

#### FERC and the Recent ROE Giveaway



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#### **Energy Policy Act of 2005**

 Congress determined that there is a need for rate incentives to encourage investment in transmission infrastructure

• Congress added a new section 219 to the FPA directing the FERC to establish, by rule, incentive-based (including performance-based) rate treatments for electric transmission

• FERC issued Order No. 679, which sets forth processes and standards under which a public utility can seek/transmission rate incentives under sec. 219

#### FERC Order No. 679

#### THE PROPOSED INCENTIVE RATE MUST DEMONSTRATE A NEXUS BETWEEN THE INCENTIVE SOUGHT AND THE INVESMENT BEING MADE

- (1) Any incentive-based ROE must foll within the range of reasonableness established by the Commission for the particular entry requesting the ROE for its investment in new transmission facilities;<sup>1</sup>
- (2) While the incentive-based ROE will continue to fall within the traditional zone of reasonableness it will be adjusted upward and will be higher than would otherwise have been granted absent the incentive;<sup>2</sup>
- (3) No specific ROE adders are establish
- (4) The Commission will determine the store of the incentive-based ROE on a case-by-case basis when an application for an incentive based ROE is filed with the Commission;<sup>4</sup>
- (5) To receive an incentive based KOL, a public utility must support the ROE request by demonstrating how the new facilities will ensure reliability or reduce transmission congestion.<sup>5</sup>

1)See Order No. 679, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,222 at P 91-93 (2006) 2) *Id.* 3) *Id.* 4)*Id.* 

5) Id.

#### Transcos in California

- Atlantic Path 15
  - FERC approved ROE of 13.5%
- Startrans
  - FERC approved ROE of 13.5%
- Nevada Hydro



- FERC ruled ROE to be set within the upper end of the zone of reasonableness
- Must use FERC's established DCF methodology and take direction from *Atlantic Path* regarding proxy groups
  - Based on track record (using the suggested proxy group), FERC would be expected to approve an ROE of 13.5%

#### FERC Approves Southern California Edison's Request for Transmission Incentives

- granted a 125-basis point ROE incentive for Tehachapi and DPV2
- granted a 75-basis point ROE incentive for Rancho Vista
- granted a 50-basis point ROE incentive for ISO participation
- granted recovery in rate-base of 100% of CWIP during construction
- granted 100% recovery of prudently incurred abandonment cost
- Query: How will these incentives be incorporated in a black-box settlement where no ROE is specified?







#### Energy Gateway Transmission Expansion Project

- \$6 billion project involving eight segments covering portions of Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming
- FERC granted 200-basis point incentive on top of the base ROE (no sec. 205 rate filing yet to establish a base ROE)
  - Based on recent track record, FERC would be expected to approve an overall ROE in the high 12% or low 13%



### New York Regional Interconnect (NYRI)

- FERC granted a 275-basis point ROE incentive
  - 125 basis points for a combined transmission and advanced technology incentive
  - 100 basis points for forming a Transco
  - 50 basis points for participating in an ISO
- No base ROE since NYRI has yet to submit a sec. 205 rate filing
  - Based on recent track record, with a 275-basis point adder, FERC may approve an overall ROE well beyond 13%
- NY Public Service Commission has yet to permit the line or determine if the transmission line either ensures reliability or reduces congestion



#### Central Maine Power Company's Maine Power Reliability Program Project

- FERC granted a 125-basis point ROE incentive
- Conditionally approved the recovery of 100% of CWIP in rate-base
- Approved the recovery of 100% of prudently incurred costs associated with abandonment
- Central Maine has not yet submitted a sec. 205 filing
- Incentives subject to ISO New England including the project in its regional system plan as a reliability transmission upgrade



#### Pepco Holdings Inc.'s Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) project

- 500 kV, 230-mile transmission line from Virginia to New Jersey crossing under the Chesapeake Bay
- FERC authorized an overall ROE of 12.8%
  - a 150-basis point incentive on top of the company's existing base ROE of 11.3%.
- FERC also authorized full recovery of construction work in progress and prudently incurred abandoned plant costs. The rates took effect Nov. 1, 2008.



#### IOU ROE from 10K filed at SEC for 2007 (no asterisk), Commission Responses (\*\*\*) and Public Utilities Fortnightly (2007\* or 2006\*\*) ROE File

#### 63 Total Entries

Company	ROE
Alabama Power	13.75%
Arizona Public Service	10.75%*
Entergy AR	11.00%
Oklahoma Gas & Electric AR	10.00%*
Pacific Gas & Electric CA	11.35% in the General Rate Case and no Transmission Owner ROE (black box settlement at FERC)***
Southern California Edison	11.50% in the General Rate Case and no Transmission Owner ROE (black box settlement at FERC)***
San Diego Gas & Electric	11.10% (GRC) & 11.35% (TO – FERC)***
Public Service Co CO	10.50%**
Progress Energy FL	11.75%
Florida Power & Light	No ROE for earnings (special capped rate formula); for additions to rate base the ROE is 11.75%

Company	ROE
Georgia Power	11.25%
Idaho Power	10.25%**
Ameren CILCO IL	10.12%**
Ameren CIPS IL	10.08%**
Commonwealth Edison IL	10.04%**
Ameren IP IL	10.08%**
Southern Indiana Gas & Electric	10.40%*
Kansas City Power & Light KS	12.60%**
Kentucky Power Co	10.50%**
Duke Energy KY	11.50%**
Entergy Gulf States – LA	10.65%
Entergy LA	10.25%
Entergy NOLA	10.75%
Cleco Power LA	11.25%
Southwest Electric Power LA	10.565% (August 2008)

Company	ROE
Maine Public Service	10.20%**
Potomac Electric Power MD	10.00%*
Delmarva Power & Light MD	10.00%*
Detroit Edison	11.00%
Consumers Energy MI	10.70%
Interstate Power & Light MN	10.39%**
Northern States Power MN	10.54%**
Entergy Mississippi	11.05%***
Mississippi Power	12.98%***
Kansas City Power & Light MO	11.25%**
Aquila Inc MO	10.25%*
Ameren UE MO	10.20%*
Sierra Pacific Power NV	10.60%**
Unitil Energy Systems NH	9.67%**
Central Hudson Gas & Electric NY	9.60%**

Company	ROE
Duke Energy Carolinas NC	12.25%***
Progress Energy Carolinas SC	12.75%***
South Carolina Electric & Gas	11.00%***
Entergy Gulf States – TX	10.95%
PacifiCorp UT	10.25%**
Green Mountain Power VT	10.25%**
Appalachian Power VA	10.00%
Puget Sound Energy WA	10.40%***
PacifiCorp WA	10.20%***
Avista WA	Avista WA
APCo/Wheeling (AEP Utilities) WV	10.50%***
MonPower/PE (APS Utilities) WV	10.50%***
Wisconsin Power & Light	10.80%*
Wisconsin Public Service	10.90%*

Company	ROE
Montana Dakota Utilities WY	None Authorized – Authorized rate of return on rate base (9.96%) only. Effective 02/01/94***
Rocky Mountain Power WY	10.25% - Effective 05/01/08***
Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power WY	10.90% - Effective 01/01/08***