

opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* National Household Education Survey 2019 (NHES:2019).

*OMB Control Number:* 1850-0768.

*Type of Review:* A revision of an existing information collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 123,177.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 12,964.

*Abstract:* The National Household Education Survey (NHES) is a data collection program of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) designed to provide descriptive data on the education activities of the U.S. population, with an emphasis on topics that are appropriate for household surveys rather than institutional surveys. Such topics have covered a wide range of issues, including early childhood care and education, children's readiness for school, parents' perceptions of school safety and discipline, before- and after-school activities of school-age children, participation in adult and career education, parents' involvement in their children's education, school choice, homeschooling, and civic involvement. This request is to conduct the NHES:2019 full scale data collection, from December 2018 through September 2019, in conjunction with an In-Person Study of Nonresponding Households, designed to provide insight about nonresponse that can help plan future

survey administrations. NHES 2019 will use mail and web data collection modes and will field two surveys: The Early Childhood Program Participation survey (ECPP) and the Parent and Family Involvement in Education survey (PFI).

Dated: April 27, 2018.

**Tomakie Washington,**

*Acting Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Office of the Chief Privacy Officer, Office of Management.*

[FR Doc. 2018-09328 Filed 5-1-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Bonneville Power Administration

[BPA File No.: RP-18]

#### Proposed Revised Rules of Procedure and Opportunity for Public Review and Comment

**AGENCY:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA or Bonneville), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed revised rules of procedure.

**SUMMARY:** Bonneville is proposing to revise the rules of procedure that govern its hearings conducted pursuant to section 7(i) of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (Northwest Power Act), 16 U.S.C. 839e(i).

**DATES:** Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed revised rules of procedure must file such comments no later than 5:00 p.m. PDT on June 4, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be submitted through Bonneville's website at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment). Comments may also be submitted to BPA Public Involvement, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, Oregon 97293. Bonneville requests that all comments contain the designation RP-18 in the subject line.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Heidi Helwig, DKE-7, BPA Communications, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon 97208; by phone toll free at 1-800-622-4520; or by email to [hyhelwig@bpa.gov](mailto:hyhelwig@bpa.gov).

*Responsible Official:* Mary K. Jensen, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, is the official responsible for the development of Bonneville's rules of procedure.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Table of Contents

Part I Introduction and Background  
Part II Summary of Proposed Revised Rules

of Procedure  
Part III Proposed Revised Rules of Procedure

#### Part I—Introduction and Background

The Northwest Power Act provides that Bonneville must establish and periodically review and revise its rates so that they recover, in accordance with sound business principles, the costs associated with the acquisition, conservation, and transmission of electric power, including amortization of the Federal investment in the Federal Columbia River Power System over a reasonable number of years, and Bonneville's other costs and expenses. 16 U.S.C. 839e(a)(1). Section 7(i) of the Northwest Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 839e(i), requires that Bonneville's rates be established according to certain procedures, including notice of the proposed rates; one or more hearings conducted as expeditiously as practicable by a hearing officer; opportunity for both oral presentation and written submission of views, data, questions, and arguments related to the proposed rates; and a decision by the Administrator based on the record.

In addition, section 212(i)(2)(A) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 824k(i)(2)(A), provides in part that the Administrator may conduct a section 7(i) hearing to determine the terms and conditions for transmission service on the Federal Columbia River Transmission System under certain circumstances. Such a hearing must adhere to the procedural requirements of paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 7(i) of the Northwest Power Act, except that the hearing officer makes a recommended decision to the Administrator before the Administrator's final decision.

Bonneville last revised its procedures to govern hearings under section 7(i) of the Northwest Power Act in 1986. See "Procedures Governing Bonneville Power Administration Rate Hearings," 51 **Federal Register** 7611 (1986). Since the establishment of those procedures, there have been significant advancements in the technology available to conduct the hearings. The proposed revised rules of procedure incorporate changes to reflect the manner in which Bonneville has applied these advancements. In addition, through conducting numerous hearings over the past few decades, Bonneville has gained insight regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the current procedures. The proposed revisions incorporate changes to make the hearings more efficient and procedures that were regularly adopted by order of the hearing officer in

previous hearings. Finally, the proposed revisions explicitly provide that the rules apply to any proceeding under section 212(i)(2)(A) of the Federal Power Act ("section 212 proceedings").

In order to encourage public involvement and assist Bonneville in the development of the proposed revised procedures, Bonneville met with customers and other interested parties on February 13, 2018, in Portland, Oregon, to discuss how the current rules might be revised. Bonneville also solicited written comments over a two-week period ending February 28, 2018. After reviewing the comments, Bonneville incorporated a number of revisions to its proposed rules.

Although rules of agency procedure are exempt from notice and comment rulemaking requirements under the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(A), Bonneville is nevertheless publishing notice of the proposed revisions to its procedural rules in the **Federal Register** to promote transparency and public participation. Bonneville will accept written comments on the proposed revisions until the deadline stated above. After considering the written comments, Bonneville will publish the final rules in **Federal Register** later this year.

## Part II—Summary of Proposed Revised Rules of Procedure

The statements below provide general summaries of some of the proposed revisions in each section of the rules.

### Section 1010.1 General Provisions

- The proposed revisions specify that the rules apply to wholesale power and transmission rate case proceedings and section 212 proceedings.
- A provision has been added to clarify that the rules do not establish substantive standards for the Administrator's final decisions.

### Section 1010.2 Definitions

- Various definitions were added or revised in this section.

### Section 1010.3 Hearing Officer

- A provision has been added to clarify that parties should contact the hearing clerk with procedural questions rather than Bonneville counsel or rates staff.
- A provision has been added to recognize that the hearing officer can establish special rules of practice that are consistent with the proposed rules.

### Section 1010.4 Initiation of Proceeding

- A provision has been added to require the **Federal Register** notice initiating the proceeding to include the

proposed new or revised terms and conditions of transmission service for section 212 proceedings.

- A provision has been added to require the **Federal Register** notice to include procedures for requesting access to the secure website for purposes of filing petitions to intervene.
- A provision has been added to state that the scope of a proceeding may include new issues that arise as a result of circumstances or events occurring outside of the proceeding.

### Section 1010.5 Ex Parte Communications

- Proposed revisions more clearly prohibit *ex parte* communications with the hearing officer.
- A provision has been added to clarify that communications between the hearing officer and the hearing clerk (or other staff providing administrative support to the hearing officer) are not *ex parte*.
- The procedures for addressing *ex parte* communications have been revised to provide that written *ex parte* communications and written summaries of oral *ex parte* communications will be posted on Bonneville's website rather than being made available in Bonneville's Public Involvement Office.

### Section 1010.6 Intervention

- The procedures for intervention were modified to provide prospective intervenors access to the secure website before filing a petition to intervene. Once access has been granted, a petition to intervene can be filed through the secure website.

### Section 1010.7 Joint Parties

- A provision has been added to encourage parties with similar interests to establish joint parties and describes how to form joint parties.

### Section 1010.8 Participants

- A provision has been added to describe the manner in which members of the general public, who are not parties, can submit comments.

### Section 1010.9 Prehearing Conference

- A provision has been added to recognize that the hearing officer will hold a prehearing conference to adopt a procedural schedule and any special rules of practice that are consistent with the proposed rules.

### Section 1010.10 Filing and Service of Documents

- Provisions have been added to require that litigants file all documents through the secure website and that

such filings will constitute service on all parties.

### Section 1010.11 Pleadings

- Provisions were added to specify the types of pleadings, establish format and content requirements, and clarify rights and procedures for filing responsive pleadings.
- Procedures have been added to govern interlocutory appeal of an order of the hearing officer to the Administrator.

