

filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

D2. Agency Comments—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-8376 Filed 4-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL99-46-000]

Capacity Benefit Margin in Computing Available Transmission Capacity; Notice of Technical Conference and Potential Broadcast of Technical Conference and Request for Comments

March 31, 1999.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Technical Conference and Potential Broadcast of Technical Conference and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) notifies interested persons that the Commission Staff will convene a technical conference at the Commission regarding Capacity Benefit Margin on May 20 and 21, 1999, commencing at 10:00 A.M. each day. The Commission Staff invites any interested person wishing to speak at the technical conference to submit a request to make a statement. The Commission Staff also invites interested persons to submit written comments. At a later date, the Secretary will issue a further notice listing the speakers, panels and subjects for the technical conference.

DATES: Requests to speak at the technical conference must be filed with

the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426 on or before Monday, April 19, 1999.

Written comments must be received by 5:00 P.M., Friday, April 23, 1999.

Persons interested in receiving the Capitol Connection's live internet, telephone or satellite coverage of the technical conference for a fee must notify Shirley Al-Jarani or Julia Morelli at the Capitol Connection (703-993-3100) or contact them at Capitol Connection's website (www.capitolconnection.gmu.edu) by May 7, 1999. Persons interested in National Narrowcast Network's Hearing-On-The-Line service coverage of the technical conference live by telephone should call 202-966-2211 for further details.

The technical conference will be held on May 20 and 21, 1999, commencing at 10:00 A.M. each day.

ADDRESSES: The technical conference will be held at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles Faust (Technical Issues), Office of Electric Power Regulation, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, 202-208-0564.

Andre Goodson (Legal Issues), Office of the General Counsel, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, 202-208-2167.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission also provides all interested persons an opportunity to inspect or copy the contents of this document during normal business hours in the Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission Issuance Posting System (CIPS) provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission. CIPS can be accessed via Internet through FERC's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.fed.us>) using the CIPS link or the Energy Information Online icon. The full text of this document will be available on CIPS in ASCII and WordPerfect 6.1 format. CIPS is also available through the Commission's electronic bulletin board service at no charge to the user and may be accessed using a personal computer with a modem by dialing 202-208-1397, if dialing locally, or 1-800-856-3920, if dialing long distance. To access CIPS, set your communications software to 19200, 14400, 12000, 9600, 7200, 4800,

2400, or 1200 bps, full duplex, no parity, 8 data bits and 1 stop bit. User assistance is available at 202-208-2474 or by E-mail to CipsMaster@FERC.fed.us.

This document is also available through the Commission's Records and Information Management System (RIMS), an electronic storage and retrieval system of documents submitted to and issued by the Commission after November 16, 1981. Documents from November 1995 to the present can be viewed and printed. RIMS is available in the Public Reference Room or remotely via Internet through FERC's Homepage using the RIMS link or the Energy Information Online icon. User assistance is available at 202-208-2222, or by E-mail to RimsMaster@FERC.fed.us.

Finally, the complete text on diskette in WordPerfect format may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, RVJ International, Inc. RVJ International, Inc., is located in the Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission has directed the Commission Staff to convene a technical conference to be held on Thursday, May 20, 1999, and Friday, May 21, 1999, at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. The technical conference will commence at 10:00 a.m. each day and will be open to all interested persons. The technical conference will address Capacity Benefit Margin. The Commission Staff has attached to this notice a list of suggested subjects for discussion at the technical conference.

Persons wishing to speak at the technical conference must submit a request to make a statement in Docket No. EL99-46-000. This request should clearly specify that it concerns the Capacity Benefit Margin technical conference and must specify the name of the person desiring to speak and the party or parties the speaker represents. Persons with common interests or views are requested to file a joint request for participation, so that the Commission can accommodate the maximum number of participants. Requests must also include a brief synopsis of the issue or issues the speaker wishes to address as well as the speaker's position on the issue or issues. All requests must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426 on or before Monday, April 19, 1999.

The number of persons desiring to speak at the conference may exceed the time allotted. Therefore, based on the

requests to participate, the Commission Staff will put together panels of speakers representing a broad spectrum of interests and views for each panel. At a later date, the Secretary will issue a further notice listing the speakers, panels and subjects for the technical conference.

In addition, interested persons are invited to submit written comments addressing topics to be discussed at the technical conference.

To facilitate review of the comments, commenters should provide a one page executive summary of their comments. The comments should be no longer than 25 pages in length, double spaced, on 8½" x 11" paper, with standard margins.

