DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Procedures for Conducting Electric Transmission Congestion Studies

AGENCY: Office of Electricity, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of procedures for studies and request for written comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Power Act (FPA) requires the Department of Energy (Department or DOE) to complete a study, in consultation with affected states, of electric transmission congestion every three years. DOE has issued three previous congestion studies, in August 2006, December 2009, and September 2015. The forthcoming Congestion Study will be of a similar scope.

DOE expects to release its next triennial study in 2019 for a 45-day comment period. After reviewing and considering the comments received, DOE will publish a report concerning whether it will propose any National Corridors on the basis of the study. Interested persons may submit comments in response to this notice in the manner indicated in the ADDRESSES section.

DATES: Comments in response to this notice are due by October 9, 2018. DOE requests that commenters submit such materials as they become available. However, DOE recognizes that some commenters may not be completed. DOE will apply. FPA section 216(a) requires the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study of electric transmission congestion within one year from the date of enactment of EPAct and every three years thereafter. The 2006, 2009, and 2015 Congestion Studies reviewed congestion nationwide except for the portion of Texas covered by the Electricity Reliability Council of Texas, to which FPA section 216 does not apply. FPA section 216(a) requires that the congestion study be conducted in consultation with affected states. Also, in exercising its responsibilities under section 216, DOE is required to consult regularly with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), any appropriate regional entity referred to in section 216, or use courier delivery to expedite response.


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