### Section 1010.12 Clarification Sessions and Data Requests

- The scope of permissible data requests has been revised. Data requests must seek information that is relevant to an issue in the proceeding and proportional to the needs of the case according to a variety of factors listed in the rule.
- Provisions have been added to require litigants to be reasonable in the number and breadth of data requests.
- Provisions have been added to govern the treatment of information that is privileged, commercially sensitive, or pertains to critical electric infrastructure.
- Provisions have been added to govern the process for filing and responding to motions to compel. In deciding a motion to compel, the hearing officer will consider a variety of factors, including the potential impact of the decision on completing the proceeding according to the procedural schedule.

### Section 1010.13 Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits

- The proposed revisions establish format and content requirements for prefiled testimony and exhibits and specify that litigants will have the opportunity to rebut the direct testimony of other litigants.
- The proposed revisions clarify that materials incorporated into prefiled testimony by reference or by providing a link to a website will not be considered part of the record even if the prefiled testimony is accepted into the record. Any materials that a litigant wants included in the record should be submitted as an exhibit and subsequently moved in to evidence.
- The proposed revisions specify that prefiled testimony and exhibits are not part of the record until they have been admitted into evidence by the hearing officer and provide procedures for moving those materials into the record.

### Section 1010.14 Cross-Examination

- The proposed revisions specify the procedures for filing cross-examination

statements and provide that witnesses generally will be cross-examined as a panel.

- The proposed revisions clarify that witnesses are not required to perform calculations on the stand or answer questions about calculations that they did not perform.

- Friendly cross-examination is prohibited, except that counsel for a litigant with a position that is not adverse to the witnesses may seek leave from the hearing officer to ask limited follow-up questions of a witness after any redirect testimony. Any follow-up questions are limited to the scope of the cross-examination.

- The proposed revisions broadly define cross-examination exhibits and require litigants to file all cross-examination exhibits for a witness two business days before the witness is scheduled to appear.

- Litigants must provide physical copies of cross-examination exhibits at the beginning of cross-examination.

#### *Section 1010.15 Stipulations*

- A provision has been added to provide that the hearing officer may admit into evidence stipulations on any issue of fact.

#### *Section 1010.16 Official Notice*

- A provision has been added to recognize that the hearing officer or the Administrator may take official notice of certain matters, and provides guidelines for litigants requesting official notice.

#### *Section 1010.17 Briefs*

- The proposed revisions include a standard outline and format for briefs in order to help Bonneville identify parties' specific issues and recommendations and prepare the records of decision in a more orderly manner.

- The briefing provisions specify that Bonneville may file briefs in section 212 proceedings and that the Administrator may allow additional briefing opportunities in such proceedings.

#### *Section 1010.18 Oral Argument*

- Provisions have been added to permit oral argument and establish procedures for providing notice of intent to present oral argument.

#### *Section 1010.19 Telephone Conferences*

- A provision has been added to provide guidelines for telephone conferences.

#### *Section 1010.20 Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision*

- A provision has been added to address the hearing officer's

recommended decision in section 212 proceedings.

#### *Section 1010.21 Final Record of Decision*

- A provision has been added to note that the Administrator will issue a Final Record of Decision in all ratemaking and section 212 proceedings.

#### *Section 1010.22 Expedited Proceedings*

- Expedited proceedings are defined as extending 90–120 days from the date the **Federal Register** Notice is published.

### **Part III—Proposed Revised Rules of Procedure**

Bonneville Power Administration  
United States Department of Energy  
Rules of Procedure

#### *Section 1010.1 General Provisions*

- General rule of applicability
- Exceptions to general rule of applicability
- Effective date
- Scope of rules
- Waiver
- Computation of time

#### *Section 1010.2 Definitions*

#### *Section 1010.3 Hearing Officer*

#### *Section 1010.4 Initiation of Proceeding*

#### *Section 1010.5 Ex Parte Communications*

- General rule
- Exceptions
- Application
- Notice of meetings
- Written communications
- Oral communications
- Notice and opportunity for rebuttal

#### *Section 1010.6 Intervention*

- Filing
- Contents
- Time
- Opposition

#### *Section 1010.7 Joint Parties*

#### *Section 1010.8 Participants*

#### *Section 1010.9 Prehearing Conference*

#### *Section 1010.10 Filing and Service*

#### *Section 1010.11 Pleadings*

- Types of pleadings
- Content
- Format
- Answers to pleadings
- Replies to answers
- Interlocutory appeal

#### *Section 1010.12 Clarification Sessions and Data Requests*

- Clarification sessions
- Data Requests and responses
- Information that is attorney-client privileged or attorney work product
- Commercially Sensitive Information and CEII
- Disputes regarding responses to Data Requests
- Sanctions
- Moving responses to Data Requests into Evidence

#### *Section 1010.13 Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits*

- General rule
- Items by reference

(c) Moving Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits into Evidence

(d) Motions to strike

#### *Section 1010.14 Cross-Examination*

#### *Section 1010.15 Stipulations*

#### *Section 1010.16 Official Notice*

#### *Section 1010.17 Briefs*

- General rule
- Initial brief
- Brief on exceptions
- Additional briefing rule for proceedings pursuant to Section 1010.1(a)(2)
- Optional brief and memorandum of law
- Waiver of issues or arguments

#### *Section 1010.18 Oral Argument*

#### *Section 1010.19 Telephone Conferences*

#### *Section 1010.20 Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision*

#### *Section 1010.21 Final Record of Decision*

#### *Section 1010.22 Expedited Proceedings*

(a) General rule

(b) Extensions

Attachment A—Brief Template

#### *Section 1010.1 General Provisions*

(a) General rule of applicability. These rules apply to all proceedings conducted under the procedural requirements contained in Section 7(i) of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (Northwest Power Act), 16 U.S.C. 839e(i), for the purpose of:

(1) Revising or establishing rates under Section 7 of the Northwest Power Act;

(2) revising or establishing terms and conditions of general applicability for transmission service on the Federal Columbia River Transmission System pursuant to Section 212(i)(2)(A) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 824k(i)(2)(A); or

(3) addressing other matters the Administrator determines are appropriate for such rules.

(b) Exceptions to general rule of applicability. These rules do not apply to:

(1) Proceedings regarding implementation of rates or formulae previously adopted by the Administrator and approved, on either an interim or final basis, by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

(2) Proceedings required by statute or by contract, in which the Administrator does not propose either (a) a new rate, formula rate, discount, credit, surcharge or other rate change, or (b) any new terms and conditions of transmission service or revisions thereto; or

(3) Contract negotiations unless otherwise provided by paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) Effective date. These rules will become effective 30 days after publication of the final rules in the **Federal Register**.

(d) Scope of rules. These rules are intended to establish procedures and

processes for all proceedings described in paragraph (a) of this section. These rules do not establish substantive standards for the Administrator's final decisions on issues in such proceedings.

(e) **Waiver.** To the extent permitted by law, the Administrator may waive any section of these rules or prescribe any alternative procedures the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

(f) **Computation of time.** Except as otherwise required by law, any period of time specified in these rules or by order of the Hearing Officer is computed to exclude the day of the event from which the time period begins to run and any day that is not a Business Day. The last day of any time period is included in the time period, unless it is not a Business Day. If the last day of any time period is not a Business Day, the period does not end until the close of business on the next Business Day.

#### Section 1010.2 Definitions

Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in these rules have the meaning specified below.

(a) **"Administrator"** means the BPA Administrator or the acting Administrator.

(b) **"Bonneville"** or **"BPA"** means the Bonneville Power Administration.