The original and 14 copies of such comments must be received before 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 23, 1999. Comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426 and should refer to Docket No. EL99-46-000.

In addition to filing paper copies, the Commission encourages the filing of comments either on computer diskette or via Internet E-Mail. Comments may be filed in the following formats: WordPerfect 6.1 or lower version, MS Word Office 97 or lower version, or ASCII format.

For diskette filing, include the following information on the diskette label: Docket No. EL99-46-000; the name of the filing entity; the software and version used to create the file; and the name and telephone number of a contact person.

For Internet E-Mail submittal, comments should be submitted to "comment.rm@ferc.fed.us" in the following format. On the subject line, specify Docket No. EL99-46-000. In the body of the E-Mail message, include the name of the filing entity; the software and version used to create the file, and the name and telephone number of the contact person. Attach the comment to the E-Mail in one of the formats specified above. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgement to the sender's E-Mail address upon receipt. Questions on electronic filing should be directed to Brooks Carter at 202-501-8145, E-Mail address brooks.carter@ferc.fed.us.

Commenters should take note that, until the Commission amends its rules and regulations, the paper copy of the filing remains the official copy of the document submitted. Therefore, any discrepancies between the paper filing and the electronic filing or the diskette will be resolved by reference to the paper filing.

All comments will be placed in the Commission's public files and will be available for inspection in the Commission's Public Reference Room at 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, during normal business hours. Additionally, comments can be viewed and printed remotely via the Internet through FERC's Homepage using the RIMS link or the Energy Information Online icon. User assistance is available at 202-208-2222, or by E-mail to RimsMaster@FERC.fed.us.

If there is sufficient interest, the Capitol Connection may offer the conference live for a fee over the Internet as well as via telephone and satellite. Persons interested in receiving the Capitol Connection's live internet, phone bridge or satellite coverage for a fee, please call Shirley Al-Jarani or Julia Morelli at the Capitol Connection (703-993-3100) or contact them at Capitol Connection's website (www.capitolconnection.gmu.edu) by May 7, 1999. In addition, National Narrowcast Network's Hearing-On-The-Line service covers all FERC meetings live by telephone so that interested persons can listen at their desks, from their homes, or from any phone, without special equipment. Billing is based on time on-line. Call 202-966-2211 for further details.

By direction of the Commission. Commissioner Bailey did not participate in this decision.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

What is CBM?

NERC's June 1996 publication, *Available Transfer Capability Definitions and Determination* (page 14), states:

Capacity Benefit Margin (CBM) is that amount of transmission transfer capability reserved by load serving entities to ensure access to generation from interconnected systems to meet generation reliability requirements. Reservation of CBM by a load serving entity allows that entity to reduce its installed generating capacity below that which may otherwise have been necessary without interconnections to meet its generation reliability requirements.

It adds that if "a load-serving entity maintains policies and procedures to reserve transfer capability for generation reliability purposes," CBM should be subtracted from Total Transmission Capacity (TTC) in computing Available Transmission Capacity (ATC).¹ It

¹ The publication defines TTC as the amount of electric power that can be transferred over the interconnected transmission network in a reliable manner so as to ensure (1) that existing facilities will be operated within normal ratings and limits; (2) the electric systems are capable of absorbing

neither prescribes a specific methodology for computing CBM, nor dictates that a CBM adjustment of any amount be computed. Rather, the computations of ATC set forth in the publication create a placeholder for those utilities that elect to make a CBM adjustment. It appears that utilities have different views on what CBM is and how it is computed. Also, the decision as to whether and how to make a CBM adjustment appears to reside in the transmission provider's merchant function, and it is not clear how decisions about CBM are made within the confines of the Commission's unbundling requirements.

Who is Allowed to use Transmission Capacity set Aside as CBM?

It appears that for many transmission providers transmission capacity set aside as CBM is not made available for firm transmission uses. However, some transmission providers do use CBM for their own firm uses, and some appear to make CBM available for the firm imports of any load-serving entity in the control area. There also appears to be some variation as to how CBM is made available for nonfirm open access offerings. Some utilities appear to make it available only during system emergencies, others appear to use CBM to meet the nonfirm uses of the transmission provider, while others appear to treat it as nonfirm ATC under their open access tariffs.

Is CBM an Economic Issue and, if so, is the Right Person Making the Economic Decision?

