

stock assessments and to meet NMFS' research objectives. On August 18, 2015, NMFS implemented Amendment 6 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (80 FR 50074) which, among other things, established a new base annual quota for the sandbar shark research fishery as 90.7 mt dw (199,943 lb dw). The shark research fishery gathers important scientific data and allows selected commercial fishermen the opportunity to earn more revenue from selling the sharks caught, including sandbar sharks. Only the commercial shark fishermen selected to participate in the shark research fishery are authorized to land/harvest sandbar sharks subject to the sandbar quota available each year. The selected shark research fishery participants also have access to the research large coastal shark, small coastal shark, and pelagic shark quotas subject to retention limits and quotas per §§ 635.24 and 635.27, respectively.

On November 4, 2015 (80 FR 68513), NMFS published a notice inviting qualified commercial shark directed and incidental permit holders to submit an application to participate in the 2016 shark research fishery. NMFS received 16 applications, of which 11 applicants were determined to meet all the qualifications. NMFS selected five qualified participants after considering how to meet research objectives in particular regions. NMFS expects to invite qualified commercial shark permit holders to submit an application for the 2017 shark research fishery later in 2016.

As with past years, the 2016 permit terms and permitted activities (e.g., number of hooks and retention limits) specifically authorized for selected participants in the shark research fishery were designated depending on the scientific and research needs of the Agency, as well as the number of NMFS-approved observers available. In order to inform selected participants of this year's specific permit requirements and ensure all terms and conditions of the permit are met, per the requirements of § 635.32 (f)(4), NMFS is holding a mandatory permit holder meeting via conference call.

#### Conference Call Date, Time, and Dial-in Number

The conference call will be held on January 15, 2016, from 2 to 4 p.m. (EST). Participants and interested parties should call 1-888-324-3180 and use the passcode 9803191. Selected participants who do not attend will not be allowed to participate in the shark research fishery. While the conference call is mandatory for selected

participants, other interested parties may call in and listen to the discussion. Selected participants are encouraged to invite their captain, crew, or anyone else who may assist them in meeting the terms and conditions of the shark research fishery permit.

Dated: January 11, 2016.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2016-00596 Filed 1-13-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### State Energy Advisory Board (STEAB)

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open teleconference.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a teleconference call of the State Energy Advisory Board (STEAB). The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463; 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EDT). To receive the call-in number and passcode, please contact the Board's Designated Federal Officer at the address or phone number listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Li, Policy Advisor, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, US Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20585. Phone number 202-287-5718, and email [michael.li@ee.doe.gov](mailto:michael.li@ee.doe.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Purpose of the Board:* To make recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy regarding goals and objectives, programmatic and administrative policies, and to otherwise carry out the Board's responsibilities as designated in the State Energy Efficiency Programs Improvement Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-440).

*Tentative Agenda:* Receive STEAB Task Force updates on action items and revised objectives for FY 2016, discuss follow-up opportunities and engagement with EERE and other DOE staff as needed to keep Task Force work moving forward, continue engagement with DOE, EERE and EPSA staff regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and initiatives, and receive updates on member activities within their states.

Discuss plans for next live STEAB meeting.

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Michael Li at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests to make oral comments must be received five days prior to the meeting; reasonable provision will be made to include requested topic(s) on the agenda. The Chair of the Board is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

*Minutes:* The minutes of the meeting will be available for public review and copying within 60 days on the STEAB Web site at: <http://www.energy.gov/eere/steab/state-energy-advisory-board>.

Issued at Washington, DC, on January 8, 2016.

**LaTanya R. Butler,**

*Deputy Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2016-00685 Filed 1-13-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Combined Notice of Filings #1

Take notice that the Commission received the following exempt wholesale generator filings:

*Docket Numbers:* EG16-34-000.

*Applicants:* CPV Towantic, LLC.