(c) **"Business Day"** means any day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, day on which Bonneville closes and does not reopen prior to its official close of business, or legal public holiday as designated in 5 U.S.C. 6103.

(d) **"Commercially Sensitive Information"** means information in the possession of a Litigant (including its officers, employees, agents, or experts) that is not otherwise publicly available and has economic value or could cause economic harm if disclosed, including but not limited to information that is copyrighted, licensed, proprietary, subject to a confidentiality obligation, or contains trade secrets or similar information that could provide a risk of competitive disadvantage or other business injury.

(e) **"Counsel"** means any member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of any state, commonwealth, possession, territory, or the District of Columbia. Counsel appearing in a proceeding must conform to the standards of ethical conduct required of practitioners in the Federal courts of the United States.

(f) **"Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information"** or **"CEII"** means information related to (1) a system or asset of the bulk-power system, whether physical or virtual, the incapacity or destruction of which

would negatively affect national security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination of such matters; or (2) specific engineering, vulnerability, or detailed design information about proposed or existing critical infrastructure that (i) relates details about the production, generation, transportation, transmission, or distribution of energy; (ii) could be useful to a person in planning an attack on critical infrastructure; (iii) is exempt from mandatory disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552; and (iv) does not simply give the general location of the critical infrastructure.

(g) **"Cross-examination Exhibit"** means any document or other material to be presented to a witness for any purpose on cross-examination.

(h) **"Data Request(s)"** means a written request for information in any form, including documents, or an admission submitted in accordance with Section 1010.12(b).

(i) **"Draft Record of Decision"** means the document that sets forth the Administrator's proposed decision on each issue in the pending proceeding.

(j) **"Ex Parte Communication"** means an oral or written communication (1) relevant to the merits of any issue in the pending proceeding; (2) that is not on the Record; and (3) with respect to which reasonable prior notice to Parties has not been given.

(k) **"Evidence"** means any material admitted into the Record by the Hearing Officer.

(l) **"Federal Register Notice"** means the notice identified under Section 1010.4.

(m) **"Final Record of Decision"** means the document that sets forth the Administrator's final decision on each issue in the pending proceeding.

(n) **"Hearing Clerk"** means the individual(s) assisting the Hearing Officer as designated in the **Federal Register Notice**.

(o) **"Hearing Officer"** means the official designated by the Administrator to conduct a proceeding under these rules.

(p) **"Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision"** means the document that sets forth the Hearing Officer's recommendation to the Administrator on each issue in a proceeding pursuant to Section 1010.1(a)(2).

(q) **"Litigant(s)"** means Bonneville and all Parties to the pending proceeding.

(r) **"Participant"** means any Person who is not a Party and who submits oral or written comments pursuant to Section 1010.8.

(s) **"Party"** means any Person whose intervention is effective under Section 1010.6. A Party may be represented by its Counsel or other qualified representative, provided that such representative conforms to the ethical standards prescribed in Section 1010.2(e).

(t) **"Person"** means an individual; partnership; corporation; limited liability company; association; an organized group of persons; municipality, including a city, county, or any other political subdivision of a state; state, including any agency, department, or instrumentality of a state; a province, including any agency, department, or instrumentality of a province; the United States or other nation, or any officer, or agent of any of the foregoing acting in the course of his or her employment or agency.

(u) **"Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits"** means any testimony, exhibits, studies, documentation, or other materials in a Litigant's direct or rebuttal case submitted in accordance with the procedural schedule. Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits do not include pleadings, briefs, or Cross-examination Exhibits.

(v) **"Rate"** means the monetary charge, discount, credit, surcharge, pricing formula, or pricing algorithm for any electric power or transmission service provided by Bonneville, including charges for capacity and energy. The term excludes, but such exclusions are not limited to, transmission line losses, leasing fees or charges from Bonneville for operation and maintenance of customer-owned facilities. A rate may be set forth in a contract; however, other portions of a contract do not thereby become part of the rate for purposes of these rules.

(w) **"Record"** means (1) Evidence; (2) transcripts, notices, briefs, pleadings, and orders from the proceeding; (3) comments submitted by Participants; (4) the Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision, if applicable; (5) the Draft Record of Decision, if any; and (6) such other materials and information as may have been submitted to, or developed by, the Administrator.

(x) **"Secure website"** means the website established and maintained by Bonneville for proceedings under these rules.

#### Section 1010.3 Hearing Officer

(a) The Hearing Officer is responsible for conducting the proceeding, managing the development of the Record, and resolving procedural matters. In addition, in a proceeding pursuant to Section 1010.1(a)(2), the Hearing Officer is responsible for

making a Recommended Decision to the Administrator as set forth in Section 1010.20.

(b) The Hearing Officer shall not expand the scope of the proceeding beyond the scope established in the **Federal Register** Notice. If the Hearing Officer is uncertain whether a potential action would improperly allow information outside the scope to be entered into Evidence, the Hearing Officer shall certify the question directly to the Administrator for a determination.

(c) The Hearing Officer may, in his or her discretion, issue special rules of practice to implement these rules, provided that such special rules are consistent with these rules.

(d) Except as provided in Section 1010.12(c), the Hearing Officer may issue protective orders or make other arrangements for the review of information requested in a Data Request.

(e) The Hearing Officer may reject or exclude all or part of any document or materials not submitted in accordance with these rules or order a Litigant to conform such document or materials to the requirements of these rules.

(f) Litigants shall direct communications regarding procedural issues to the Hearing Clerk. The Hearing Clerk's contact information will be provided in the **Federal Register** Notice.

#### *Section 1010.4 Initiation of Proceeding*

(a) Any proceeding conducted under these rules will be initiated on the day a notice of Bonneville's initial proposal is published in the **Federal Register**.

(b) The **Federal Register** Notice will:

(1) State, as applicable, the proposed rates and/or the proposed new or revised terms and conditions of transmission service, a statement of the justification and reasons supporting such proposals, and any additional information required by law;

(2) State the procedures for requesting access to the Secure website for purposes of filing petitions to intervene and the deadline for filing such petitions;

(3) State the deadline and the procedures for Participants to submit comments;

(4) If applicable, state that the proceeding is an expedited proceeding under Section 1010.22 and explain the reasons for the expedited proceeding;

(5) State the date on which the Hearing Officer will conduct the prehearing conference;

(6) In a proceeding pursuant to Section 1010.1(a)(2), state the date on which the Hearing Officer will issue the Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision, which date shall be used by

the Hearing Officer in establishing the procedural schedule for the proceeding;

(7) State the date(s) on which the Administrator expects to issue the Draft Record of Decision, if any, and the Final Record of Decision, which date(s) shall be used by the Hearing Officer in establishing the procedural schedule for the proceeding;

(8) Define the scope of the proceeding and specify:

(i) Issues that are not within the scope of the proceeding;

(ii) That only Bonneville may prescribe or revise the scope of the proceeding;

(iii) That Bonneville may revise the scope of the proceeding to include new issues that arise as a result of circumstances or events occurring outside the proceeding that are substantially related to the rates or terms and conditions under consideration in the proceeding; and

(iv) That, if Bonneville revises the scope of the proceeding to include new issues, Bonneville will provide public notice, a reasonable opportunity to intervene, testimony or other information regarding such issues, and an opportunity for Parties to respond to Bonneville's testimony or other information.

(9) Provide other information that is pertinent to the proceeding.

#### *Section 1010.5 Ex Parte Communications*

(a) *General Rule.* No Party or Participant in any proceeding under these rules shall make *Ex Parte* Communications to the Administrator, other Bonneville executives, any Bonneville staff member, the Hearing Officer, or the Hearing Clerk. In addition, no Bonneville staff member shall make *Ex Parte* Communications to the Hearing Officer or the Hearing Clerk. The Administrator, other Bonneville executives, Bonneville staff members, and the Hearing Officer shall not initiate or entertain *Ex Parte* Communications; however, communications among the Administrator, other Bonneville executives, and Bonneville staff members are not *Ex Parte* Communications.

