(*e.g.,* between 50 and 100 basis points)? If so, what is the appropriate range and why?

E. Metrics for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Incentives

48. The Commission has a ''longstanding policy that incentives should only be awarded to induce voluntary conduct.'' [59] Nevertheless, it can sometimes be difficult to identify the extent to which a particular incentive motivates a transmission developer to take a particular action. Order No. 679 adopted an annual reporting requirement, Form FERC–730, which requires transmission incentives recipients to provide limited information.[60] Additional transmission incentive-related data, beyond that available under the Commission's existing reporting standards or through other public sources, could help the Commission to better understand the effectiveness of the incentives program, including the effects of any changes that it adopts through this proceeding. In particular, a standard of comparison among transmission projects, regardless of whether a project receives incentives and/or ultimately goes into service, would allow the Commission to examine whether incentives motivate investment in and development of new transmission projects.

(Q 98) What metrics should the Commission use in measuring the effectiveness of incentives, *e.g.,* if certain milestones are reached or only if a transmission project is built and energized?

(Q 99) Should the obligation to file Form FERC–730 be expanded to all public utility transmission providers?

(Q 100) Should the Commission require that incentive recipients provide additional data through Form FERC–730? If so, what additional information should be provided?

(Q 101) For each transmission project, should the Commission require additional data such as the primary driver of each transmission project (*e.g.,* reliability needs) and the risks entailed in its development (*e.g.,* number of permits required, siting challenges)?

(Q 102) If a transmission project is abandoned, should the Commission require additional data such as the reasons that it failed (*e.g.,* lack of financing, inability to obtain permits, the need for the transmission project did not materialize or was addressed through other means)?

(Q 103) Should the information on annual transmission spending associated with projects that received transmission incentives be broken down by transmission project?

(Q 104) How burdensome would such information requirements be? To ensure that any reporting is not unduly burdensome, should the Commission adopt some type of reporting threshold, such as a voltage, mileage, or dollar threshold, to limit the transmission projects on which it collects information?

(Q 105) Should the Commission upgrade the FERC–730 filing format to XBRL or another format or standard? If so, what filing format would be most beneficial and useful to filers and users of the information?

III. Comment Procedures

49. The Commission invites interested persons to submit comments on the matters and issues proposed in this Notice of Inquiry, including any related matters or alternative proposals that commenters may wish to discuss. Initial Comments are due June 25, 2019, and Reply Comments are due July 25, 2019. Comments must refer to Docket No. PL19–3–000, and must include the commenter's name, the organization they represent, if applicable, and their address in their comments.

50. The Commission encourages comments to be filed electronically via the eFiling link on the Commission's website at *http://www.ferc.gov.* The Commission accepts most standard word processing formats. Documents created electronically using word processing software should be filed in native applications or print-to-PDF format and not in a scanned format. Commenters filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing.

51. Commenters that are not able to file comments electronically must send an original of their comments to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

52. All comments will be placed in the Commission's public files and may be viewed, printed, or downloaded remotely as described in the Document Availability section below. Commenters on this proposal are not required to serve copies of their comments on other commenters.

IV. Document Availability

53. In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (*http://www.ferc.gov*) and in the Commission's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time) at 888 First Street NE, Room 2A, Washington DC 20426.

54. From the Commission's Home Page on the internet, this information is available on eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing, printing, and/or downloading. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field.

55. User assistance is available for eLibrary and the Commission's website during normal business hours from the Commission's Online Support at 202–502–6652 (toll free at 1–866–208–3676) or email at *ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov,* or the Public Reference Room at (202) 502–8371, TTY (202)502–8659. Email the Public Reference Room at *public.referenceroom@ferc.gov.*

By direction of the Commission.

Issued: March 21, 2019.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019–05895 Filed 3–27–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

[59] *Cal. Pub. Util. Comm'n* v. *FERC,* 879 F.3d at 978.

[60] Order No. 679, 116 FERC ¶ 61,057 at P 367. FERC–730 requests information concerning: (1) The transmission developer's actual capital spending on each transmission project for which it has received incentives, as well as its projected capital spending on the projects for the next five years; (2) a high-level description of such projects, including their voltage level; (3) the type of transmission project (*i.e.,* whether it is new build, an upgrade to existing infrastructure, a refurbishment/replacement, or a generator direct connection); (4) each project's completion status (*i.e.,* complete, under construction, pre-engineering, planned, proposed, or conceptual); and (5) each project's estimated completion date, as well as the reason for any delays (*i.e.,* siting, permitting, construction, delayed completion of new generator, or other).

