

interim guidance updates DOE's 2009 *U.S. Department of Energy Interim Guidance on Packaging, Receipt, Management, and Long-Term Storage of Elemental Mercury* (2009 Long-Term Storage Guidance) and 2019 *Guidance for Short-Term Storage of Elemental Mercury by Ore Processors* (2019 Short-Term Storage Guidance).

DATES: A 30-day public comment period began on May 2, 2023, with the issuance of the Notice of Availability of the Interim Guidance (88 FR 27495) and following a request to extend the comment period, was later extended to July 3, 2023 (88 FR 34491).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Hought, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management, Office of Waste Disposal (EM-4.22), 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-5000, or by email at david.hought@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The *Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008* (Pub. L. 110-414) (MEBA of 2008) as amended by the *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act* (Pub. L. 114-182) (Chemical Safety Act of 2016) banned the export of elemental mercury and provided for long-term and interim (*i.e.*, short-term) management and storage of elemental mercury. Specifically, MEBA of 2008 required the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to designate a facility or facilities for the long-term management and storage of elemental mercury (referred to herein as the Long-Term Elemental Mercury Storage Facility (LTEMFSF)) and to issue guidance on recommended standards and procedures for receipt, management, and long-term storage of elemental mercury. 42 U.S.C. 6939f(a)(1), (d)(1). In accordance with these requirements, DOE, after consultation with the EPA and appropriate State agencies in potentially affected States, issued the 2009 Long-Term Storage Guidance on November 13, 2009. The Chemical Safety Act of 2016 provided for interim onsite storage of elemental mercury for certain generators, while awaiting availability of the DOE-designated LTEMFSF. 42 U.S.C. 6939f(g)(2)(D). It further required DOE to issue guidance on recommended standards and procedures for management and short-term onsite storage. 42 U.S.C. 6939f(g)(2)(E). In accordance with this requirement, DOE issued the 2019 Short-Term Storage Guidance.

Interim Guidance Document

Both the 2009 Long-Term and 2019 Short-Term Storage Guidance documents were based on certain planning assumptions. However, in recognition that some key underlying assumptions of the guidance documents had changed since the issuance of those documents, DOE decided to revise both documents in a new, combined guidance document. On May 2, 2023, after both consultation with EPA and DOT and an opportunity for consultation with potentially affected States, DOE issued draft *U.S. Department of Energy Interim Guidance on Packaging, Transportation, Receipt, Management, Short-Term and Long-Term Storage of Elemental Mercury* and requested comments on that draft guidance (88 FR 27495). Following a request to extend the comment period, DOE extended the period for public comment to July 3, 2023 (88 FR 34491).

DOE received a total of about 50 comments from eight entities, including EPA, DOT, and potentially affected States, and has made certain changes in the interim guidance to reflect responses to the comments received. The interim guidance document, *U.S. Department of Energy Interim Guidance on Packaging, Transportation, Receipt, Management, Short-Term and Long-Term Storage of Elemental Mercury*, may be found at: <https://www.energy.gov/em/long-term-management-and-storage-elemental-mercury>. This interim guidance document supersedes and rescinds the 2009 Long-Term Storage Guidance and the 2019 Short-Term Storage Guidance.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on September 14, 2023, by Kristin G. Ellis, Acting Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs, Office of Environmental Management, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on September 15, 2023.

Treena V. Garrett,
Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S.
Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2023-20319 Filed 9-19-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST)

AGENCY: Office of Science, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a closed meeting of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, September 26, 2023; 1:30 p.m. PT.

ADDRESSES: San Francisco, CA

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Reba Bandyopadhyay, Designated Federal Officer, PCAST, email: PCAST@ostp.eop.gov; telephone: (202) 881-7163.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: PCAST is an advisory group of the nation's leading scientists and engineers, appointed by the President to augment the science and technology advice available to him from the White House, cabinet departments, and other Federal agencies. See the Executive Order at www.whitehouse.gov. PCAST is consulted on and provides analyses and recommendations concerning a wide range of issues where understanding of science, technology, and innovation may bear on the policy choices before the President. The Designated Federal Officer is Dr. Reba Bandyopadhyay. Information about PCAST can be found at: www.whitehouse.gov/PCAST.

Tentative Agenda

Closed portion of the meeting: PCAST may hold a closed meeting of approximately one hour with the President on September 26, 2023, which must take place at the scheduling convenience of the President and to maintain Secret Service protection. This meeting will be closed to the public because the meeting is likely to disclose matters that are to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1).

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to scheduling difficulties.

PCAST operates under the provisions of FACA, all public comments and/or presentations will be treated as public documents and will be made available for public inspection, including being posted on the PCAST website at: www.whitehouse.gov/PCAST/meetings.

Minutes: Minutes will be available within 45 days at: www.whitehouse.gov/PCAST/meetings.

Signed in Washington, DC, on September 15, 2023.

LaTanya Butler,

Deputy Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2023–20383 Filed 9–19–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER23–2826–000]

Sparta Northstar Ltd.; Supplemental Notice That Initial Market-Based Rate Filing Includes Request for Blanket Section 204 Authorization

This is a supplemental notice in the above-referenced proceeding of Sparta Northstar Ltd.'s application for market-based rate authority, with an accompanying rate tariff, noting that such application includes a request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest should file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing protests with regard to the applicant's request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability, is October 4, 2023.

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 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 may mail similar pleadings to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. Hand delivered submissions in docketed proceedings should be delivered to Health and Human Services, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's Public Reference Room, due to the proclamation declaring a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19), issued by the President on March 13, 2020. For assistance, contact the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll-free, (886) 208–3676 or TTY, (202) 502–8659.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502–6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

Dated: September 14, 2023.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2023–20366 Filed 9–19–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 1858–000]

Beaver City Corporation; Notice of Authorization for Continued Project Operation

The license for the Beaver City Canyon Plant No. 2 Project No. 1858 was issued for a period ending July 31, 2023.

Section 15(a)(1) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. 808(a)(1), requires the Commission, at the expiration of a license term, to issue from year-to-year an annual license to the then licensee(s) under the terms and conditions of the prior license until a new license is issued, or the project is otherwise disposed of as provided in section 15 or any other applicable section of the FPA. If the project's prior license waived the applicability of section 15 of the FPA, then, based on section 9(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 558(c), and as set forth at 18 CFR 16.21(a), if the licensee of such project has filed an application for a subsequent license, the licensee may continue to operate the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license after the minor or minor part license expires, until the Commission acts on its application. If the licensee of such a project has not filed an application for a subsequent license, then it may be required, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.21(b), to continue project operations until the Commission issues someone else a license for the project or otherwise orders disposition of the project.

If the project is subject to section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that an annual license for Project No. 1858 is issued to Beaver City Corporation for a period effective August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, or until the issuance of a new license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first. If issuance of a new license (or other disposition) does not take place on or before July 31, 2024, notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.18(c), an annual license under section 15(a)(1) of the FPA is renewed automatically without further order or notice by the Commission, unless the Commission orders otherwise.

If the project is not subject to section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that Beaver City Corporation is authorized to continue operation of the Beaver City Canyon Plant No. 2 Hydroelectric Project under the terms and conditions of the prior license until the issuance of a new license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first.

Dated: September 14, 2023.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2023–20347 Filed 9–19–23; 8:45 am]

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