(b) *Exceptions.* The following communications will not be considered *Ex Parte* Communications subject to paragraph (a) of this section:

(1) Relating to matters of procedure only;

(2) If otherwise authorized by law or other portions of these rules;

(3) From or to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

(4) Which all Litigants agree may be made on an *ex parte* basis;

(5) Relating to communications in the ordinary course of business, information required to be exchanged pursuant to contracts, or information that Bonneville provides in response to a Freedom of Information Act request;

(6) Relating to a request for supplemental information necessary for an understanding of factual materials contained in documents filed in a proceeding under these rules and which is made after coordination with Counsel for Bonneville;

(7) Relating to a topic that is only secondarily the object of a proceeding, for which Bonneville is statutorily responsible under provisions other than Northwest Power Act Section 7, or which is eventually decided other than through a Section 7(i) proceeding; or

(8) Between the Hearing Officer and Hearing Clerk or other staff supporting the Hearing Officer.

(c) *Application.* The prohibitions contained in this Section 1010.5 apply from the day on which Bonneville publishes the **Federal Register** Notice and continue until the day the Administrator issues the Final Record of Decision in the proceeding.

(d) *Notice of meetings.* Bonneville will give reasonable notice to all Parties of any meeting that it intends to hold with any customer group or member of the public when it reasonably appears that matters relevant to any issue in the pending proceeding will be discussed.

(e) *Written communications.* Any written *Ex Parte* Communication received by the Administrator, other Bonneville executives, any Bonneville staff member, the Hearing Officer, or the Hearing Clerk will be promptly delivered to Counsel for Bonneville. The document will be posted for public review in a section of Bonneville's website for *ex parte* materials. The *Ex Parte* Communication will not become part of the Record.

(f) *Oral communications.* If the Administrator, other Bonneville executives, any Bonneville staff member, the Hearing Officer, or the Hearing Clerk receives an oral offer of any *Ex Parte* Communication, they shall decline to listen to such communication and explain that such communication is prohibited by this Section 1010.5. If unsuccessful in preventing such communication, the recipient thereof shall advise the communicator that he or she will not consider the communication. The recipient shall promptly prepare a statement setting forth the substance of the communication and the circumstances thereof and deliver the statement to Counsel for Bonneville. The statement will be posted for public review on the

*ex parte* website identified in paragraph (e) of this section.

(g) *Notice and opportunity for rebuttal.* Bonneville will notify Parties when any *Ex Parte* Communication has been posted on the *ex parte* website identified in paragraph (e) of this section. A motion seeking the opportunity to rebut any facts or contentions in an *Ex Parte* Communication must be filed within five Business Days of Bonneville's notification that the communication has been posted on the *ex parte* website. The Hearing Officer will grant such a motion if he or she finds that providing the opportunity to rebut the *Ex Parte* Communication is necessary to prevent substantial prejudice to a Litigant.

#### Section 1010.6 Intervention

(a) *Filing.* A Person seeking to become a Party in a proceeding under these rules must request access to the Secure website pursuant to the procedures set forth in the **Federal Register** Notice initiating the proceeding. After being granted access, such Person shall file a petition to intervene through the Secure website.

(b) *Contents.* A petition to intervene must state the name, address, and email address of the Person and the Person's interests in the outcome of the proceeding. Petitioners may designate no more than eight individuals on whom service will be made. If the petitioner requires additional individuals to be added to the service list, it may request such relief from the Hearing Officer. Entities that directly purchase power or transmission services under Bonneville's rate schedules, or trade organizations representing those entities, will be granted intervention, based on a petition filed in conformity with this Section 1010.6. Other petitioners must explain their interests in sufficient detail to permit the Hearing Officer to determine whether they have a relevant interest in the proceeding.

(c) *Time.*

(1) Petitions must be filed by the deadline specified in the **Federal Register** Notice, unless Bonneville provides a subsequent opportunity to intervene pursuant to Section 1010.4(b)(8)(iv).

(2) Late interventions are strongly disfavored. Granting an untimely petition to intervene must not be a basis for delaying or deferring any procedural schedule. A late intervenor must accept the Record developed prior to its intervention. In acting on an untimely petition, the Hearing Officer shall consider whether:

(i) The petitioner has a good reason for filing out of time;

(ii) Any disruption of the proceeding might result from granting a late intervention;

(iii) The petitioner's interest is adequately represented by existing Parties; and

(iv) Any prejudice to, or extra burdens on, existing Parties might result from permitting the intervention.

(d) *Opposition.* Any opposition to a timely petition to intervene must be filed within two Business Days after the deadline for filing petitions to intervene. Any opposition to a late-filed petition to intervene must be filed within two Business Days after service of the petition.

#### Section 1010.7 Joint Parties

(a) Parties with common interests or positions in a pending proceeding are encouraged to form a Joint Party for purposes of filing pleadings, Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits, and briefs and for conducting cross-examination. Such grouping will be without derogation to the right of any Party to represent a separate point of view where its position differs from that of the Joint Party in which it is participating.

(b) To form a Joint Party, one member of the proposed Joint Party must email a list of proposed Joint Party members to the Hearing Clerk and to Counsel for each proposed member and represent that all of the named members are in concurrence with the formation of the Joint Party. The Hearing Clerk will form the Joint Party, assign a Joint Party code, and email notice to all Litigants, stating the Joint Party code and listing the Joint Party members.

#### Section 1010.8 Participants

(a) Any Participant may submit written comments for the Record or present oral comments in legislative-style hearings, if any, for the purpose of receiving such comments. The **Federal Register** Notice will set forth the procedures and deadline for Participant comments. In the event new issues arise after such deadline due to unforeseen circumstances, the Hearing Officer may extend the deadline for Participant comments. Participant comments will be made available on Bonneville's website.

(b) The Hearing Officer may allow reasonable questioning of a Participant by Counsel for any Litigant if the Participant presents oral comments at a legislative-style hearing.

(c) Participants do not have the rights of Parties. The procedures in Sections 1010.6, 1010.7, and 1010.9 through 1010.19 are not available to Participants.

(d) Parties may not submit Participant comments. Employees of organizations

that have intervened may submit Participant comments as private individuals (that is, not speaking for their organizations) but may not use the comment procedures to further promote specific issues raised by their intervenor organizations.

#### Section 1010.9 Prehearing Conference

A prehearing conference will be held on the date specified in the **Federal Register** Notice. During the conference, the Hearing Officer shall establish (1) a procedural schedule, and (2) any special rules of practice in accordance with Section 1010.3(c).

#### Section 1010.10 Filing and Service

(a) Unless otherwise specified, a Litigant shall make any filing provided for by these rules with the Hearing Officer through the Secure website. Such filing will constitute service on all Litigants. If the Secure website is unavailable for filing, a Litigant shall serve the document to be filed on the Hearing Officer, Hearing Clerk, and all Litigants through email and thereafter file the document on the Secure website as soon as practicable when the Secure website becomes available.

(b) In addition to Parties whose petitions to intervene are granted by the Hearing Officer, the Administrator may designate additional Persons upon whom service will be made.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, service will not be made upon Participants.

(d) Submission of Data Requests and responses to such requests is governed by Section 1010.12(b), except that paragraph (e) of this section governs the timing of such requests and responses.

