BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Promote Policy and Program Coordination and Integration in Electric Utility Resource Planning.

Rulemaking 04-04-003 (Filed April 1, 2004)

PRE-WORKSHOP COMMENTS OF CONSTELLATION ENERGY COMMODITIES GROUP, INC. AND CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY, INC. ON ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING REGARDING NEXT STEPS IN PROCUREMENT PROCEEDING

December 12, 2005

Lisa M. Decker, Esq. Counsel

Constellation Energy Group, Inc. 111 Market Place, Suite 500 Baltimore, Maryland 21202 Phone: (410) 468-3792

Fax: (410) 468-3499

Email: Lisa.Decker@constellation.com

On behalf of Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Inc. and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.

Andrew B. Brown

Ellison Schneider & Harris L.L.P. 2015 H Street Sacramento, CA 95814 Tel: (916) 447-2166

Fax: (916) 447-3512

Email: abb@eslawfirm.com

Attorneys for Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Inc., and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Promote Policy and Program Coordination and Integration in Electric Utility Resource Planning.

Rulemaking 04-04-003 (Filed April 1, 2004)

PRE-WORKSHOP COMMENTS OF CONSTELLATION ENERGY COMMODITIES GROUP, INC. AND CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY, INC. ON ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING REGARDING NEXT STEPS IN PROCUREMENT PROCEEDING

I. Introduction and Summary

On December 2, 2005, Commissioner Peevey issued an Assigned Commissioner's Ruling ("ACR") to "begin work on some urgent issues" described in the ACR. The urgent issues identified in the ACR focused on the need to establish:

- New procurement related proceedings.
- Preliminary goals, priorities and schedule for the upcoming Long Term
 Procurement Plan ("LTPP") cycle.
- Workshops to commence work on the LTPP cycle.

The ACR convenes two initial workshops on December 14, 2005 ("December 14 Workshops"), the first to discuss long term procurement planning and the second to discuss transmission collaboration planning. In preparation for the December 14 Workshops, the ACR invited interested parties to submit pre-workshop comments addressing the following issues:

• The process and timeline proposed in the ACR for addressing the 2006 LTPP.

¹ See ACR, page 1.

- The critical steps for addressing specific issues raised in the ACR.
- How the Transmittal Report adopted by the California Energy Commission ("CEC") on November 21, 2005 should be used in the LTPP proceeding.
- Whether the Draft Proposal for Long Term Procurement Planning Proceeding Work Plan, prepared by the Energy Division Staff and included in the ACR, has posed the right questions for discussion during the stakeholder process that will best inform the Commission's ultimate LTPP decisions.

The ACR specifically directs that "parties are encouraged not to argue the merits of the various issues, but focus exclusively on the upcoming process, content and timing."

Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Inc. and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. (collectively, "Constellation") appreciates this opportunity to submit comments in this proceeding. Constellation remains convinced that competitive markets will and do work to bring very real economic benefits to consumers. Constellation believes that the manner in which the Commission addresses utility procurement practices in this proceeding will have a lasting impact on whether and how competitive wholesale and retail markets will develop in California.

Specifically, Constellation believes that utility procurement practices should be reformed so that infrastructure development in California shifts the market and price risk associated with asset development away from consumers (through the construction and/or acquisition of generation that then receives rate base treatment) and toward the investment community. The wholesale market structures should be designed to support asset development through price signals, price signals that will incent market participants, including asset developers, marketing companies and financial intermediaries, to construct and operate new resources when and where they are needed. A continuation of the hybrid market structure that currently exists in California

-

² See ACR, page 8.

undermines the development of those wholesale markets and precludes the California energy markets from becoming truly competitive, at either the wholesale or the retail level.

Constellation is prepared to work with the Commission and market participants throughout this proceeding to help develop well designed policies and practices that will bring much needed infrastructure to California through competitive markets – markets that will ensure optimal economic and environmental efficiency in resource development.

II. Comments

In general, Constellation supports the process outlined by the Commission for the upcoming LTPP process. In these comments, Constellation presents some additional issues and questions that should be addressed to ensure that a full record is developed to inform the Commission's decisions with respect to LTPP.

