

Reliability Standards that the ERO proposes to the Commission may include Reliability Standards that are proposed to the ERO by a Regional Entity.⁴ A Regional Entity is an entity that has been approved by the Commission to enforce Reliability Standards under delegated authority from the ERO.⁵ On March 17, 2011, the Commission approved a regional Reliability Standard submitted by the

ERO that was developed by the Reliability First Corporation (RF).⁶ RF promotes bulk electric system reliability in the Eastern Interconnection. RF is the Regional Entity responsible for compliance monitoring and enforcement in the RF region. In addition, RF provides an environment for the development of Reliability Standards and the coordination of the operating and planning activities of its members as set forth in the RF bylaws.

There is one regional Reliability Standard in the RF region. The Commission requests renewal of OMB clearance for that regional Reliability Standard, known as BAL-502-RF-03 (Planning Resource Adequacy Analysis, Assessment and Documentation).

Type of Respondents: Planning coordinators.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*⁷ The estimated burden and cost⁸ are as follows:

FERC-725HH, RF RELIABILITY STANDARDS

| Entity | Number of respondents ⁹ | Annual number of responses per respondent | Annual number of responses | Average burden hrs. & cost per response (\$) | Total annual burden hours & total annual cost (\$) | Cost per respondent (\$) |
|--|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| | (1) | (2) | (1) * (2) = (3) | (4) | (3) * (4) = (5) | (5) ÷ (1) = (6) |
| Regional Reliability Standard BAL-502-RF-03 | | | | | | |
| Planning Coordinators | 2 | 1 | 2 | 16 hrs.; \$1,085.92 | 32 hrs.; \$2,171.84 | \$1,085.92 |

Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: April 9, 2024.
Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024-07907 Filed 4-12-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP24-113-000]

Eastern Gas Transmission and Storage, Inc.; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization and Establishing Intervention and Protest Deadline

Take notice that on April 1, 2024, Eastern Gas Transmission and Storage, Inc. (EGTS), 10700 Energy Way, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060, filed in the above referenced docket, a prior notice request pursuant to sections 157.205 and 157.210 of the Commission's regulations under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and EGTS' blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-537-000 for authorization to install certain facilities in Greene County, Pennsylvania; Marshall County, West Virginia; and Monroe County, Ohio (Heartland Extension Project). EGTS proposes to install a 7,700 horsepower gas-fired, turbine-driven compressor unit at its Crayne Compressor Station and install additional upgrades at its Mullett, Burch Ridge, and Mockingbird Hill Compressor Stations. The Heartland Extension Project is fully subscribed and will deliver 60,000 dekatherms per

day of firm transportation service to an existing interconnection with Rockies Express Pipeline LLC in Clarington, Ohio. EGTS estimates the cost of the project to be \$34,380,000, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

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>). From the Commission's Home Page on the internet, this information is available on eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing, printing, and/or downloading. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field.

User assistance is available for eLibrary and the Commission's website during normal business hours from FERC Online Support at (202) 502-6652 (toll free at 1-866-208-3676) or email at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or the Public Reference Room at (202) 502-

reh'g & compliance, 117 FERC ¶ 61,126 (2006), *aff'd sub nom. Alcoa, Inc. v. FERC*, 564 F.3d 1342 (D.C. Cir. 2009).

⁴ 16 U.S.C. 824o(e)(4).

⁵ 16 U.S.C. 824o(a)(7) and (e)(4).

⁶ *Planning Resource Adequacy Assessment Reliability Standard*, Order No. 747, 134 FERC ¶ 61,212 (2011).

⁷ Burden is defined as the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. For further explanation of what is included in the information collection burden, refer to 5 CFR 1320.3.

⁸ For BAL-502-RF-03, the estimated hourly cost (salary plus benefits) is a combination based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), as of 2022, for 75% of the average of an Electrical Engineer (17-2071)

\$77.29/hr, 77.29 × .75 = 57.9675 (\$57.97—rounded) (\$57.97/hour) and 25% of an Information and Record Clerk (43-4199) \$39.58/hr, \$39.58 × .25% = 9.895 (\$9.90 rounded) (\$9.90/hour), for a total (\$57.97 + \$9.90 = \$67.87/hour).

⁹ The number of respondents is derived from the NERC Compliance Registry as of November 14, 2023 for the burden associated with the regional Reliability Standard BAL-502-RF-03.