(e) All filings provided for by these rules must be made, and Data Requests and responses must be submitted, on Business Days no later than 4:30 p.m., Pacific Time, in accordance with the procedural schedule adopted by the Hearing Officer. Filings made outside of these times are deemed to have been filed on the next Business Day and, if such day is after an applicable deadline, may be rejected by the Hearing Officer.

#### Section 1010.11 Pleadings

(a) *Types of pleadings.* Pleadings include petitions to intervene, motions, answers, and replies to answers. Pleadings do not include Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits, Cross-examination Exhibits, Data Requests and responses, or briefs.

(b) *Content.* Pleadings must include the docket number and title of the proceeding, the name of the Litigant filing the pleading, the specific relief sought, any relevant facts and law, and

an electronic signature (typed as “/s/ Name”) of the Litigant’s representative. Pleadings must follow the document numbering system established by the Hearing Officer and display the document number in the footer of the pleading.

(c) *Format.* Pleadings must be filed as text-recognized PDFs converted directly from a word processing software and conform to the following format: (1) Page size must be 8½ by 11 inches; in portrait orientation; (2) margins must be at least 1 inch on all sides; (3) text must be double-spaced, with the exception of headings, block quotes, and footnotes; and (4) font size must be comparable to 12 points Times New Roman (10 points Times New Roman for footnotes) or larger. Parties are encouraged to conform legal citations to the most current edition of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, published by The Harvard Law Review Association.

(d) *Answers to pleadings.* Unless otherwise determined by the Hearing Officer, answers to pleadings must be filed within four Business Days of service of the pleading.

(e) *Replies to answers.* Unless otherwise determined by the Hearing Officer, replies to answers are not allowed.

(f) *Interlocutory appeal.* Interlocutory appeal to the Administrator of an order issued by the Hearing Officer is discouraged. Such an appeal will only be permitted upon a motion filed within five Business Days of the order being appealed and an order by the Hearing Officer certifying the ruling to the Administrator. The Hearing Officer shall certify the ruling to the Administrator upon finding that:

(1) The order terminates a Party’s participation in the proceeding and the Party’s inability to participate thereafter could cause it substantial and irreparable harm;

(2) Review is necessary to prevent substantial prejudice to a Litigant; or

(3) Review could save the Administrator, Bonneville, and the Parties substantial effort or expense, or some other factor is present that outweighs the costs in time and delay of exercising review.

The Administrator may accept or reject the Hearing Officer’s certification of a ruling at his or her discretion. An answer to a motion for interlocutory appeal must be filed in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.

#### *Section 1010.12 Clarification Sessions and Data Requests*

(a) *Clarification sessions.*

(1) The Hearing Officer may schedule one or more informal clarification sessions for the purpose of allowing Litigants to question witnesses about the contents of their Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits and the derivation of their recommendations and conclusions. The Hearing Officer will not attend the clarification sessions. Clarification sessions will not be used to conduct cross-examination, and discussions in clarification sessions will not be transcribed or become part of the Record. Litigants may participate in clarification sessions by phone or other technology made available by Bonneville.

(2) If a Litigant does not make any witness available for a clarification session, the witness’s Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits may be subject to a motion to strike.

(b) *Data Requests and responses.* All Data Requests and responses to Data Requests must be submitted according to the rules in this Section 1010.12(b) and Section 1010.10(e). For purposes of this Section 1010.12(b), “Requesting Litigant” means the Litigant that submitted the Data Request at issue, and “Responding Litigant” means the Litigant that received the Data Request.

(1) *Scope in general.* Except as otherwise provided in this Section 1010.12(b), a Data Request may seek information or an admission relevant to any issue in the proceeding; *provided, however,* such requests must be proportional to the needs of the proceeding considering the importance of the issues at stake, the amount in controversy, the Litigants’ relative access to relevant information, the Litigants’ resources, the extent of the Responding Litigant’s testimony on the subject and participation in the proceeding, the importance of the information sought to develop Evidence on the issue, and whether the burden or expense of responding to the request outweighs the likely benefit if the response were admitted into Evidence.

(i) Each Litigant shall be reasonable in the number and breadth of its Data Requests in consideration of the factors listed in paragraph (b)(1) of this section. A Litigant that believes it has received one or more unreasonable Data Request(s) from another Litigant may object to the request(s) on that basis. Any dispute over such an objection will be resolved in accordance with the procedures in paragraph (e) of this section.

(ii) A Litigant shall not be required to perform any new study or analysis, but a Litigant may, in its sole discretion and without waiving any objection to any

Data Request, agree to perform such study or analysis.

(iii) A Litigant shall not be required to produce publicly available information.

(iv) A Litigant shall not be required to produce information that is unduly burdensome to provide or produce the same information multiple times in response to cumulative or duplicative Data Requests.

(v) A Litigant shall not be required to produce any information that is protected from disclosure by the attorney-client privilege or attorney work product doctrine.

(vi) Bonneville shall not be required to produce documents that, in the opinion of Counsel for Bonneville, may be exempt from production under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, or the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. 1905.

(2) *Submitting Data Requests.* All Data Requests must be submitted through the Secure website.

(i) A Data Request must identify the Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits (page and line numbers) or other material addressed in the request.

(ii) A Litigant shall not submit a Data Request seeking the response to another Data Request.

(iii) During the period established in the procedural schedule for submitting Data Requests immediately following the filing of Bonneville’s Initial Proposal, Parties may submit Data Requests only to Bonneville.

(iv) A multi-part Data Request must include a reasonably limited number of subparts, and all subparts must address only one section or other discrete portion of a Litigant’s Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits. Each subpart of a multi-part Data Request will be considered a separate Data Request for purposes of this Section 1010.12(b).

(3) *Responding to Data Requests.* All Responses to Data Requests, except responses containing Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII, must be submitted through the Secure website.

(i) Except as otherwise provided by the Hearing Officer, a Litigant must provide a response to each Data Request no later than five Business Days after the day that the Data Request is submitted through the Secure website. The Hearing Officer may specify exceptions to this rule and establish alternative deadlines, for example, for periods spanning holidays.

(ii) An objection to a data request will be considered a response for purposes of this Section 1010.12(b). In any response that includes one or more objections, the Litigant must state the grounds for the objection(s) and why any



information or admission is being withheld.

(iii) As soon as a Responding Litigant estimates that it will not be able to respond to one or more Data Requests by the due dates because of the volume of or other burden caused by the request(s), the Responding Litigant shall contact the Requesting Litigant and confer about a possible delay in the due date. If the Litigants have not resolved the matter by the due date, the Responding Litigant shall file an objection on the due date and supplement the objection with a response in good faith as soon as possible thereafter. Any dispute over such an objection will be resolved in accordance with the procedures in paragraph (e) of this section.

(c) Information that is attorney-client privileged or attorney work product. If a Responding Litigant withholds information from a response to a Data Request on the basis of attorney-client privilege or the attorney work product doctrine, it must object and so state in its response. Upon written request by Counsel for the Requesting Litigant, the Responding Litigant must submit a supplemental response to the Data Request that includes a declaration made by Counsel for such Litigant in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 1746 stating that the information withheld is protected from disclosure by attorney-client privilege or the attorney work product doctrine, and identifying, without revealing information that itself is privileged or protected, the information withheld. The Hearing Officer may not order in camera review or release of information that a Litigant has withheld from a response to a Data Request on the basis of attorney-client privilege or the attorney work product doctrine.

(d) Commercially Sensitive Information and CEII.