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 14861–001]

FFP Project 101, LLC; Notice of Intent To File License Application, Filing of Pre-Application Document, and Approving Use of the Traditional Licensing Process

a. *Type of Filing:* Notice of Intent to File License Application and Request to Use the Traditional Licensing Process.

b. *Project No.:* 14861–001.

c. *Date Filed:* January 28, 2019.

d. *Submitted By:* Rye Development on behalf of FFP Project 101, LLC.

e. *Name of Project:* Goldendale Pumped Storage Project.

f. *Location:* Off-stream (north side) of the Columbia River at River Mile 215.6

in Klickitat County, Washington and Sherman County, Oregon, approximately 8 miles southeast of the City of Goldendale. The project would occupy 16.1 acres of lands administered by the Bonneville Power Administration.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* 18 CFR 5.3 of the Commission's regulations.

h. *Potential Applicant Contact:* Erik Steimle, Rye Development, 220 NW 8th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97209; (503) 998–0230; email—*erik@ryedevelopment.com.*

i. *FERC Contact:* Michael Tust at (202) 502–6522; or email at *michael.tust@ferc.gov.*

j. FFP Project 101, LLC (FFP) filed its request to use the Traditional Licensing Process on January 28, 2019. FFP provided public notice of its request on January 30, 2019 and January 31, 2019. In a letter dated March 21, 2019, the Director of the Division of Hydropower Licensing approved FFP's request to use the Traditional Licensing Process.

k. With this notice, we are initiating informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or NOAA Fisheries under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 CFR part 402; and NOAA Fisheries under section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.920. We are also initiating consultation with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer, as required by section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the implementing regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at 36 CFR 800.2.

l. With this notice, we are designating FFP as the Commission's non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and consultation pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

m. FFP filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD; including a proposed process plan and schedule) with the Commission, pursuant to 18 CFR 5.6 of the Commission's regulations.

n. A copy of the PAD is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website (*http://www.ferc.gov*), using the ''eLibrary'' link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov,* (866) 208–3676 (toll free), or (202) 502–8659 (TTY). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in paragraph h.

o. Register online at *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp* to be notified via email of new filing and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: March 21, 2019.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019–05903 Filed 3–27–19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PL19–4–000]

Inquiry Regarding the Commission's Policy for Determining Return on Equity

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of inquiry.

SUMMARY: Following the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in *Emera Maine* v. *Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,* the Commission seeks information and stakeholder views to help the Commission explore whether, and if so how, it should modify its policies concerning the determination of the return on equity (ROE) to be used in designing jurisdictional rates charged by public utilities. The Commission also seeks comment on whether any changes to its policies concerning public utility ROEs should be applied to interstate natural gas and oil pipelines.

DATES: Initial Comments are due June 26, 2019, and Reply Comments are due July 26, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Comments, identified by docket number, may be filed in the following ways:

- *Electronic Filing through http://www.ferc.gov.* Documents created electronically using word processing software should be filed in native applications or print-to-PDF format and not in a scanned format.
- *Mail/Hand Delivery:* Those unable to file electronically may mail or hand-deliver comments to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.
- *Instructions:* For detailed instructions on submitting comments, see the Comment Procedures Section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeremy Hessler (Legal Information), Office of the General Counsel, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502–8655, *jeremy.hessler@ferc.gov.*

Adam Pollock (Technical Information), Office of Energy Market Regulation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502–8458, *adam.pollock@ferc.gov.*

Scott Everngam (Technical Information), Office of Energy Market Regulation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502–6614, *scott.everngam@ferc.gov.*

Tony Dobbins (Technical Information), Office of Energy Policy and Innovation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502–6630, *tony.dobbins@ferc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. In this Notice of Inquiry (NOI), the Commission seeks information and stakeholder views regarding whether, and if so how, it should modify its policies concerning the determination of the return on equity (ROE) to be used in designing jurisdictional rates charged by public utilities. The Commission also seeks comment on whether any changes to its policies concerning public utility ROEs should be applied to interstate natural gas and oil pipelines.

2. This NOI follows the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (D.C. Circuit) in *Emera Maine* v. *FERC,*[1] reversing and vacating Opinion No. 531.[2] In that decision, the court held, among other things, that the Commission had failed to justify its decision under section 206 of the Federal Power Act (FPA) [3] to set the ROE of the New England Transmission Owners [4] at the midpoint of the upper half of the zone of reasonableness produced by the two-step Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) analysis. While the court did not expressly question the Commission's

[1] 854 F.3d 9 (DC Cir. 2017) (*Emera Maine*).

[2] *Coakley, Mass. Attorney Gen.* v. *Bangor Hydro-Elec. Co.,* Opinion No. 531, 147 FERC ¶ 61,234, *order on paper hearing,* 149 FERC ¶ 61,032 (2014), *order on reh'g,* 150 FERC ¶ 61,165 (2015).

[3] 16 U.S.C. 824e.

[4] The New England Transmission Owners include Bangor Hydro-Elec. Co.; Cent. Me. Power Co.; New England Power Co. d/b/a Nat'l Grid; N.H. Transmission LLC d/b/a NextEra; NSTAR Elect. & Gas Corp.; Ne. Utilities Serv. Co.; United Illuminating Co.; Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. and Fitchburg Gas & Elec. Light Co.; and Vt. Transco, LLC. Opinion No. 531, 147 FERC ¶ 61,234 at P 1 n.3.