

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

§ 2.4

forth the following additional policies for the hydroelectric licensing process.

(i) The Commission believes that the hydroelectric licensing process will benefit by more direct and substantial consultation between the Commission staff and Indian tribes. Because of the unique status of Indian tribes in relation to the Federal government, the Commission will endeavor to increase direct communications with tribal representatives in appropriate circumstances, recognizing that different issues and stages of a proceeding may call for different approaches, and there are some limitations that must be observed.

(j) The Commission will seek to notify potentially-affected tribes about upcoming hydroelectric licensing processes, to discuss the consultation process and the importance of tribal participation, to learn more about each tribe's culture, and to establish case-by-case consultation procedures consistent with our *ex parte* rules.

(k) In evaluating a proposed hydroelectric project, the Commission will consider any comprehensive plans prepared by Indian tribes or inter-tribal organizations for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a proposed project. The Commission will treat as a comprehensive plan, a plan that:

(1) Is a comprehensive study of one or more of the beneficial uses of a waterway or waterways;

(2) Includes a description of the standards applied, the data relied upon, and the methodology used in preparing the plan; and

(3) Is filed with the Secretary of the Commission. *See generally* 18 CFR 2.19.

[Order 635, 68 FR 46455, Aug. 6, 2003]

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL POLICY AND INTERPRETATIONS UNDER THE FEDERAL POWER ACT

AUTHORITY: Sections 2.2 through 2.13, issued under sec. 309, 49 Stat. 858; 16 U.S.C. 825h, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2.2 Transmission lines.

In a public statement dated March 7, 1941, the Commission announced its determination that transmission lines which are not primary lines transmit-

ting power from the power house or appurtenant works of a project to the point of junction with the distribution system or with the interconnected primary transmission system as set forth in section 3(11) of the Act are not within the licensing authority of the Commission, and directed that future applications filed with it for such licenses be referred for appropriate action to the Federal department having supervision over the lands or waterways involved.

[Order 141, 12 FR 8471, Dec. 19, 1947. Redesignated by Order 147, 13 FR 8259, Dec. 23, 1948]

§ 2.4 Suspension of rate schedules.

The Commission approved and adopted on May 29, 1945, the following conclusions as to its powers of suspension of rate schedules under section 205 of the act:

(a) The Commission cannot suspend a rate schedule after its effective date.

(b) The Commission can suspend any new schedule making any change in an existing filed rate schedule, including any rate, charge, classification, or service, or in any rule, regulation, or contract relating thereto, contained in the filed schedule.

(c) Included in such changes which may be suspended are:

(1) Increases.

(2) Reductions.

(3) Discriminatory changes.

(4) Cancellation or notice of termination.

(5) Changes in classification, service, rule, regulation or contract.

(d) Immaterial, unimportant or routine changes will not be suspended.

(e) During suspension, the prior existing rate schedule continues in effect and should not be changed during suspension.

(f) Changes under escalator clauses may be suspended as changes in existing filed schedules.

(g) Suspension of a rate schedule, within the ambit of the Commission's