(1) When a Responding Litigant has determined that responding to a Data Request will require it to produce Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII that is otherwise discoverable, the Litigant shall notify and confer with the Requesting Litigant to attempt to agree to the terms of a proposed protective order, including a non-disclosure certificate, to govern exchange and use of the Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII. If the conferring Litigants agree to the terms of a proposed protective order, they must file the proposed order with the Hearing Officer along with a motion seeking adoption of the order. If the conferring Litigants are unable to agree to the terms of a protective order within three Business Days of starting to confer, each

Litigant shall file a proposed protective order, and the Hearing Officer shall enter an order adopting a protective order to govern the exchange and use of Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII. Such protective order may be, but is not required to be, based upon the proposed protective orders filed by the Litigants and must be consistent with the requirements in paragraph (d)(2) of this section. Once the Hearing Officer has adopted a protective order, and the Requesting Litigant has filed its signed non-disclosure certificate(s), the Responding Litigant must provide the Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII to the Requesting Litigant within three Business Days.

(2) Any protective order proposed by a Litigant or adopted by the Hearing Officer must be consistent with the following requirements but is not limited to these requirements:

(i) Prior to receiving any Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII, a Litigant that wants access to such information must file on the Secure website signed non-disclosure certificate(s) for any individual that the Litigant intends to have access to such information.

(ii) Any documents or other materials that include Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII, including any copies or notes of such documents, must be plainly marked on each page with the following text: "Commercially Sensitive Information [or CEII]—Subject to Protective Order No. \_\_\_\_." Any electronic files must include the same text in the file name. The requirements of this paragraph do not preclude any additional marking required by law.

(iii) Responses to Data Requests that contain Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII must not be submitted via the Secure website. The protective order must prescribe a secure manner for providing such a response to any Litigant that files a signed non-disclosure certificate(s).

(iv) Any Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits, Cross-examination Exhibits, briefs, or other documents that include Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII must not be filed via the Secure website. The protective order must prescribe a secure manner for making such a filing directly with the Hearing Officer such as via encrypted email or on physical media (CD, USB stick, etc.) and for simultaneously serving the document on all Litigants that have filed signed non-disclosure certificates. Any Litigant that makes a filing with Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII must simultaneously file a redacted or public version of the document via the Secure website.

(v) The protective order must authorize Bonneville to file or otherwise submit any Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII from a proceeding under these rules with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or any other administrative or judicial body in accordance with any applicable requirements of that body.

(vi) The protective order must authorize Bonneville to retain any Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII from a proceeding under these rules until the decision in the proceeding is no longer subject to judicial review.

(vii) The protective order must include provisions that govern the return or destruction of Commercially Sensitive Information and CEII.

(viii) A protective order may include a "Highly Confidential" designation for Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII that is of such a sensitive nature that the producing Litigant is able to justify a heightened level of protection. The Hearing Officer shall determine the appropriate level or means of protection for such information, including the possible withholding of such information altogether.

(3) Notwithstanding the requirement in paragraph (d)(2)(iv) of this section that a protective order must provide a secure manner of filing documents that include Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII, Litigants are discouraged from making filings with such information because of the administrative burden that would result from the inclusion of such information in the Record. A Litigant should not file a document with such information unless it believes in good faith that its ability to present its argument would be significantly hindered by the absence of the information from the Record. Instead, Litigants are encouraged to summarize, describe, or aggregate Commercially Sensitive Information or CEII in filings in a manner that does not result in the inclusion of the information itself or otherwise effectively disclose the information.

(4) The rules governing CEII in this Section 1010.12(b) do not preclude the application of any federal regulations regarding CEII that apply to Bonneville and are adopted after the effective date of these rules.

(e) *Disputes regarding responses to Data Requests.* Litigants are strongly encouraged to informally resolve disputes regarding Data Requests and responses.

(1) *Duty to Confer.* Before filing a motion to compel a response to a Data Request, the Requesting Litigant must confer with the Responding Litigant to



attempt to informally resolve any dispute. Each Litigant must confer in good faith to attempt to informally resolve the dispute.

(2) *Motion to Compel*. If a dispute is not resolved informally, the Requesting Litigant may file a motion to compel no more than four Business Days after the earlier of the date a response to the Data Request is provided or the due date for the response. A motion to compel must demonstrate that the Data Request(s) at issue are within the scope described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, and the Requesting Litigant must certify in the motion that it attempted to informally resolve the dispute in accordance with paragraph (e)(1) of this section.

(3) *Answer to motion to compel*. Any answer to a motion to compel must be filed in accordance with Section 1010.11(d).

(4) *Resolution of dispute by the Hearing Officer*. The Hearing Officer may hold a telephone conference to discuss and attempt to resolve a dispute regarding a response to a Data Request. In ruling on any motion to compel, the Hearing Officer shall consider, among other things, the factors listed in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, whether the Responding Litigant filed testimony related to the Data Request(s) before it received the Data Request(s), and the potential impact of the decision on completing the proceeding according to the procedural schedule.

(f) *Sanctions*. The Hearing Officer may remedy any refusal to comply with an order compelling a response to a Data Request or a violation of a protective order by:

(1) Striking the Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits to which the Data Request relates;

(2) Limiting Data Requests or cross-examination by the Litigant refusing to comply with the order; or

(3) Recommending to the Administrator that an appropriate adverse inference be drawn against the Litigant refusing to comply with the order.

(g) *Moving responses to Data Requests into Evidence*. A response to a Data Request must be admitted into Evidence to be considered part of the Record. A Litigant that intends to introduce a response to a Data Request into Evidence must either: (1) Attach the full text of each such response as an exhibit in the Litigant's Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits; or (2) submit a motion to that effect, by the deadline(s) established by the Hearing Officer.

### Section 1010.13 Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits

(a) *General rule*.

(1) All Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits must identify the witness(es) sponsoring the testimony and exhibits. Each Litigant that submits Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits must separately file a qualification statement for each witness sponsoring the testimony and exhibits. The qualification statement must describe the witness's education and professional experience as it relates to the subject matter of the Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits.

(2) Except as otherwise allowed by the Hearing Officer, all prefiled testimony must be in written form and conform to the format of pleadings in Section 1010.11(c). Each section of prefiled testimony must include a heading setting forth its subject matter. Prefiled testimony must include line numbers in the left-hand margin of each page.

(3) If prefiled testimony is based on the witness's understanding of the law, the witness shall so state in the testimony and, in order to provide context for the testimony, describe the witness's understanding of the law as it applies to the witness's position. In all other cases, legal arguments and opinions must not be included in Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits.

(4) A witness qualified as an expert may testify in the form of an opinion. Any conclusions by the witness should, if applicable, be supported by data and explanation.

(5) Litigants shall be provided an adequate opportunity to offer refutation or rebuttal of any material submitted by any other Party or by Bonneville. Any rebuttal to Bonneville's direct case must be included in a Party's direct testimony, along with any affirmative case that Party wishes to present. Any subsequent rebuttal testimony must be limited to rebuttal of the Parties' direct cases. New affirmative material may be submitted in rebuttal testimony only if in reply to another Party's direct case. No other new affirmative material may be introduced in rebuttal testimony. Rebuttal testimony must refer to the specific material being addressed (pages, lines, topic).

(6) For documents or materials of excessive length that a Litigant wants to include in its Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits, the Litigant should create and include an excerpt of the document or materials that excludes irrelevant or redundant material.

(b) *Items by reference*. Any materials that are incorporated by reference or referred to via electronic link in Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits will not be considered part of the testimony and exhibits for purposes of introducing the materials into Evidence. Only materials included as an exhibit to Prefiled

Testimony and Exhibits will be considered part of the testimony and exhibits for purposes of introducing the materials into Evidence.

