

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission****18 CFR Parts 4, 153, 157 and 375**

[Docket No. RM98-16-000]

Collaborative Procedures for Energy Facilities Applications; Notice of Technical Conference

October 20, 1998.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.**ACTION:** Notice of Technical Conference.

SUMMARY: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) intends to hold a staff technical conference on November 5, 1998 at 9:00 AM, in the Commission Meeting Room, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., to discuss the proposed pre-filing collaborative process.

DATES: The conference will be held on November 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The conference will be held in the Commission Meeting Room, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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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, D.C. 20426.

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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, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is proposing to expand its procedural regulations governing the authorization of natural gas facilities and services, and is considering revising its procedural regulations governing applications for licenses for hydroelectric projects.¹ The proposed regulations are intended to offer prospective applicants seeking to construct, operate or abandon natural gas facilities or services the option, in appropriate circumstances and prior to filing an application, of using a collaborative process to resolve significant issues. In addition, a significant portion of the environmental review process should be completed as part of the pre-filing collaborative process. This pre-filing collaborative process is comparable to the process the Commission recently adopted with respect to applications for hydroelectric licenses, amendments and exemptions and, like those regulations, is optional and is designed to be adaptable to the facts and circumstances of the particular

case. The proposed regulations would not delete or replace any existing regulations. Finally, the Commission is considering whether the existing collaborative process for hydroelectric license and exemption applications, as well as the proposed collaborative process for natural gas facilities and services, should be made mandatory.

A staff technical conference will be held on November 5, 1998, to provide an overview of the proposed pre-filing collaborative process and to respond to questions. Additional conferences will be held at a later date in Houston and Chicago. These conferences are designed as workshops in which Commission staff will present information and respond to questions concerning the proposed collaborative process as an aid to assist participants in developing comments in response to and as requested in the September 30, 1998 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Accordingly, there will be no transcript and statements made in the context of the workshops will not become part of the record in this proceeding. All parties—particularly those with experience with collaborative processes, whether at this agency or in another context—are invited to attend.

David P. Boergers,*Secretary.*

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Parts 52 and 81**

[ID23-7003; FRL-6179-5]

Determination That Pre-existing National Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM-10 No Longer Apply to Ada County/Boise State of Idaho**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In this action, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to determine that the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to a nominal 10 micrometers (PM10) that existed before September 16, 1997, no longer apply to the Northern Ada County/Boise, Idaho area and to revoke the nonattainment designation associated with those standards. The State of Idaho has satisfied the requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA) as well as EPA's regulations (40 CFR

¹ See 84 FERC ¶ 61,346 (September 30, 1998).