

Decision 18-08-028 August 23, 2018

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
NEXTERA ENERGY TRANSMISSION
WEST, LLC for a Certificate of Public
Convenience and Necessity for the Suncrest
Dynamic Reactive Power Support Project.

Application 15-08-027

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to November 26, 2018.

1. Background

Based on the filing date of this Application, the version of Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a)¹ then in effect provided that ratesetting cases shall be resolved within 18 months of the date the scoping memo issued, unless the Commission establishes an alternative timeline in the Scoping Memo or issues an order extending that deadline. On February 24, 2017, the Scoping Memo was issued in this proceeding setting the statutory deadline for August 26, 2018. This decision extends the statutory deadline of this proceeding to November 26, 2018.

On August 31, 2015, NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC

¹ This proceeding was filed prior to changes made to Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a). These changes only apply to cases filed after December 31, 2016.

(NEET West) filed Application (A.) 15-08-027 (Application), which seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for the Sunset Dynamic Reactive Power Support Project. The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and the Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) filed and served responses to the Application. No protests were filed. NEET West filed a timely reply to the CAISO and ORA responses on October 15, 2015. CURE (California Unions for Reliable Energy) filed a motion for party status on March 22, 2016, which was granted on February 3, 2017. Following the completion of a draft Environmental Impact Report, a Prehearing Conference (PHC) was held on February 7, 2017. Evidentiary hearings were held on August 28 through 30, 2017 and November 16, 2017².

An extension of time beyond the current statutory deadline of August 26, 2018, is necessary for the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to thoroughly evaluate the record and prepare the proposed decision of this proceeding. Therefore, the statutory deadline of this proceeding is extended until November 26, 2018.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment of proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is being waived.

² On March 16, 2017, the assigned ALJ granted CURE's request to add a continuation date of September 7, 2017 to the hearing schedule. On September 6, 2017, the last scheduled hearing day of September 7, 2017 was taken off calendar due to the lack of availability of a key CURE witness and rescheduled to November 16, 2017.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Liane M. Randolph is the assigned Commissioner and Colette E. Kersten is the assigned ALJ in this proceeding.

4. Findings of Fact

1. This application was filed on August 31, 2015 and responses were received by the CAISO and ORA on October 5, 2015. NEET West filed a timely reply to the responses on October 15, 2015.

2. Following the completion of the draft Environmental Impact Report, a PHC was held on February 7, 2017. On February 24, 2017, the Scoping Memo was issued in this proceeding setting the statutory deadline for August 26, 2018.

3. Evidentiary hearings were held on August 28 through 30, 2017 and November 16, 2017. A delay in evidentiary hearings occurred due to the lack of a key CURE witness and other scheduling challenges.

4. An extension of the statutory deadline is necessary for the assigned ALJ to thoroughly evaluate the record and prepare the proposed decision of this proceeding.

Conclusion of Law

1. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline should be extended to November 26, 2018.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The statutory deadline in this proceeding is extended until November 26, 2018.

2. Application 15-08-027 remains open.

This order is effective today.

Dated August 23, 2018, at San Francisco, California.

MICHAEL PICKER

President

CARLA J. PETERMAN

LIANE M. RANDOLPH

MARTHA GUZMAN ACEVES

CLIFFORD RECHTSCHAFFEN

Commissioners