(c) *Moving Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits into Evidence*. Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits must be admitted into Evidence to be considered part of the Record. If a Litigant's witness(es) sponsoring Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits are cross-examined, the Litigant shall move the witnesses' Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits into Evidence at the conclusion of the cross-examination. If there is no cross-examination of a Litigant's witness(es), a Litigant that intends to introduce the witness(es)'s Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits into Evidence shall, by any deadline established by the Hearing Officer, file a declaration of the witness(es) made in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 1746 that lists the Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits and certifies that the material is the same material previously filed in the proceeding and is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief. Upon filing of the declaration, the witnesses' Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits will be admitted into Evidence.

(d) *Motions to strike*. Motions to strike Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits must be filed by the deadlines established in the procedural schedule. An answer to a motion to strike must be filed in accordance with Section 1010.11(d). If the Hearing Officer grants a motion to strike, the Litigant sponsoring the stricken material shall file conformed copies with strikethrough deletions of such material within five Business Days of the Hearing Officer's order. Conformed copies must be filed with the same document number as the original exhibit, but with the designation "--CC" at the end (e.g., BP-20-E-BPA-16-CC). Material struck by the Hearing Officer shall not be admitted into Evidence but will be considered part of the Record for purposes of reference regarding whether the motion should have been granted.

### Section 1010.14 Cross-Examination

(a) Except as otherwise provided by the Hearing Officer, witnesses generally shall be cross-examined as a panel for Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits that they co-sponsor, provided that each panel member (1) has submitted a qualification statement, and (2) is under oath.

(b) At the time specified in the procedural schedule, a Litigant intending to cross-examine a witness shall file a cross-examination statement. The statement shall:

(1) Identify the witnesses the Litigant intends to cross-examine and the Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits sponsored by the witnesses that will be the subject of the cross-examination;

(2) Briefly describe the subject matter and portions of the Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits for cross-examination;

(3) Specify the amount of time requested for cross-examination of each witness; and

(4) Provide any other information required in an order issued by the Hearing Officer.

(c) A Litigant waives cross-examination for any witnesses not listed in its cross-examination statement, except that any Litigant may ask follow-up questions of witnesses appearing at the request of another Litigant.

(d) After the Litigants file cross-examination statements, the Hearing Officer shall issue a schedule setting forth the order of witnesses to be cross-examined.

(e) Cross-examination is limited to issues relevant to the Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits that (1) are identified in the Litigant's cross-examination statement, or (2) arise in the course of the cross-examination.

(f) Witnesses are not required to perform calculations on the stand or answer questions about calculations that they did not perform. Witnesses appearing as a panel shall determine in good faith which witness will respond to a cross-examination question.

(g) A Litigant may only cross-examine witnesses whose position is adverse to the Litigant seeking to cross-examine. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, a Litigant whose position is not adverse to the witnesses subject to cross-examination may, immediately following any redirect testimony by those witnesses, seek leave from the Hearing Officer to ask limited follow-up questions of the witnesses. Any such follow-up questions allowed by the Hearing Officer must be limited to the scope of the cross-examination of the witnesses.

(h) Only a Litigant's Counsel may conduct cross-examination. Only Counsel for the witnesses being cross-examined may object to questions asked during cross-examination, except that Counsel for any Litigant may object to friendly cross-examination.

(i) To avoid duplicative cross-examination, the Hearing Officer may impose reasonable limitations if the Litigants conducting cross-examination have substantially similar positions.

(j) The Hearing Officer may impose reasonable time limitations on the cross-examination of any witness.

(k) *Cross-examination Exhibits.*

(1) A Litigant must file each Cross-examination Exhibit to be presented to a witness for any purpose two Business Days before the witness is scheduled to appear. For example, for a witness appearing on a Monday, the due date for documents is the preceding Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

(2) A Litigant must provide physical copies of each Cross-examination Exhibit to the Hearing Officer, the Hearing Clerk, each panel witness, witness's Counsel, and the court reporter at the beginning of cross-examination on the day the witness is scheduled to appear.

(3) A Cross-examination Exhibit must be limited to material the Litigant intends to introduce into Evidence.

(4) If a document is introduced into Evidence during cross-examination, and only part of the document is admitted into Evidence, the document must be conformed by the Litigant to include only that part of the document admitted into Evidence. The conformed document must be filed through the Secure website.

(l) All other matters relating to conduct of cross-examination are left to the Hearing Officer's discretion.

#### *Section 1010.15 Stipulations*

The Hearing Officer may admit into Evidence stipulations on any issue of fact.

#### *Section 1010.16 Official Notice*

The Administrator or the Hearing Officer may take official notice of any matter that may be judicially noticed by federal courts or any matter about which Bonneville is an expert. A Litigant requesting official notice shall provide a precise citation for the material for which official notice is requested and file the material on the Secure Website at the time the request is granted or as soon as practicable thereafter. The Hearing Officer may afford any Litigant making a timely request an opportunity to show the contrary of an officially noticed fact.

#### *Section 1010.17 Briefs*

(a) *General rule.* Briefs must be filed at times specified in the procedural schedule. All evidentiary arguments in briefs must be based on cited material admitted into Evidence. Material not admitted into Evidence must not be attached to or relied upon in any brief, except to address disputes regarding the admissibility of specific material into Evidence. Incorporation by reference is not permitted. The Hearing Officer may impose page limitations on any brief. All briefs must comply with the format requirements in Section 1010.11(c) and

the template provided in Attachment A, as may be amended.

(b) *Initial brief.* At the conclusion of the evidentiary portion of a proceeding, each Party may file an initial brief. The purpose of an initial brief is to identify separately each legal, factual, and policy issue to be resolved by the Administrator and present all arguments in support of a Party's position on each of these issues. The initial brief should also rebut contentions made by adverse witnesses in their Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits. The initial brief must contain a final revised exhibit list reflecting the status of all of the Party's Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits, Cross-examination Exhibits, and any other exhibits, including those admitted, withdrawn, conformed, and rejected.

(c) *Brief on exceptions.* After issuance of Bonneville's Draft Record of Decision, each Party may file a brief on exceptions. The purposes of the brief on exceptions are to (1) raise any alleged legal, policy, or evidentiary errors in the Draft Record of Decision; or (2) provide additional support for draft decisions contained in the Draft Record of Decision. All arguments raised by a Party in its initial brief will be deemed to have been raised in the Party's brief on exceptions, regardless of whether such arguments are included in the brief on exceptions.

(d) Additional briefing rule for proceedings pursuant to Section 1010.1(a)(2). In a proceeding pursuant to Section 1010.1(a)(2), Bonneville is considered a Party for purposes of filing briefs in accordance with this Section 1010.17, except that Section 1010.17(f) does not apply to Bonneville. In addition, in such a proceeding, the Hearing Officer or the Administrator may provide Litigants with additional briefing opportunities not otherwise set forth in these rules. Such additional briefing opportunities may include briefs on exceptions in addition to those set forth in Section 1010.17(c), above.

(e) *Optional brief and memorandum of law.* The Hearing Officer may allow the filing of a brief and memorandum of law not expressly provided for by this section.

(f) *Waiver of issues or arguments.* A Party whose briefs do not raise and fully develop the Party's position on any issue shall be deemed to take no position on such issue. Arguments or alleged errors not raised in initial briefs in accordance with Section 1010.17(b), briefs on exceptions in accordance with Section 1010.17(c), or briefs permitted by Section 1010.17(d) are deemed to be waived.

**Section 1010.18 Oral Argument**

(a) An opportunity for each Litigant to present oral argument will be provided in proceedings conducted under these rules.

(b) At the time specified in the procedural schedule, each Litigant that intends to present oral argument shall file a notice of intent to present oral argument. The notice must identify the speaker(s), a brief description of the subject matter to be addressed, and the amount of time requested.

(c) After Litigants file notices of intent to present oral argument, the Hearing Officer shall issue an order setting forth the schedule of oral argument.

