

Protest, the TMScams@uspto.gov mailbox, law enforcement, or media reports.

The USPTO will investigate suspicious submissions, and any related submissions, to determine whether they: (1) Appear to violate the USPTO rules and/or the USPTO website's Terms of Use, and (2) are part of an improper filing scheme. These determinations are made using filing data from the suspicious submissions and any related submissions, as well as any other information and evidence available to the USPTO.

Once the USPTO initiates an investigation, the relevant application(s) may be removed from examination status to ensure that it does not move forward to approval for publication or registration while the administrative process is ongoing. In such cases, the USPTO will update the prosecution history to indicate that the application is suspended pending administrative review. In addition, a suspension letter will issue to all correspondence email addresses in the electronic record, as appropriate. When an application is suspended on this basis, any associated deadlines are also suspended, and the applicant will not be able to make any electronic submissions other than: (1) An express abandonment, (2) a withdrawal of attorney, or (3) a petition to the Director under Rule 2.146. 37 CFR 2.146. Thus, an applicant would be able to request permission to make a further submission by filing a petition to the Director under Rule 2.146. If an investigation ends without the issuance of an administrative order, the suspension will be lifted, and the application will then be assigned to an examining attorney for examination in the normal course or, if examination had begun prior to suspension, returned to the assigned examining attorney, who will issue a new Office action resetting any response deadline.

II. Show Cause Order

If, upon investigation, the USPTO identifies conduct that illustrates violations of the USPTO rules and/or the USPTO website's Terms of Use, particularly conduct that indicates an intent to circumvent the USPTO rules, the Office may issue an order to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed on individuals or entities involved, which may include the applicants or registrants themselves, or third parties involved in an improper filing scheme. A copy of the order to show cause will be placed in the electronic records of the affected applications or registrations.

The show cause order will inform the relevant parties of the conduct that indicates violations of the USPTO rules and/or the USPTO website's Terms of Use, identify the affected application(s) or registration(s), and specify the proposed action or sanction the USPTO deems appropriate, which may include terminating all involved applications, striking a submission, precluding a party from appearing before the USPTO in trademark matters, and/or deactivating all relevant uspto.gov accounts. The order will require the parties to respond by a certain date to explain why the USPTO should not impose the proposed sanctions. The USPTO will consider any timely response in determining whether to impose sanctions. Resubmitting documents or appointing a new attorney will not avoid the imposition of sanctions. Petitions such as those filed under 37 CFR 2.146 are not appropriate during the investigation or response period unless the USPTO made a mistake in including a specific application or registration in the show cause order. Furthermore, applicants and registrants are reminded that they are responsible for actions or omissions made by their representatives on their behalf. Moreover, any misrepresentation or deceit on the part of a representative does not necessarily constitute an "extraordinary circumstance" under 37 CFR 2.146 or 2.148.

III. Order for Sanctions

The USPTO will issue a final decision that includes an order for sanctions, if appropriate. The order will indicate what sanctions were deemed appropriate to address the improper conduct, and will identify the application(s) or registration(s) subject to the sanctions. For transparency of process, a copy of the decision will be included in the TSDR record of the relevant application(s) or registration(s).

For orders that include the sanction of termination and involve pending applications, the USPTO will terminate the involved applications and will update the USPTO's electronic records to include an appropriate entry in the application prosecution history in TSDR to indicate that the application was terminated upon the entry of sanctions. Generally, applicants may not revive a terminated application unless the applicant can demonstrate that the USPTO erred in including the application in the order for sanctions. The applicant should file a new application to seek registration of the mark that was the subject of a terminated application.

For orders that include the sanction of termination and involve registrations that issued before the administrative sanctions process was initiated, the USPTO does not intend to terminate the registrations, but will update the USPTO's electronic records to include an appropriate entry in the prosecution history indicating that the registration was subject to an order for sanctions. Affected registrants should note that findings made in the sanctions order may affect the underlying validity of the registration. In addition, the USPTO will consider a sanctions order that includes the sanction of termination to be a final decision adverse to the owner's right to keep a mark on the register under section 15 of the Trademark Act of 1946, 15 U.S.C. 1065. Therefore, owners of such registrations may wish to file a new application for the mark.

The USPTO may take additional actions to enforce orders for sanctions in cases where a sanctioned actor continues to violate the USPTO rules and/or the USPTO website's Terms of Use.

Andrew Hirshfeld,

Commissioner for Patents, Performing the Functions and Duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2021-28536 Filed 1-4-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings

Take notice that the Commission has received the following Natural Gas Pipeline Rate and Refund Report filings:

Filings Instituting Proceedings

Docket Numbers: RP22-438-000.
Applicants: ETC Tiger Pipeline, LLC.
Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing; NRA Amendment No 2—Chesapeake to be effective 1/1/2022.
Filed Date: 12/28/21.
Accession Number: 20211228-5081.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/10/22.
Docket Numbers: RP22-439-000.
Applicants: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC.
Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing; Negotiated Rates—Various Releases eff 1-1-2022 to be effective 1/1/2022.
Filed Date: 12/29/21.
Accession Number: 20211229-5033.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/10/22.
Docket Numbers: RP22-440-000.

