

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2179-043—California; Project No. 2467-020—California]

**Merced Irrigation District, Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Merced River and Merced Falls Hydroelectric Projects**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (18 CFR part 380 [FERC Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897]), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the applications for license for the Merced River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2179), and the Merced Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2467) and prepared a draft multi-project environmental impact statement (EIS) for the projects.

Both projects are located on the Merced River. The Merced River Project is located at river mile (RM) 62.5 and 56.3, respectively, about 23 miles northeast of the city of Merced in Mariposa County, California. The Merced River Project occupies 3,154.9 acres of federal land administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Merced Falls Project is located at RM 55 on the border of Merced and Mariposa Counties, California. The Merced Falls Project occupies 1.0 acre of federal land administered by BLM.

The draft EIS contains staff's analysis of the applicants' proposals and the alternatives for relicensing the Merced River and Merced Falls projects. The draft EIS documents the views of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, affected Indian tribes, the public, the license applicants, and Commission staff.

A copy of the draft EIS is available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "e-Library" link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits, to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects.

For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

All comments must be filed by Friday, May 29, 2015, and should reference Project Nos. 2179-043 and 2467-020. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support. In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this draft EIS (18 CFR 380.10). You must file your request to intervene as specified above. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Commission staff will hold two public meetings for the purpose of receiving comments on the draft EIS. The daytime meeting will focus on resource agency, Indian tribe, and non-governmental organization comments, while the evening meeting is primarily for receiving input from the public. All interested individuals and entities will be invited to attend the public meeting. A notice detailing the exact date, time, and location of the public meetings will be forthcoming.

For further information, please contact Matt Buhyoff at (202) 502-6824 or at [matt.buhyoff@ferc.gov](mailto:matt.buhyoff@ferc.gov).

Dated: March 30, 2015.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP15-61-000]

**Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Staff Protest to Proposed Blanket Certificate Activity**

Commission staff (Protestor) hereby protests the prior notice request filed under the provisions of part 157, subpart F, of the Commission's regulations, by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) on January 20,

2015 in the above referenced docket. Pursuant to its part 157, subpart F, blanket certificate authority, Northern proposes to construct and abandon facilities in Clark and Codington Counties, South Dakota. Protestor seeks to have this prior notice request processed as a case-specific application filed under section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act and part 157, subpart A, of the Commission's regulations.<sup>1</sup>

Protestor notes that on February 27, 2015, Northern filed a data response which described communication with the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation (tribe). The tribe indicated that it would be necessary to conduct a Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) survey to ensure that no TCPs would be affected by construction. Northern has not yet provided the results of the TCP survey. Northern must file with the FERC the results of the TCP survey and/or updated communication with the tribe to ensure the project's compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as required under Appendix II to Subpart F of Part 157 of the Commission's regulations. Without this information, environmental concerns cannot be adequately assessed before the protest period expires today.

Dated: March 31, 2015.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-07795 Filed 4-3-15; 8:45 am]  
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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**Notice of Attendance at PJM Interconnection, LLC Meetings**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) hereby gives notice that members of the Commission and Commission staff may attend upcoming PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) Members Committee and Markets and Reliability Committee meetings, as well as other PJM committee, subcommittee or task force meetings.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Section 157.205(f) provides that a protested prior notice filing shall be treated as though it had filed a case-specific application under NGA section 7, unless, pursuant to section 157.205(g) the protestor withdraws its protest within 30 days after protests were due.

<sup>1</sup> For example, PJM subcommittees and task forces of the standing committees (Operating, Planning and Market Implementation) and senior standing committees (Members and Markets and Reliability) meet on a variety of different topics; they convene and dissolve on an as-needed basis.