**Section 1010.19 Telephone Conferences**

Telephone conferences may be permitted in appropriate circumstances, provided that: (1) There is a proposed agenda for the conference concerning the points to be considered and the relief, if any, to be requested during the conference; and (2) Litigants are provided notice and given an opportunity to be represented on the line. If the Hearing Officer schedules a telephone conference, the Hearing Officer may require that a court reporter be present on the line.

**Section 1010.20 Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision**

In a proceeding pursuant to Section 1010.1(a)(2), the Hearing Officer shall, unless he or she becomes unavailable, issue the Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision stating the Hearing Officer's findings and conclusions, and the reasons or basis thereof, on all material issues of fact, law, or discretion.

**Section 1010.21 Final Record of Decision**

(a) The Administrator will make a decision adopting final proposed rates for submission to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for confirmation and approval based on the Record.

(b) In a proceeding pursuant to Section 1010.1(a)(2), the Administrator will make a determination in a Final Record of Decision on any terms and conditions of transmission service, or revisions thereto, at issue in the proceeding.

(c) Any Final Record of Decision will be uploaded to the Secure Website and made available to Participants through Bonneville's external website.

**Section 1010.22 Expedited Proceedings**

(a) *General rule.* The Administrator will determine, in his or her discretion, whether to conduct an expedited proceeding. The Final Record of Decision in a proceeding conducted under this section will be issued on an expedited basis in 90–120 days from the date of the **Federal Register** Notice. The Hearing Officer may establish procedures or special rules as set forth in Section 1010.3(c) necessary for the expedited schedule.

(b) *Extensions.* The Hearing Officer may extend the schedule in response to a written motion by a Litigant showing good cause for the extension.

**Attachment A—Brief Template**

**I. CATEGORY [all issues pertaining to a particular category, for example: POWER RATES, TRANSMISSION RATES, TRANSMISSION TERMS AND CONDITIONS, JOINT ISSUES, PROCEDURAL ISSUES]**

*A. General Topic Area [for example: Secondary Sales]*

*Issue 1: The specific issue to be addressed [for example: Whether Bonneville's forecast of energy prices should be revised upward].*

**Summary of Party's Position**

A brief statement summarizing the party's position.

[For example: Bonneville staff's forecast of energy prices for secondary sales is too conservative. The record demonstrates that the trend in market prices is upward. The Administrator should revise the forecast for the price of secondary energy upward consistent with Party X's proposal.]

**Party's Position and Argument**

Statements of argument, including citations to the record.

**Requested Action or Decision**

A brief description of the requested action or decision the party wants the Administrator to make.

[For example: The projection of energy prices for Bonneville's secondary sales should be revised consistent with Party's X's proposal.]

*Issue 2: The specific issue to be addressed [for example: Whether Bonneville's surplus power sales forecast is reasonable.]*

**Summary of Party's Position**

[For example: Bonneville's surplus power sales forecast is flawed because it does not account for extraregional power sales.]

**Party's Position and Argument**

Statements of argument, including citations to the record.

**Requested Action or Decision**

[For example: Bonneville's surplus power sales forecast should be increased to reflect extraregional power sales.]

**POST-HEARING LIST OF EXHIBITS**

Filing code	Title	Date filed	Status
XX-XX-E-XX-01 .....	Direct Testimony .....	mm/dd/yyyy .....	Admitted.
XX-XX-E-XX-02 .....	Rebuttal Testimony .....	mm/dd/yyyy .....	Rejected.

Issued this 23rd day of April 2018.

**Elliot E. Mainzer,**

*Administrator and Chief Executive Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2018–09085 Filed 5–1–18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Combined Notice of Filings #1

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric corporate filings:

*Docket Numbers:* EC18–89–000.

*Applicants:* CSOLAR IV South, LLC, CSOLAR IV WEST, LLC, CD Global Solar II CSolar Holdings, LLC.

*Description:* Joint Application for Approval Under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act and Request for Expedited Approval of CSOLAR IV South, LLC, et al.

*Filed Date:* 4/26/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180426–5174.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/17/18.

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

*Docket Numbers:* ER12–1266–009.

*Applicants:* Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.  
*Description:* Clean-up filing regarding Order 745 to be effective 6/12/2012.

*Filed Date:* 4/26/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180426–5073.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/17/18.

*Docket Numbers:* ER18–926–001.

*Applicants:* Southern California Edison Company.

*Description:* Tariff Amendment: Amended GIA Stanton Energy Reliability Center Project SA No. 999 to be effective 2/8/2018.

*Filed Date:* 4/26/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180426–5002.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/17/18.

*Docket Numbers:* ER18–1294–001.

*Applicants:* Woomera Energy, LLC.  
*Description:* Compliance filing: Woomera Market Based Rate Tariff to be effective 12/31/9998.

*Filed Date:* 4/26/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180426–5120.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/17/18.

*Docket Numbers:* ER18–1441–000.

*Applicants:* Southern California Edison Company.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: GIA and Distribution Service Agmt SCEBESS–017 Project to be effective 4/26/2018.

*Filed Date:* 4/25/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180425–5204.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/16/18.

*Docket Numbers:* ER18–1442–000.

*Applicants:* Citizens Sycamore-Penasquitos Transmission LLC.

*Description:* Baseline eTariff Filing: Initial Transmission Owner Tariff Filing to be effective 12/31/9998.

*Filed Date:* 4/25/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180425–5211.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/16/18.

*Docket Numbers:* ER18–1443–000.

*Applicants:* Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: 2018–04–25 SA 1756 METC-Consumers Energy 11th Rev GIA (G479B) to be effective 5/1/2018.

*Filed Date:* 4/25/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180425–5220.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/16/18.

*Docket Numbers:* ER18–1444–000.

*Applicants:* PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: Amendment to WMPA SA No. 4648; Queue No. AB2–057 (Consent to Assign) to be effective 3/2/2017.

*Filed Date:* 4/26/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180426–5074.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/17/18.

*Docket Numbers:* ER18–1445–000.

*Applicants:* Idaho Power Company.  
*Description:* Compliance filing: LGIA, LGIP, SGIA, and SGIP Modifications to be effective 6/25/2018.

*Filed Date:* 4/26/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180426–5102.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/17/18.

*Docket Numbers:* ER18–1446–000.

*Applicants:* Avista Corporation.  
*Description:* Tariff Cancellation: Avista Corp NITSA cancel to re-file to be effective 4/27/2018.

*Filed Date:* 4/26/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180426–5149.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/17/18.

*Docket Numbers:* ER18–1447–000.

*Applicants:* Avista Corporation.  
*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: Avista Corp NITSA Re-filing to be effective 4/27/2018.

*Filed Date:* 4/26/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180426–5160.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/17/18.

*Docket Numbers:* ER18–1448–000.

*Applicants:* PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

*Description:* Compliance filing: Notice of Cancellation of ISA, Service Agreement No. 2381, NQ30 re: Deactivation to be effective N/A.

*Filed Date:* 4/26/18.

*Accession Number:* 20180426–5192.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/17/18.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by

clicking on the links or querying the docket number.

Any person desiring to intervene or protest in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

Dated: April 26, 2018.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2018–09249 Filed 5–1–18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC18–4–000]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC–582); Comment Request; Extension

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC–582 (Electric Fees, Annual Charges, Waivers, and Exemptions) and submitting the information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. The Commission published a 60-day Notice in the **Federal Register** in Docket No. IC18–4–000 requesting public comments. FERC received no comments in response to the Notice and is indicating that in its submittal to the OMB.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due June 1, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments filed with OMB, identified by OMB Control No. 1902–0132, should be sent via email to the