*Description:* Notice of Self-Certification of Exempt Wholesale Generator Status of CPV Towantic, LLC.  
*Filed Date:* 1/7/16.

*Accession Number:* 20160107-5194.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 1/28/16.

*Docket Numbers:* EG16-35-000.

*Applicants:* CPV Valley, LLC.

*Description:* Notice of Self-Certification of Exempt Wholesale Generator Status of CPV Valley, LLC.  
*Filed Date:* 1/7/16.

*Accession Number:* 20160107-5195.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 1/28/16.

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

*Docket Numbers:* ER16-168-001.

*Applicants:* New York Independent System Operator, Inc.

*Description:* Tariff Amendment: Response to Deficiency Letter re Penalty Gas Cost to be effective 12/31/9998.

*Filed Date:* 1/7/16.

*Accession Number:* 20160107-5178.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 1/19/16.

*Docket Numbers:* ER16–694–000.

*Applicants:* Wabash Valley Power Association, Inc.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: Amendments to Rate Schedules—Noble County REMC to be effective 3/7/2016.

*Filed Date:* 1/7/16.

*Accession Number:* 20160107–5163.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 1/28/16.

*Docket Numbers:* ER16–695–000.

*Applicants:* Tucson Electric Power Company.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: Amendment to Rate Schedule No. 321, SRSG Participation Agreement to be effective 3/9/2016.

*Filed Date:* 1/8/16.

*Accession Number:* 20160108–5053.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 1/29/16.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by clicking on the links or querying the docket number.

Any person desiring to intervene or protest in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

Dated: January 8, 2016.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2016–00601 Filed 1–13–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL11–66–000]

**Martha Coakley, Massachusetts Attorney General; Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities; New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission; Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel; Maine Office of the Public Advocate; George Jepsen, Connecticut Attorney General; New Hampshire Office of Consumer Advocate; Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers; Vermont Department of Public Service; Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company; Associated Industries of Massachusetts; The Energy Consortium; Power Options, Inc.; and the Industrial Energy Consumer Group, v. Bangor Hydro-Electric Company; Central Maine Power Company; New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid; New Hampshire Transmission LLC d/b/a NextEra; NSTAR Electric and Gas Corporation; Northeast Utilities Service Company; The United Illuminating Company; Unil Energy Systems, Inc. and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company; Vermont Transco, LLC; Notice of Filing**

Take notice that on January 8, 2016, Emera Maine submitted tariff filing per: Refund Report to be effective N/A, pursuant to the Commission's Opinion No. 531–A, issued on October 16, 2014.<sup>1</sup>

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, 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. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant and all the parties in this proceeding.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>.

<sup>1</sup> *Martha Coakley, Mass. Attorney Gen., et al. v. Bangor Hydro-Elec. Co., et al.*, Opinion No. 531, 147 FERC ¶ 61,234 (2014) (Opinion No. 531), *order on paper hearing*, Opinion No. 531–A, 149 FERC ¶ 61,032 (2014) (Opinion No. 531–A).

Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 5 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 electronic 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 email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), or call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

Comment Date: 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on January 29, 2016.

Dated: January 8, 2016.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2016–00603 Filed 1–13–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL16–29–000]

**North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1, Piedmont Municipal Power Agency, City of Concord, NC, City of Kings Mountain, NC v. Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; Notice of Complaint**

Take notice that on January 7, 2016, pursuant to Sections 206, 306, and 309 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. 824e, 825e, and 825h (2012), and Rules 206 and 212 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.206 and 385.212 (2015), North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1, Piedmont Municipal Power Agency, the City of Concord, North Carolina, and the City of Kings Mountain, North Carolina (Complainants) filed a formal complaint against Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC—Respondent) alleging that the 10.2% base return on common equity currently used to calculate DEC's annual transmission revenue requirement pursuant to Attachment H of the Joint Open Access Transmission Tariff of DEC, Duke Energy Florida, LLC, and Duke Energy Progress, LLC is unjust and unreasonable.