Applicants: Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.

Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing: Negotiated Rate—Northern Utilities 210363 Release eff 1–1–2022 to be effective 1/1/2022.

Filed Date: 12/29/21.

Accession Number: 20211229–5043.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/10/22.

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.

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

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: December 29, 2021.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2021–28551 Filed 1–4–22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings #1

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

Docket Numbers: EC22–13–000.

Applicants: Howard Wind LLC.

Description: Supplement to November 3, 2021 Application for Authorization Under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act of Howard Wind LLC.

Filed Date: 12/28/21.

Accession Number: 20211228–5244.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/7/22.

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

Docket Numbers: ER10–2488–022.

Applicants: Oasis Power Partners, LLC.

Description: Notice of Non-Material Change in Status of Oasis Power Partners, LLC.

Filed Date: 12/28/21.

Accession Number: 20211228–5148.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/18/22.

Docket Numbers: ER15–2013–013; ER19–2250–005.

Applicants: TrailStone Energy Marketing, LLC, Talen Energy Marketing, LLC.

Description: Triennial Market Power Analysis for Southwest Region of Talen Energy Marketing, LLC, et al.

Filed Date: 12/29/21.

Accession Number: 20211229–5173.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 2/28/22.

Docket Numbers: ER17–1370–007; ER16–581–008; ER16–582–008; ER16–2271–007; ER19–828–003; ER20–539–003; ER20–1338–002; ER20–2505–001; ER21–1254–002; ER21–2204–001; ER21–2279–001.

Applicants: Iron Star Wind Project, LLC, ENGIE Power & Gas LLC, Genbright LLC, Triple H Wind Project, LLC, King Plains Wind Project, LLC, East Fork Wind Project, LLC, Solomon Forks Wind Project, LLC, ENGIE Resources LLC, ENGIE Retail, LLC, ENGIE Portfolio Management, LLC, ENGIE Energy Marketing NA, Inc.

Description: Triennial Compliance Filing—Southwest Power Pool Region of the ENGIE Southwest Power Pool MBR Sellers.

Filed Date: 12/28/21.

Accession Number: 20211228–5158.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 2/28/22.

Docket Numbers: ER21–1369–001; ER21–1371–001; ER21–1373–002; ER21–1376–002.

Applicants: Sanborn Solar 1A, LLC, Edwards Solar 1A, LLC, Edwards Sanborn Storage II, LLC, Edwards Sanborn Storage I, LLC.

Description: Notice of Non-Material Change in Status of Edwards Sanborn Storage I, LLC, et al.

Filed Date: 12/28/21.

Accession Number: 20211228–5229.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/18/22.

Docket Numbers: ER22–736–000.

Applicants: System Energy Resources, Inc.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: SERI Depreciation Filing to be effective 3/1/2022.

Filed Date: 12/28/21.

Accession Number: 20211228–5140.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/25/22.

Docket Numbers: ER22–737–000.

Applicants: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated submits tariff filing per 35.13(a)(2)(iii): ATSI Submits Revised IA No. 3993 to be effective 2/28/2022.

Filed Date: 12/29/21.

Accession Number: 20211229–5006.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/19/22.

Docket Numbers: ER22–738–000.

Applicants: Jersey Central Power & Light Company, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Jersey Central Power & Light Company submits tariff filing per 35.13(a)(2)(iii): JCPL Submits IA No. 5944 to be effective 2/28/2022.

Filed Date: 12/29/21.

Accession Number: 20211229–5007.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/19/22.

Docket Numbers: ER22–739–000.

Applicants: Jersey Central Power & Light Company, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Jersey Central Power & Light Company submits tariff filing per 35.13(a)(2)(iii): JCPL Submits IA No. 5945 to be effective 2/28/2022.

Filed Date: 12/29/21.

Accession Number: 20211229–5009.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/19/22.

Docket Numbers: ER22–741–000.

Applicants: Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc., New York Independent System Operator, Inc.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. submits tariff filing per 35.13(a)(2)(iii): Joint Section 205 filing of TPIA among NYISO, O&R and Transco SA No. 2663 to be effective 12/15/2021.

Filed Date: 12/29/21.

Accession Number: 20211229–5063.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/19/22.

Docket Numbers: ER22–742–000.

Applicants: Alabama Power Company.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Alligator Creek Solar LGIA Filing to be effective 12/14/2021.

Filed Date: 12/29/21.

Accession Number: 20211229–5089.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/19/22.

Docket Numbers: ER22–743–000.

Applicants: Alabama Power Company.

Description: Tariff Amendment: Mitchell County Solar LGIA Termination Filing to be effective 12/29/2021.

Filed Date: 12/29/21.

Accession Number: 20211229–5090.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/19/22.

Docket Numbers: ER22–744–000.

Applicants: Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.

Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Service Agreement No. 902 to be effective 12/22/2020.

Filed Date: 12/29/21.

Accession Number: 20211229–5128.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 1/19/22.

Take notice that the Commission received the following public utility holding company filings: