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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 502-8415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at michael.miller@ferc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description

The information collection submitted for OMB review contains the following:

1. *Collection of Information:* FERC-585 "Reporting of Electric Energy Shortages and Contingency Plans under PURPA 206."

2. *Sponsor:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

3. Control No. 1902-0138.

The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve a three-year extension of the expiration date, with no changes to the existing collection. The information filed with the Commission is mandatory. Requests for confidential treatment of the information are provided for under Section 388.112 of the Commission's regulations.

1. *Necessity of the Collection of Information:* Submission of the information is necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities in implementing the statutory provisions of Section 206 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) (Pub. L. 95-617, 92 Stat. 3117) which amended Section 202 of the Federal Power Act by adding subsection (g). Section 202(g) requires public utilities to report to the Commission, and appropriate State agencies, any unanticipated shortages of electric energy or capacity which would affect the utility's ability to serve its wholesale customers and to report and periodically revise, their contingency plans for such occurrences which would equitably accommodate both retail and wholesale customers.

The Commission uses the contingency plan information to evaluate and formulate appropriate options for action in the event an anticipated shortage is reported or materializes. The Commission also uses this information ensure itself and firm power wholesale customers that both are kept informed about utility contingency plans and anticipated shortages of energy and capacity and to ensure that direct and indirect customers would be treated without undue prejudice or disadvantage during actual shortages.

If the contingency plan data is not provided, the statutory provisions of the FPA and PUPRA will not have been complied with, and information will not be available to assess whether utilities have planned for shortage conditions and/or developed plans with due consideration for equitable customer treatment, as required by the established statute. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR part 294.

5. *Respondent Description:* The respondent universe currently comprises approximately 170 public utilities. In the normal course of a public utility's operations, contingency plans are prepared and usually reviewed and updated periodically. However, the burden on each utility will vary primarily with respect to the number and size of wholesale customers and utility system customers supplied by the reporting utility. The number of respondents is based on the actual number of responses that were received by the Commission since the last OMB submission.

6. *Estimated Burden:* 511 total hours, 7 respondents (average), 1 response per respondent, 73 hours per response (average).

7. *Estimated Cost Burden to respondents:* 511 hours/2080 hours per years × \$117,041 per year = \$28,753.

Statutory Authority: Sections 206 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 2601 (Pub. L. 95-617) and Section 202 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a (g)).

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER03-965-000]

ACN Utility Services, Inc.; Notice of Issuance of Order

July 25, 2003.

ACN Utility Services, Inc. (ACN) filed an application for market-based rate authority, with accompanying tariffs. The proposed tariffs provide for sales of capacity and energy at market-based rates. ACN also requested waiver of various Commission regulations. In particular, ACN requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability by ACN.

On July 17, 2003, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Tariffs and Market Development—South, granted the request for blanket approval under part 34, subject to the following:

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest the blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liability by ACN 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 385.214).

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing motions to intervene or protests, as set forth above, is August 18, 2003.

Absent a request to be heard in opposition by the deadline above, ACN is authorized to issue securities and assume obligations or liabilities as a guarantor, indorser, surety, or otherwise in respect of any security of another person; provided that such issuance or assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of ACN, compatible with the public interest, and is reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

The Commission reserves the right to require a further showing that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by continued approval of ACN's issuances of securities or assumptions of liability.

Copies of the full text of the Order are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. The Order may also be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in