-phase, three-part process. The first phase will involve two parts to treat the lower activity salt waste: (1) Beginning in 2006, DOE will process a minimal amount of the lowest-activity salt waste through a process involving deliquification, dissolution, and adjustment of the waste; and (2) beginning in 2007, DOE will process a minimal amount of additional salt waste with slightly higher activity levels using an Actinide Removal Process and a Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit. The second, and longer-term phase, which is scheduled to begin in 2011, involves the separation and processing of the remaining (and by far the majority) of the salt waste using a high capacity Salt Waste Processing Facility, augmented as necessary by the Actinide Removal Process. This second

phase will begin as soon as the Salt Waste Processing Facility is constructed, permitted by the State of South Carolina, and operational.

DOE believes that this two-phase, three-part approach to processing and disposing of the salt waste at SRS will enable it to complete cleanup and closure of the tanks years earlier and maximize reduction of the potential risks that the tank wastes pose to the environment, the public, and SRS workers. Taken together, the various technologies that will be used are expected to result in the removal and vitrification through the DWPF of 98 to 99 percent of the total radioactivity currently contained in the salt waste, while minimizing the time that waste will be stored in the underground tanks, some of which have a known history of leaks.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 17, 2006.

James A. Rispoli,

Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL06-46-000]

Tucson Electric Power Company, Complainant, v. El Paso Electric Company, Respondent; Notice of Complaint

January 17, 2006.

Take notice that on January 11, 2006, Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) filed a complaint against El Paso Electric Company (EPE) pursuant to Rule 206 of the Commission's Rules. TEP states that EPE has refused to permit TEP to use transmission rights on certain EPE transmission facilities that were assigned to it in a Tucson-El Paso Power Exchange and Transmission Agreement on file with the Commission (Power Exchange Agreement) for transmission of electricity from the newly-constructed Luna Generating Station near Deming, NM, to the TEP electric system. TEP has asked for Fast Track Processing of the Complaint and for prompt issuance of an order requiring EPE to refrain from disconnecting the Luna Generating Station to the TEP grid and to transmit electricity from TEP's share of the Luna Generating Station to the TEP service territory in accordance with the terms of the Power Exchange Agreement.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. The Respondent's answer and all interventions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. The Respondent's answer, motions to intervene, and protests must be served on the Complainants.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 14 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link and is available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an "eSubscription" link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive e-mail notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please e-mail FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on January 31, 2006.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-792 Filed 1-23-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings #1

January 17, 2006.

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings.

Docket Numbers: ER01-205-010; ER98-2640-008; ER98-4590-006; ER99-1610-013; EL05-115-000.

Applicants: Xcel Energy Services, Inc.; Northern States Power Company; Public Service Company of Colorado; Southwestern Public Service Company,