

ISSC, Inc. (ISSC) filed a letter stating that they expect to be ready to meet and/or exceed the Commission's Phase 1 OASIS requirements by November 1, 1996. They explain that they do not believe that any further delay in the OASIS compliance schedule is required or would be beneficial to the electric industry at large or to "solution providers" such as themselves.

On September 13, 1996, Public Service Company of New Mexico filed an answer in support of the How Working Group's request for a time extension. On September 16, 1996, Electric Clearinghouse Inc. (Electric Clearinghouse) and Enron Power Marketing, Inc. (Enron) filed comments supporting the request of the How Working Group for a two-step time extension, so long as the Commission does not delay implementation of the Standards of Conduct that, they claim, are not dependent on implementation of the OASIS for compliance.

On that same date, comments supporting the How Working Group's request for a time extension were filed by Centerior Energy Corporation, El Paso Electric Company, Jacksonville Electric Authority, Public Service Company of Colorado, Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, and Tuscon Electric Power Company. These comments describe problems that have arisen in meeting the Commission's November 1, 1996 deadline and urge that we grant the How Working Group's request. Additionally, on September 17, 1996, a group of eight utilities⁴ filed an answer in support of the How Working Group's request. This group offers the Commission's September 10, 1996 order issuing a revised Standards and Protocols document⁵ as a reason why a short time extension is appropriate.

Also on September 17, 1996, comments were filed by Power System Engineering Inc. (PSE), a participant in the How Working Group. PSE supports a staged implementation schedule, as advanced by the How Working Group, but advocates additional stages, with operational OASIS test nodes publicly available on the Internet for all regions on November 1, 1996, followed by the incremental posting of transmission paths on successive dates, leading to

full commercial implementation by January 3, 1997.⁶

Discussion

After a review of the How Working Group's request and related comments, we agree that the How Working Group's suggested two-step modification to the timetable contained in Order No. 889 is appropriate. At the time that we issued Order No. 889, we did so with the knowledge that the schedule contained therein, for the development and implementation of a new information system, was ambitious. In our view, the How Working Group, and the industry at large, appear to be making best efforts to comply with these new requirements, but need additional time to complete their work.

While we do not believe that a longer extension would be warranted, we will grant the How Working Group's request for a two-step, two-month extension, with test operations to begin by December 2, 1996, and with full commercial operations to begin by January 3, 1997. We will not adopt the suggested alternative approach advocate by PSE, as it appears both vague and too complicated.

While we are pleased to learn that Siemens/ISSC will be ready to meet the Commission's OASIS requirements by November 1, 1996, we are persuaded by the How Working Group's letter and the responses to that letter that other affected entities may need more time to complete their preparations, and we are making our decision on this basis.

Under the How Working Group's proposal, all required OASIS nodes will be operational and available for public access on or before December 2, 1996. After that time, users will be able to access and download all required OASIS information and will be able to submit electronic forms and upload data, as required by the OASIS Standards and Protocols. However, all user interactions initially will be on a test basis only, with no transmission service reservations being executed on the OASIS and no OASIS transactions being binding on any party. This testing period will allow providers and users to develop and test their capabilities to use the system. We find this proposal acceptable and approve it. Our time extension for commercial operations until January 3, 1997 is based on the availability of the OASIS on a test basis, as outlined by the How Working Group's proposal, starting on December 2, 1996.

Notwithstanding the objections of Electric Clearinghouse and Enron, we also will extend the compliance date for the Standards of Conduct until January 3, 1997 because OASIS implementation is essential to compliance with the required separation for functions. In light of this extension of time, transmission providers need not comply with section 37.4(c) of our regulations, *Maintenance of Written Procedures*, until January 3, 1997, at which time they must file written procedures detailing their actions to implement the Standards of Conduct.

The Commission orders: The request of the How Working Group for a two-month, two-step extension of time before transmission providers are required to commence full commercial Phase 1 OASIS operations and comply with the Standards of Conduct is hereby granted, as discussed in the body of this order.

By the Commission.
Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,
Acting Secretary.
[FR Doc. 96-24718 Filed 9-25-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5614-8]

Acid Rain Program: Permit and Permit Modifications

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of permit and permit modifications.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing, as a direct final action, a Phase I Acid Rain permit and permit modifications including nitrogen oxides (NO_x) compliance plans in accordance with the Acid Rain Program regulations (40 CFR parts 72 and 76). Because the Agency does not anticipate receiving adverse comments, the exemptions are being issued as a direct final action.

DATES: The permit and permit modifications issued in this direct final action will be final on November 5, 1996 or 40 days after publication of a similar notice in a local publication, whichever is later, unless significant, adverse comments are received by October 28, 1996 or 30 days after publication of a similar notice in a local publication, whichever is later. If significant, adverse comments are timely received on any permit or permit modification in this direct final action, that permit or permit modification will

⁴ This group is comprised of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Boston Edison Company, Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, Montaup Electric Company, Vermont Electric Power Company, Virginia Electric and Power Company, and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation.

⁵ See Open Access Same-Time Information System and Standards of Conduct, Order Issuing Revised OASIS Standards and Protocols Document, 76 FERC ¶ __, __ (1996).

⁶ On this same date, Edison Electric Institutes also filed a letter supporting the How Working Group's request for an extension.

be withdrawn through a notice in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Administrative Records. The administrative record for the permits, except information protected as confidential, may be viewed during normal operating hours at the following locations: for plants in Maryland, Pennsylvania, or West Virginia, EPA Region 3, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, PA, 19107; for plants in Kentucky, EPA Region 4, 100 Alabama Street, SW, Atlanta, GA, 30303; for plants in Indiana or Ohio, EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., 18th floor, Chicago, IL, 60604; and for plants in Missouri and Nebraska, EPA Region 7, 726 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS, 66101.