8371, TTY (202) 502–8659. Email the Public Reference Room at public.referenceroom@ferc.gov.

Any questions concerning this request should be directed to James Scribner, Regulatory Analyst, Eastern Gas Transmission and Storage, Inc., 10700 Energy Way, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060, by phone at (804) 397–5113 or by email at James.Scribner@bhegts.com.

Public Participation

There are three ways to become involved in the Commission's review of this project: you can file a protest to the project, you can file a motion to intervene in the proceeding, and you can file comments on the project. There is no fee or cost for filing protests, motions to intervene, or comments. The deadline for filing protests, motions to intervene, and comments is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 10, 2024. How to file protests, motions to intervene, and comments is explained below.

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.

Protests

Pursuant to section 157.205 of the Commission's regulations under the NGA,¹ any person² or the Commission's staff may file a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed or if a protest is filed and then withdrawn within 30 days after the allowed time for filing a protest, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request for authorization will be considered by the Commission.

Protests must comply with the requirements specified in section 157.205(e) of the Commission's regulations,³ and must be submitted by the protest deadline, which is June 10, 2024. A protest may also serve as a

motion to intervene so long as the protestor states it also seeks to be an intervenor.

Interventions

Any person has the option to file a motion to intervene in this proceeding. Only intervenors have the right to request rehearing of Commission orders issued in this proceeding and to subsequently challenge the Commission's orders in the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal.

To intervene, you must submit a motion to intervene to the Commission in accordance with Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure⁴ and the regulations under the NGA⁵ by the intervention deadline for the project, which is June 10, 2024. As described further in Rule 214, your motion to intervene must state, to the extent known, your position regarding the proceeding, as well as your interest in the proceeding. For an individual, this could include your status as a landowner, ratepayer, resident of an impacted community, or recreationist. You do not need to have property directly impacted by the project in order to intervene. For more information about motions to intervene, refer to the FERC website at <https://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/how-to/intervene.asp>.

All timely, unopposed motions to intervene are automatically granted by operation of Rule 214(c)(1). Motions to intervene that are filed after the intervention deadline are untimely and may be denied. Any late-filed motion to intervene must show good cause for being late and must explain why the time limitation should be waived and provide justification by reference to factors set forth in Rule 214(d) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. A person obtaining party status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies (paper or electronic) of all documents filed by the applicant and by all other parties.

Comments

Any person wishing to comment on the project may do so. The Commission considers all comments received about the project in determining the appropriate action to be taken. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments on or before June 10, 2024. The filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. To become a party, you must intervene in the proceeding.

How To File Protests, Interventions, and Comments

There are two ways to submit protests, motions to intervene, and comments. In both instances, please reference the Project docket number CP24–113–000 in your submission.

(1) You may file your protest, motion to intervene, and comments by using the Commission's eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on "eRegister." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; first select "General" and then select "Protest", "Intervention", or "Comment on a Filing"; or⁶

(2) You can file a paper copy of your submission by mailing it to the address below. Your submission must reference the Project docket number CP24–113–000.

To file via USPS: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426

To file via any other method: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852

The Commission encourages electronic filing of submissions (option 1 above) and has eFiling staff available to assist you at (202) 502–8258 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

Protests and motions to intervene must be served on the applicant either by mail or email (with a link to the document) at: James Scribner, Regulatory Analyst, Eastern Gas Transmission and Storage, Inc., 10700 Energy Way, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060 or by email at James.Scribner@bhegts.com. Any subsequent submissions by an intervenor must be served on the applicant and all other parties to the proceeding. Contact information for parties can be downloaded from the service list at the eService link on FERC Online.

Tracking the Proceeding

Throughout the proceeding, additional information about the project will be available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208–FERC, or on the FERC website at www.ferc.gov using the "eLibrary" link

⁶ Additionally, you may file your comments electronically by using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission's website at www.ferc.gov under the link to Documents and Filings. Using eComment is an easy method for interested persons to submit brief, text-only comments on a project.

¹ 18 CFR 157.205.

² Persons include individuals, organizations, businesses, municipalities, and other entities. 18 CFR 385.102(d).

³ 18 CFR 157.205(e).

⁴ 18 CFR 385.214.

