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STATE OF ALASKA

THE REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

Before Commissioners: Robert M. Pickett, Chairman
Stephen McAlpine
Antony G. Scott
Daniel A. Sullivan
Janis W. Wilson

In the Matter of the Consideration of Regulations) R-20-002
Implementing Legislation Governing Electric Reliability)
Organizations, Integrated Resource Planning, and) ORDER NO. 3
Preapproval Requirements for Large Energy Facilities)

ORDER SCHEDULING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

BY THE COMMISSION:

Summary

We schedule a technical conference to address regulations governing the integrated resource planning function of an electric reliability organization (ERO) and large project preapproval requirements for public utilities interconnected to an electric transmission network served by an ERO.

Background

On March 20, 2020, the 31st Alaska Legislature passed Senate Bill 123 (SB 123) authorizing the certification and regulation of regional EROs by the Commission, defining the duties of those organizations (including submitting integrated resource plans (IRPs) for our approval), and mandating our preapproval of certain interconnected large energy facilities.¹ SB 123 requires that we adopt regulations necessary to implement the legislation by July 1, 2021.²

¹SB 123 was signed into law on April 29, 2020. See Chapter 29, SLA 2020.

²SB 123, Section 2; see also AS 42.05.770 (requiring us to adopt regulations governing EROs, reliability standards, and modifications to reliability standards); AS 42.05.780(d) (requiring us to adopt regulations governing the filing of IRPs); AS 42.05.785(d) (requiring us to adopt regulations governing large energy facility preapproval and related issues).

1 We initially opened a single proceeding to develop regulations
2 implementing SB 123 requirements, initiating efforts by convening a technical conference
3 to discuss the appropriate composition, procedural rules, and measures of competency
4 for an ERO.³ To allow for a more flexible process, we subsequently opened two additional
5 proceedings to consider regulations addressing additional requirements of SB 123.⁴

6 Docket R-20-002 is the proceeding opened to address (1) regulatory
7 requirements related to the ERO's responsibility to develop an IRP that meets the
8 requirements of all customers within the interconnected grid served by the ERO, and (2)
9 project preapproval requirements for interconnected public utilities served by the ERO.
10 At the public meeting held July 22, 2020, we voted to issue an order inviting comments
11 from interested entities on potential agenda items for a first technical conference
12 addressing regulations for integrated resource planning and large project preapproval.⁵

13 We issued Order R-20-002(2) presenting initial questions for the technical
14 conference and soliciting comments on agenda topics for a technical conference in this
15 docket.⁶ We received several comments in response to the order.⁷

16 ³April 15, 2020, Public Meeting transcript at 46-49.

17 ⁴Order R-20-001(2)/R-20-002(1)/R-20-003(1), *Order Redefining Scope of Docket*
18 *R-20-001 and Amending Docket Title, Opening Rulemaking Proceedings, and*
19 *Scheduling Technical Conference*, dated July 14, 2020 (Order R-20-001(2)). As Order
20 R-20-001(2) noted, opening separate proceedings allows us to pursue a collaborative
workshop process on aspects of our implementation of SB 123 while other aspects are in
the more formal public comment stage. See Order R-20-001(2) at 3.

21 ⁵July 22, 2020, Public Meeting Transcript at 13-14.

22 ⁶Order R-20-002(2), *Order Inviting Comments*, dated August 24, 2020.

23 ⁷See Cook Inlet Region, Inc. comments, filed September 4, 2020; Steve Colt
24 comments, filed September 8, 2020; Renewable Energy Alaska Project comments, filed
25 September 8, 2020; Chugach Electric Association, Inc. comments, filed September 8,
26 2020; Fishhook Renewable Energy, LLC comments, filed September 8, 2020; Golden
Valley Electric Association, Inc. comments, dated September 8, 2020; Matanuska Electric
Association, Inc. comments, filed September 8, 2020; Homer Electric Association, Inc.
comments, filed September 9, 2020.

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Discussion

We schedule a technical conference for October 21, 2020, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and continuing at 9:30 a.m. on October 22, 2020, if necessary. We ask that all participants at the technical conference be prepared to discuss the issues presented for discussion in the Appendix attached to this Order.⁸ As our offices are currently closed to the public, we will host a virtual technical conference using Cisco WebEx. We request that persons interested in participating email our law office assistants at LOA.RCA@alaska.gov to request an invitation by no later than 5 p.m., Friday, October 16, 2020. Persons should submit any documents intended for use at the technical conference at that time. Any additional materials that may be generated by Commission staff for discussion at the technical conference will be made available to invitees by no later than Friday, October 16, 2020.

⁸The issues identified for discussion are also posted to our website, along with the comments filed in this proceeding. To review the list of issues and comments submitted, visit the Commission’s website at <http://rca.alaska.gov> and type “R-20-002” in the *Find a Matter* search box. Comments can be found under the “Documents” tab.

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ORDER

THE COMMISSION FURTHER ORDERS that a technical conference is scheduled to convene on October 21, 2020, beginning at 9:30 a.m. via Cisco WebEx, possibly continuing at 9:30 a.m. on October 22, 2020, if necessary. Any parties that wish to participate in the technical conference should email our law office assistants at LOA.RCA@alaska.gov to request an invitation. Due to the online format of the hearing, we request that parties submit any documents they intend to use at the technical conference electronically to our law office assistants by 5 p.m., Friday, October 16, 2020.⁹

DATED AND EFFECTIVE at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of October, 2020.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION



⁹If you are a person with a disability who need a special accommodation to participate in this process, please contact Valerie Fletcher-Mitchell at 1-907-276-6222, toll free at 1-800-390-2782, or TTY/Alaska Relay at 7-1-1 or 1-800-770-8973, or send your request by electronic mail to rca.mail@alaska.gov at least three business days before the scheduled event to make the necessary arrangements.