

system with high DER penetration where those resources do not participate in the RTO/ISO markets? Would these measures also help manage the safety and reliability of a distribution system where these resources do participate in the RTO/ISO markets? Would additional safety and reliability measures be necessary if DERs participate in the RTO/ISO markets, or would the current safeguards against backflows, islanding, or other concerns adequately ensure safety and reliability? If additional measures are necessary, what are they?

#### Ongoing Operational Coordination (Panel 7)

In the NOPR, the Commission acknowledged that ongoing coordination between the RTO/ISO, a DER aggregator, and the relevant distribution utility or utilities may be necessary to ensure that the DER aggregator is dispatching individual resources in a DER aggregation consistent with the limitations of the distribution system.<sup>9</sup> The Commission proposed that each RTO/ISO revise its tariff to establish a process for ongoing coordination, including operational coordination, among itself, the DER aggregator, and the distribution utility to maximize the availability of the DER aggregation consistent with the safe and reliable operation of the distribution system. To help effectuate this proposal, the Commission also proposed to require each RTO/ISO to revise its tariff to require the DER aggregator to report to the RTO/ISO any changes to its offered quantity and related distribution factors that result from distribution line faults or outages. The Commission also sought comment on the level of detail necessary in the RTO/ISO tariffs to establish a framework for ongoing coordination between the RTO/ISO, a DER aggregator, and the relevant distribution utility or utilities.

Comments are requested on the following topics and questions that were included in previous supplemental notices:

1. What real-time data acquisition and communication technologies are currently in use to provide bulk power system operators with visibility into the distribution system? Are they adequate to convey the information necessary for transmission and distribution operators to assess distribution system conditions

in real time? Are new systems or approaches needed? Does DER aggregation require separate or additional capabilities and infrastructure for communication and control?

2. What processes/protocols do distribution utilities, transmission operators, and DERs or DER aggregators use to coordinate with each other? Are these processes/protocols capable of providing needed real-time communications and coordination? What new processes, resources, and efforts will be required to achieve effective real-time coordination?

3. What are the minimum set of specific RTO/ISO operational protocols, performance standards, and market rules that should be adopted now to ensure operational coordination for DER aggregation participating in the RTO/ISO markets? What additional protocols may be important for the future? Should the Commission adopt more prescriptive requirements with respect to coordination than those proposed in the NOPR? If so, what should the Commission require?

4. Should distribution utilities be able to override RTO/ISO decisions regarding day-ahead and real-time dispatch of DER aggregations to resolve local distribution reliability issues? If so, should DER aggregations nonetheless be subject to non-deliverability penalties under such circumstances?

5. Is it possible for DERs or DER aggregations participating in the RTO/ISO markets to also be used to improve distribution system operations and reliability? If so, please provide examples of how this could be accomplished.

6. Can real-time dispatch of aggregated DERs address distribution constraints? If not, can tools be developed to accomplish this?

7. Should individual DERs be required to have communications capabilities to comply with control center obligations? What level of communications security should be employed for these communications?

8. How might recent and expected technical advancements be used to enhance the coordination of DER aggregations, for example, integrating Energy Management Systems (EMS) and Distribution Management Systems

(DMS) for efficient operational coordination?

[FR Doc. 2018–09455 Filed 5–3–18; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL18–138–000]

#### Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., ALLETE, Inc., Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Northern Indiana Public Service Company, Otter Tail Power Company, Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company; Notice of Institution of Section 206 Proceeding and Refund Effective Date

On April 27, 2018, the Commission issued an order in Docket No. EL18–138–000 pursuant to section 206 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. 824e (2012), instituting an investigation into whether the transmission formula rate templates of ALLETE, Inc., Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Northern Indiana Public Service Company, Otter Tail Power Company, and Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company under Attachment O of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. Open Access Transmission, Energy and Operating Reserve Markets Tariff may be unjust, unreasonable, or unduly discriminatory or preferential. *Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., et al.*, 163 FERC 61, 061 (2018).

The refund effective date in Docket Nos. EL18–138–000, established pursuant to section 206(b) of the FPA, will be the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Any interested person desiring to be heard in Docket Nos. EL18–138–000 must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate, with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.214 (2017), within 21 days of the date of issuance of the order.

Dated: April 27, 2018.

**Kimberly D. Bose**,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018–09452 Filed 5–3–18; 8:45 am]

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<sup>9</sup> NOPR, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 32,718 at P 155.