Comments. Send comments, requests for public hearings, and requests to receive notice of future actions to: for plants in Maryland, Pennsylvania, or West Virginia, EPA Region 3, Air, Radiation, and Toxics Division, Attn: Linda Miller (address above); for plants in Kentucky, EPA Region 4, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Attn: Scott Davis (address above); for plants in Indiana and Ohio, EPA Region 5, Air and Radiation Division, Attn: Cecilia Mijares (address above); and for plants in Missouri and Nebraska, EPA Region 7, Air, RCRA, and Toxics Division, Attn: Jon Knodel (address above). Submit comments in duplicate and identify the permit to which the comments apply, the commenter's name, address, and telephone number, and the commenter's interest in the matter and affiliation, if any, to the owners and operators of all units in the plan. All timely comments will be considered, except those pertaining to standard provisions under 40 CFR 72.9 or issues not relevant to the permit or the permit modification.

Hearings. To request a public hearing, state the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. EPA may schedule a hearing if EPA finds that it will contribute to the decision-making process by clarifying significant issues affecting a NO_x compliance plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For plants in Maryland, Pennsylvania, or West Virginia, call Linda Miller, (215) 566-2068; for plants in Kentucky, call Scott Davis, (404) 562-9127; for plants in Indiana or Ohio, call Cecilia Mijares, (312) 886-0968; and for plants in Missouri and Nebraska, call Jon Knodel, (913) 551-7622.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title IV of the Clean Air Act directs EPA to establish a program to reduce the adverse effects of acidic deposition by promulgating rules and issuing permits

to emission sources subject to the program. In today's action, EPA is issuing a permit that includes approval of an early election plan for NO_x for the Platte plant in Nebraska. Platte unit 1 will be required to meet an actual annual average emissions rate for NO_x of 0.45 lbs/MMBtu beginning on January 1, 1997 through December 31, 2007, after which it will be required to meet any applicable Phase II emissions limitation for NO_x. The designated representative for Platte is Gary Mader.

Additionally, EPA is approving permit modifications that include approval of emissions averaging plans for NO_x. Under each year in each plan, the actual Btu-weighted annual average emission rate for the units in the plan shall be less than or equal to the Btu-weighted annual average rate for the same units had they each been operated, during the same period of time, in compliance with the applicable emission limitation in 40 CFR 76.5. For each unit in the plan, each plan also includes emission limits and/or annual heat input limits, with which the units must comply if the requirement concerning the Btu-weighted average emission rate for the units as a group is not met. The following plans are being approved:

R P Smith units 9 and 11 in Maryland, Armstrong unit 2 and Mitchell unit 33 in Pennsylvania, and Albright units 1, 2, and 3 and Pleasants units 1 and 2 in West Virginia will each comply with four identical NO_x averaging plans, one for each year, 1996-1999. The designated representative is David C. Benson.

Portland units 1 and 2 in Pennsylvania will each comply with a NO_x averaging plan for 1996-1998. The designated representative is Ronald P. Lantzy.

Frank E. Ratts units 1SG1 and 2SG1 in Indiana will each comply with a NO_x averaging plan for 1996-1999. The designated representative is J. Steven Smith.

Cayuga units 1 and 2, R Gallagher units 1, 2, 3, and 4, Gibson units 1, 2, and 3, and Wabash River units 2, 3, 5, and 6 in Indiana, Miami Fort unit 6 and Walter C Beckjord units 5 and 6 in Ohio, and East Bend unit 2 in Kentucky will each comply with a NO_x averaging plan for 1996. The same group of units, with the addition of Gibson unit 4, will each comply with a NO_x averaging plan for 1997-1999. The designated representative is David W. Hoffman.

James River units 3, 4, and 5 and Southwest unit 1 in Missouri will each comply with a NO_x averaging plan for 1996-1999. The designated representative is G. Duane Galloway.

Dated: September 17, 1996.

Brian J. McLean,

Director, Acid Rain Division, Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 96-24483 Filed 9-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5614-9]

Acid Rain Program: Draft Permit and Permit Modifications

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of draft permit and permit modifications.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing for comment a draft Phase I Acid Rain permit and permit modifications including nitrogen oxides (NO_x) compliance plans in accordance with the Acid Rain Program regulations (40 CFR parts 72 and 76). Because the Agency does not anticipate receiving adverse comments, the permit and permit modifications are also being issued as a direct final action in the notice of permit and permit modifications published elsewhere in today's Federal Register.

DATES: Comments on the draft permit and permit modifications must be received no later than October 28, 1996 or the date of publication of a similar notice in a local newspaper.

ADDRESSES: Administrative Records. The administrative record for the permits, except information protected as confidential, may be viewed during normal operating hours at the following locations: for plants in Maryland, Pennsylvania, or West Virginia, EPA Region 3, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, PA, 19107; for plants in Kentucky, EPA Region 4, 100 Alabama Street, SW, Atlanta, GA, 30303; for plants in Indiana or Ohio, EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., 18th floor, Chicago, IL, 60604; and for plants in Missouri and Nebraska, EPA Region 7, 726 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS, 66101.

Comments. Send comments, requests for public hearings, and requests to receive notices of future actions to: for plants in Maryland, Pennsylvania, or West Virginia, EPA Region 3, Air, Radiation, and Toxics Division, Attn: Linda Miller (address above); for plants in Kentucky, EPA Region 4, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Attn: Scott Davis (address above); for plants in Indiana and Ohio, EPA Region 5, Air and Radiation Division, Attn: Cecilia Mijares (address