

June 26, 27 and 28, 2017 to discuss opportunities for increasing real-time and day-ahead market efficiency through improved software. A detailed agenda with the list of and times for the selected speakers will be published on the Commission's Web site¹ after April 28, 2017.

Staff has held seven similar conferences in this docket. As in past conferences, this conference will bring together experts from diverse backgrounds and experiences, including electric system operators, software developers, government, research centers and academia for the purposes of stimulating discussion, sharing information, and identifying fruitful avenues for research concerning the technical aspects of improved software for increasing efficiency. This conference is intended to build on the discussions initiated in the previous Commission staff technical conferences on increasing market and planning efficiency through improved software. As such, staff will be facilitating a discussion to explore research and operational advances with respect to market modeling that appear to have significant promise for potential efficiency improvements. Broadly, such topics fall into the following categories:

(1) Improvements to the representation of physical constraints that are either not currently modeled or currently modeled using mathematical approximations (e.g., modeling voltage and reactive power through alternating current (AC) optimal power flow modeling, modeling contingencies or events beyond first contingencies);

(2) Consideration of uncertainty to better maximize expected market surplus (e.g., stochastic modeling, or other improved modeling approaches to energy and reserve dispatch that efficiently manage uncertainty);

(3) Improvements to the ability to identify and use flexibility in the existing systems (e.g., optimal transmission switching, active or dynamic transmission ratings, transmission constraint relaxation practices, and modeling ramping capability needs);

(4) Improvements to the duality interpretations of the economic dispatch model, with the goal of enabling the calculation of prices which represent better equilibrium and are more incentive-compatible;

(5) Limitations of current electricity market software due to its interaction with hardware; and

(6) Other improvements in algorithms, model formulations, or hardware that may allow for increases in market efficiency.

Within these or related subject areas, we encourage presentations that discuss best modeling practices, existing modeling practices that need improvement, any advances made since last year's conference, or related perspectives on increasing market efficiency through improved power systems modeling.

The technical conference will be held at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission headquarters, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. All interested participants are invited to attend, and participants with ideas for relevant presentations are invited to nominate themselves to speak at the conference.

Speaker nominations must be submitted on or before April 7, 2017 through the Commission's Web site² by providing the proposed speaker's contact information along with a title, abstract, and list of contributing authors for the proposed presentation. Proposed presentations should be related to the topics discussed above. Speakers and presentations will be selected to ensure relevant topics and to accommodate time constraints.

Although registration is not required for general attendance by United States citizens, we encourage those planning to attend the conference to register through the Commission's Web site.³ We will provide nametags for those who register on or before June 16, 2017.

We strongly encourage attendees who are not citizens of the United States to register for the conference by June 2, 2017, in order to avoid any delay associated with being processed by FERC security.

The Commission will accept comments following the conference, with a deadline of July 31, 2017.

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, or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

A WebEx will be available. Off-site participants interested in listening via teleconference or listening and viewing the presentations through WebEx must

register at <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/real-market-6-26-17-form.asp>, and do so by 5:00 p.m. EST on June 16, 2017. WebEx and teleconferencing may not be available to those who do not register.

FERC conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations please send an email to accessibility@ferc.gov or call toll free (866) 208-3372 (voice) or (202) 502-8659 (TTY), or send a fax to (202) 208-2106 with the required accommodations.

For further information about these conferences, please contact:

Sarah McKinley (Logistical Information), Office of External Affairs, (202) 502-8004, Sarah.McKinley@ferc.gov
Daniel Kheloussi (Technical Information), Office of Energy Policy and Innovation, (202) 502-6391, Daniel.Kheloussi@ferc.gov

Dated: March 9, 2017.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-05202 Filed 3-15-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 14812-000]

Watterra Energy, LLC; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications

On January 3, 2017, Watterra Energy, LLC filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of the Brookville Lake Dam Hydroelectric Project (Brookville Project or project) to be located at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Brookville Lake Dam on the East Fork of Whitewater River in Franklin County, Indiana. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed project would consist of the following all new facilities: (1) A 9-foot-diameter, 845-foot-long steel penstock that bifurcates into one 9-foot-

² The speaker nomination form is located at <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/real-market-6-26-17-speaker-form.asp>.

³ The registration form is located at <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/real-market-6-26-17-form.asp>.

¹ <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/electric/indus-act/market-planning.asp>.

diameter, 220-foot-long steel penstock discharging into an existing stilling basin and one 9-foot-diameter, 240-foot-long steel penstock carrying flows to the project's powerhouse; (2) a bifurcation structure located at the end of the 845-foot-long penstock; (3) a 70-foot-long, 55-foot-wide, 30-foot-high powerhouse located on the west side of the stilling basin; (4) two horizontal Francis turbines each with an installed capacity of 2.2 megawatts (MW) for a total capacity of 4.4 MW; (5) a single generator connected to the two Francis turbines; (6) a 70-foot-long, 50-foot-wide switchyard located adjacent to the powerhouse; (7) a 6.8-foot-long, 12.7-kilovolt transmission line interconnecting to an existing distribution system using an existing substation; and (8) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual generation of the Brookville Project would be 23,250 megawatt-hours.

Applicant Contact: Mr. Craig Dalton, 7100 Commercial Avenue, Suite 4, Billings, MT 59101; Email: cdalton@watterraenergy.com; phone: (406) 384-0080.

FERC Contact: Sergiu Serban; Email: sergiu.serban@ferc.gov; phone: (202) 502-6211.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-14812-000.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number (P-14812) in the docket number field to

access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: March 8, 2017.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-05205 Filed 3-15-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL17-47-000]

Pioneer Transmission, LLC: Notice of Petition for Declaratory Order

Take notice that on March 8, 2017, pursuant to Rule 207 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.207(2016), Pioneer Transmission, LLC (Pioneer) filed a petition seeking a declaratory order from the Commission finding that the payment by Pioneer of dividends to its parent companies, out of paid-in capital and retained earnings, will not violate Section 305(a) of the Federal Power Act,¹ all as more fully explained in the petition.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest in this proceeding 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) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. 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 Petitioner.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper, using the FERC Online links at <http://www.ferc.gov>. To facilitate electronic service, persons with Internet access who will eFile a document and/or be listed as a contact for an intervenor

¹ It is not clear that under the language of FPA Section 305(a) a public utility is required to submit a petition for declaratory order seeking the Commission's approval under Section 305(a) in order to make dividends to its parent companies out of paid-in capital and retained earnings. Pioneer is submitting this petition for the purpose of obtaining the Commission's assurance that Pioneer's proposal to make dividends to its parent companies will not violate Section 305(a).

must create and validate an eRegistration account using the eRegistration link. Select the eFiling link to log on and submit the intervention or protests.

Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 5 copies of the intervention or protest to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The filings in the above proceeding are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by clicking on the appropriate link in the above list. They are also 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 email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email 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 March 29, 2017.

Dated: March 8, 2017.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-05204 Filed 3-15-17; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0698; FRL-9959-46]

Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information for January 2017

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA is required under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of receipt of a premanufacture notice (PMN); an application for a test marketing exemption (TME), both pending and/or expired; and a periodic status report on any new chemicals under EPA review and the receipt of notices of commencement (NOC) to manufacture those chemicals. This document covers the period from January 3, 2017 to January 31, 2017.

DATES: Comments identified by the specific case number provided in this document, must be received on or before April 17, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0698, and the specific PMN number or TME