While CBM is often labeled a reliability issue, it is generally supported on the ground that it reduces the cost of maintaining generation reliability when compared to other alternatives that could be used to maintain generation reliability. In circumstances when there are multiple ways to maintain generation reliability that impact transmission access differently (e.g., install generation

dynamic power swings and remaining stable following a disturbance that results in the loss of a single system element; and (3) after contingencies and before operator-intervention, facility loadings do not exceed emergency limits and ratings. (pages 6-9) It notes that TTC may also be reduced to reflect a Transmission Reliability Margin which is defined as the transmission capability necessary to ensure that the interconnected transmission network is secure under a reasonable range of uncertainties in system conditions, including (1) the fact that the assumptions used to model TTC may need to be more conservative in the long term because less is known about the system parameters (e.g., transactions, loads, generators) over extended periods and (2) the fact that actual operating conditions (e.g., generator dispatch, parallel flows, and maintenance outages) may differ from those reflected in the model. (pages 13-14)

locally, purchase transmission to reach remote generating resources, or reduce firm ATC on the assumption that neighbors will help out during generation contingencies), the person making the choice may not be the same person, or the only person, that is affected by the economics of the decision.

Are There Considerations Other Than Reliability and Economics that Impact CBM Issues?

In *Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection*, 81 FERC ¶ 61,257 at 62,276-77 (1998), the Commission expressed the possibility that changes in CBM practices might raise transition issues. For example, in the short run, reliability could be affected if CBM practices are changed without providing time for those relying on it to make other arrangements. Equities may also be a consideration when the past economic decisions of transmission providers to use CBM were reasonable in the historical context.

The cost of transmission capacity which may be set aside for CBM is rolled into the basic transmission charge and apportioned pro rata among all transmission users. The differing CBM practices of utilities may support differing rate treatments.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

[FRL-6319-4]

Proposed Prospective Purchaser Agreement Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as Amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Container Recycling Superfund Site, Kansas City, KS

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a proposed prospective purchaser agreement associated with the Container Recycling Superfund Site, located in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas, was executed by the agency on March 10, 1999. The Site is an inactive drum reconditioning facility. The agreement is subject to final approval after the comment period. The Prospective Purchaser Agreement would resolve

certain potential EPA claims under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 ("CERCLA"), against Alliance Industrial Service, LLC, the prospective purchaser ("the purchaser").

The settlement would require the purchaser to remove and properly dispose of certain containerized wastes and several thousand spent drums located at the property. The purchaser would also be required to provide EPA access to the property.

For thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this document, the Agency will receive written comments relating to the proposed settlement.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 6, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should reference the "Container Recycling Superfund Site Prospective Purchaser Agreement" and should be forwarded to Jim MacDonald, On-Scene Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

The proposed settlement is available for public inspection at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101. A copy of the proposed agreement may be obtained from Eileen Gendreau (913) 551-7736, at this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Gieryc, Assistant Regional Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101, (913) 551-7822.

Dated: March 15, 1999.

Dennis Grams,

Regional Administrator, Region VII

[FR Doc. 99-8468 Filed 4-5-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6311-7]

Proposed Settlement Under Section 122(h)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of proposed administrative settlement and opportunity for public comment—Conus Chemical Company Superfund Site.

SUMMARY: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to enter into an administrative settlement to resolve certain claims under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA). Notice is being published to inform the public of the proposed settlement and of the opportunity to comment. This settlement concerns the Conus Chemical Company Superfund Site in Newark, New Jersey and is intended to resolve the site owner's liability for response costs incurred by EPA.

DATES: Comments must be provided by May 6, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Regional Counsel, 290 Broadway—17th Floor, New York, NY 10007, and should refer to: In the Matter of the Conus Chemical Company Superfund Site, Agreement for Recovery of Past Response Costs, U.S. EPA Index No. II-CERCLA-98-0116.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Regional Counsel, 290 Broadway—17th Floor, New York, NY 10007; Attention: Marc Seidenberg, Esq. (212) 637-3150.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 122(i)(1) of CERCLA, notice is hereby given of a proposed administrative settlement concerning the Conus Chemical Company Superfund Site located in Newark, New Jersey. Section 122(h)(1) of CERCLA provides EPA with authority to settle certain claims for response costs incurred by the United States when the settlement has received the approval of the Attorney General of the United States of America. The one settling party will pay \$350,000 to reimburse EPA for response costs incurred at the Conus Chemical Company Superfund Site.

Dated: March 26, 1999.

William J. Muszynski,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 2.

[FR Doc. 99-8481 Filed 4-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: Farm Credit Administration.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b(e)(3)), that the April 8, 1999 regular meeting of the