A. General Comments

The Commission indicates that it will "establish a successor rulemaking [to R.04-04-003] to consider the next biennial cycle of long-term procurement planning issues." The Commission also indicates that it will "establish a new rulemaking to consider future RA matters, including implementation issues related to existing requirements, as well as extension of RA mandates to local areas and multi-year requirements." Constellation believes that the implementation and effectiveness of the Commission's resource adequacy policies will be profoundly impacted by the decisions it makes in the LTPP proceeding. Specifically, as Constellation will argue throughout these proceedings, there must be significant reforms put in place with respect to utility procurement practices to ensure that wholesale market structures under development in the RA proceedings are not undermined by the utility procurement

-

³ See ACR, page 2.

⁴ See ACR, page 3.

practices established in the LTPP proceeding. Thus, as Constellation suggests below in its comments on Section 1(b) of Appendix A of the ACR, the discussion of utility long term procurement planning must pay particular attention to how those long term procurement plans impact the market mechanism under development in the RAR.

B. ESP Procurement Plan Issues

The ACR indicates that it "expect[s] that the Commission will name all load-serving entities ("LSEs") as respondents to the long-term procurement planning proceeding, although probably not to all portions of the proceeding." Similarly, the Energy Division staff has indicated that it "expect[s] that all load serving entities (including IOUs, ESPs, and CCAs) will submit long term procurement plans so that resource planning can be conducted in an integrated fashion." As an initial matter, Constellation strongly opposes any requirement for ESPs to submit long-term integrated resource plans. Such a requirement would raise issues of CPUC jurisdiction over ESPs that would not be supported by existing AB 380 and AB 57 statutory provisions. Constellation believes that due to certain critical distinctions between the Commission's regulatory relationship with ESPs versus that of the public utilities subject to AB 57, the Commission should ask how to determine ESP compliance with RAR and Renewable Portfolio Standard ("RPS") policies, rather than how each ESP would fulfill its specific RAR and RPS obligations.

The ESPs' procurement practices are largely based on securing from the wholesale markets the products and services that are necessary for them to meet their load serving obligations and dictated by their contractual relationships with individual retail customers.

Therefore, the filing of specific ESP procurement plans is not warranted. Constellation believes

4

⁵ See ACR, pages 7-8, emphasis added.

⁶ See ACR, Appendix A, page 7.

that a goal of the upcoming proceeding should be to reform of the utilities' wholesale procurement practices so that the utilities seek wholesale products and services to meet their load obligations, in much the same manner as do the ESPs currently. When and if both the utilities and ESPs look to the wholesale market for products and services to meet their load obligations, the competitive wholesale market should be expected to respond with the necessary infrastructure development.

C. Comments on Appendix A

In Appendix A, the Energy Division Staff has prepared a proposed work plan to organize the 2006 LTPP proceeding, and has outlined a series of questions that will be addressed. Staff is soliciting "comments on Appendix A in a format that mirrors the structure of this document; i.e., along the suggested goals of the proceeding.... Parties should not feel compelled to answer the questions asked below; instead, parties should focus on whether we are asking the right questions, in the right order." Constellation again appreciates the opportunity to offer these additional questions for consideration during the proceedings.

• Section III.1.a. Review the Need for New Generation; Establishing Factual Need for New Generation.

Constellation does not have any comments on the proposed work plan process associated with this topic. Specifically, Constellation agrees that the analyses used to determine the need for new resources should be vetted in a stakeholder workshop.

However, in its comments on the CEC Transmittal Report, Constellation raised issues similar to the ones it is raising here about the extent to which the Commission and the California Energy Commission ("CEC") may be developing a resource needs assessment

⁷ See ACR, Appendix A, page 1.

for the purpose of mandating asset development.⁸ As Constellation indicated in those comments, alternatives to rate-based asset development should be considered and adopted to promote competition at both the wholesale and retail levels, to ensure the further development of competitive markets in California, and to avoid potential development of regulatory stranded costs that could impede such markets.

• Section III.1.b. Review the need for New Generation; Temporary and/or Permanent Mechanism (e.g., Cost allocation and benefit Sharing or Other Alternative).