⁵ 18 CFR 157.10.

as described above. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. For more information and to register, go to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

Dated: April 9, 2024.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Acting Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL OP-OFA-117]

Notice of Adoption of a Fish and Wildlife Service Categorical Exclusion Under the National Environmental Policy Act

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of adoption of categorical exclusion.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is adopting a Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) categorical exclusion (CE) for restoration activities of wetland, riparian, instream, and native habitats under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to use in certain EPA water grants and loan programs administered by EPA. This notice describes the categories of proposed actions for which EPA intends to use FWS's CE and describes the consultation between the agencies.

DATES: This action is effective upon publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia Thorp, Community Grants Program, by phone at 202-565-2238, or by email at thorp.julia@epa.gov, or Alaina McCurdy, WIFIA, by phone at 202-565-5795, or by email at mccurdy.alaina@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

NEPA and CEs

The National Environmental Policy Act, as amended at, 42 U.S.C. 4321-

4347 (NEPA), requires all Federal agencies to assess the environmental impact of their actions. Congress enacted NEPA in order to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between humans and the environment, recognizing the profound impact of human activity and the critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental quality to the overall welfare of humankind. 42 U.S.C. 4321, 4331. NEPA's twin aims are to ensure agencies consider the environmental effects of their proposed actions in their decision-making processes and inform and involve the public in that process. 42 U.S.C. 4331. NEPA created the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which promulgated NEPA implementing regulations, 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508 (CEQ regulations).

To comply with NEPA, agencies determine the appropriate level of review—an environmental impact statement (EIS), environmental assessment (EA), or CE. 42 U.S.C. 4336. If a proposed action is likely to have significant environmental effects, the agency must prepare an EIS and document its decision in a record of decision. 42 U.S.C. 4336. If the proposed action is not likely to have significant environmental effects or the effects are unknown, the agency may instead prepare an EA, which involves a more concise analysis and process than an EIS. 42 U.S.C. 4336. Following the EA, the agency may conclude the process with a finding of no significant impact if the analysis shows that the action will have no significant effects. If the analysis in the EA finds that the action is likely to have significant effects, however, then an EIS is required.

Under NEPA and the CEQ regulations, a Federal agency also can establish CEs—categories of actions that the agency has determined normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment—in their agency NEPA procedures. 42 U.S.C. 4336(e)(1); 40 CFR 1501.4, 1507.3(e)(2)(ii), 1508.1(d). If an agency determines that a CE covers a proposed action, it then evaluates the proposed action for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant effect. 40 CFR 1501.4(b). If no extraordinary circumstances are present or if further analysis determines that the extraordinary circumstances do not involve the potential for significant environmental effects, the agency may apply the CE to the proposed action without preparing an EA or EIS. 42 U.S.C. 4336(a)(2), 40 CFR 1501.4. If the extraordinary circumstances have the potential to result in significant effects,

the agency is required to prepare an EA or EIS.

Section 109 of NEPA, enacted as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, allows a Federal agency to “adopt” and use another agency's CEs for a category of proposed agency actions. 42 U.S.C. 4336(c). To use another agency's CEs under section 109, the adopting agency must identify the relevant CEs listed in another agency's (“establishing agency”) NEPA procedures that cover the adopting agency's category of proposed actions or related actions; consult with the establishing agency to ensure that the proposed adoption of the CE to a category of actions is appropriate; identify to the public the CE that the adopting agency plans to use for its proposed actions; and document adoption of the CE. *Id.* This notice describes EPA's adoption of FWS's CE under section 109 of NEPA to use in EPA's program and funding opportunities administered by EPA.

EPA's Programs

EPA intends to use the FWS's CE for its restoration activities under two programs, the Community Grants Program and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program. EPA's Community Grants Program funds projects for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater infrastructure, and water quality protection projects, which may include restoration projects of wetland, riparian, instream, or native habitats. For the Community Grants Program, Congress appropriates resources for specifically named water infrastructure projects identified as Congressionally Directed Spending and Community Project Funding items in Appropriations Acts.

EPA's WIFIA Program provides credit assistance (also referred to as direct loans or loan guarantees) for a range of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Eligible activities include habitat protection and restoration projects, such as shoreline activities, instream activities, water quality improvements, control of invasive vegetative and aquatic species, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation efforts.

Both Community Grants and WIFIA Program activities may involve the construction of new or upgrades to existing small structures or improvements, such as water control structures, berms, and dikes, for the restoration of wetland, riparian, instream, or native habitats, and may include revegetation actions, such as the planting of native species. These types of restoration activities typically result