

bi-pole \pm 400-kV operation with a transfer capability of between 800 MW and 1000 MW.

PNM is also considering three possible routes for the cross-border transmission lines. The first alternative corridor is approximately 130 miles in length. It starts at the PVNGS switchyard and continues south, crossing the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range and the western boundary of the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation before terminating in Santa Ana, Mexico. The second alternative corridor is approximately 160 miles long and starts at the PVNGS switchyard. It then proceeds slightly east and south, crossing the middle to eastern area of the Tohono O'odham Reservation and terminating in Santa Ana, Mexico. The third corridor begins at PVNGS and continues southeasterly to an area south of Tucson, Arizona, where it would turn south to Nogales, Arizona, and continue to Santa Ana, Mexico. This corridor is approximately 250 miles long. Although the corridors are approximately 2 miles in width, when constructed, the transmission facilities are expected to utilize a right-of-way of no more than 150 to 200 feet wide.

A final decision on the design technology and routing will be made after the completion of the environmental and technical studies by regulatory agencies in the U.S. and Mexico. It will depend, in part, on the environmental review that DOE will conduct pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Prior to commencing electricity exports to Mexico using these proposed facilities, PNM, or any other electricity exporters, must obtain an electricity export authorization required by section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

Since the restructuring of the electric power industry began, resulting in the introduction of different types of competitive entities into the marketplace, DOE has consistently expressed its policy that cross-border trade in electric energy should be subject to the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to transmission in interstate commerce. DOE has stated that policy in export authorizations granted to entities requesting authority to export over international transmission facilities. Specifically, DOE expects transmitting utilities owning border facilities constructed pursuant to Presidential permits to provide access across the border in accordance with the

principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination contained in the FPA and articulated in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order No. 888, as amended (Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities). In furtherance of this policy, DOE intends to condition any Presidential permit issued in this proceeding on compliance with these open access principles.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS: Any person desiring to become a party to this proceeding or to be heard by filing comments or protests to this application should file a petition to intervene, comment or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each petition and protest should be filed with the DOE on or before the date listed above.

Additional copies of such petitions to intervene or protests also should be filed directly with: Jeffery R. Harris, Public Service Company of New Mexico, 414 Silver Avenue, SW, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

Before a Presidential permit may be issued or amended, the DOE must determine that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. In addition, DOE must consider the environmental impacts of the proposed action (i.e., granting the Presidential permit, with any conditions and limitations, or denying the permit) pursuant to NEPA. DOE also must obtain the concurrence of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense before taking final action on a Presidential permit application.

The NEPA compliance process is a cooperative, non-adversarial process involving members of the public, state governments and the Federal government. The process affords all persons interested in or potentially affected by the environmental consequences of a proposed action an opportunity to present their views, which will be considered in the preparation of the environmental documentation for the proposed action. Intervening and becoming a party to this proceeding will not create any special status for the petitioner with regard to the NEPA process. Notice of upcoming NEPA activities and information on how the public can participate in those activities will appear in the **Federal Register**. Additional announcements will appear in local newspapers in the vicinity of the proposed transmission

line. To apply for the NEPA mailing list now, contact Mrs. Ellen Russell at the address above.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above. In addition, the application may be reviewed or downloaded from the Fossil Energy Home Page at: <http://www.fe.doe.gov>. Upon reaching the Fossil Energy Home page, select "Regulatory" and then "Electricity" from the options menu.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 11, 1999.

Anthony J. Como,

Manager, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 99-881 Filed 1-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER98-1440-002]

Central Vermont Public Service Corporation; Notice of Filing

January 8, 1999.

Take notice that on April 9, 1998, Central Vermont Public Service Corporation tendered for filing in compliance with the Commission's March 11, 1998, order issued in the above-referenced docket.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before January 19, 1999. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-785 Filed 1-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M