Constellation agrees that the questions posed by the Energy Division Staff in this section are the right questions to ask, but would suggest that most of the cost allocation issues can be evaluated through a rulemaking proceeding that includes a workshop and subsequent comments and reply comments. If during the course of those discussions, or subsequent to the procurement process, it becomes apparent that an evidentiary proceeding is necessary to address issues of fact, the Commission can initiate an evidentiary proceeding for that limited purpose. Indeed, Constellation believes that the last question posed by the Staff in this section: "Is it possible to choose an interim cost and benefit allocation mechanism (or some other alternative) that does not foreclose the possibility of capacity markets" will be one of the most important issues addressed during this proceeding. It is critical that this question be examined in light of the wholesale market reforms that will be put into place, including application of RAR and development of capacity markets. Constellation therefore believes that this issue should be assigned a high priority for this portion of the proceeding so that the question of how

6

_

⁸ See, November 8, 2005 *Comments of Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Inc. and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. on California Energy Commission Draft Transmittal Report*, pages 1-4 and 7-8. This document is available at http://www.energy.ca.gov/2005_energypolicy/documents/2005-11-04_hearing/comments/2005-11-08 Constellation Cmnts.pdf.

⁹ See ACR, Appendix A, page 3.

resources needed urgently can be developed in a way that will not undermine the emerging wholesale structures and eventual reopening of the retail market. As noted in Constellation's introductory comments, the hybrid market structure that currently exists in California is and will continue to impede the development of competitive markets in California. This proceeding should serve to establish policies and procedures that can over time undo its harmful effects.

• Section III.2.: A Review of Long-Term Procurement Plans, Including an Integrated Resource Planning Process for All IOU Planning Areas.

Constellation believes that most of the questions posed in this section are valid, and that a series of workshops to discuss them would be valuable, after the threshold jurisdictional issues regarding ESPs are resolved. Specifically, in the above section of General Comments, Constellation has already stated its strong opposition to the Commission's proposal to make ESPs subject to the LTPP procurement planning requirements that should only apply to the utilities such as the submission of long-term resource plans. Constellation thus supports the inclusion in this section the issue of whether ESPs and small IOUs should be subject to similar filing requirements, and is appreciative that this important issue is slated for full discussion.

In addition to the questions posed in this section, Constellation requests that the following questions also be included for discussion in the February Workshops to include certain "second generation" issues already identified in earlier Commission decisions:

¹⁰ Without going extensively into the details of its arguments here, Constellation will argue that the existing hybrid market structure in which the generating resource base contains utility owned and operated rate-based and otherwise regulated generating assets (both physical and contractual) and merchant facilities compromises the development of wholesale and retail market competition and that the harmful effects of the hybrid market structure should be ameliorated by the adoption of "slice of load" competitive procurement by the utilities to meet any short position that they may have. Constellation will argue that (i) the slice of load approach will ensure that consumers are better insulated from market risks, including fuel price risks, and (ii) the slice of load approach will pave the way for meaningful retail competition by transferring customer migration risk away from the utilities.

- How are "slice of load" utility procurement conducted in other jurisdictions and how could those mechanisms be adapted for use in California as a means for IOUs to satisfy their required procurement needs?
- What would the benefits be for consumers, the utilities, and wholesale and retail suppliers, if the slice of load approach to utility procurement is adopted in California?

In order to fully vet the slice of load approach, Constellation suggests that Staff's straw proposal on integrated resource planning should include the slice of load approach as an option so that parties can include their views on this approach in their pre-workshop comments that the Staff intends to solicit. Furthermore, Constellation suggests that at least one, and possibly two extra days be added to the workshop process so that the slice of load approach can be fully vetted. Finally, in the follow up workshops to be held in March 2006, the IOUs should be required to include a review of how they would include the slice of load approach in their procurement plans (or if they have not included them, they should describe why they have not).

• Section 3: Updates to IOU Procurement Policies and Practices; Including Review and Approval of New 10 Year Procurement Plans

Here too, Constellation agrees that the Staff has posed appropriate issues and questions for discussion during this proceeding with respect to the above topic. As noted at the outset of these comments, Constellation believes that one of the very important issues that needs to be addressed during this proceeding is how the ongoing development of the resource adequacy requirements and the implementation of a capacity market will impact (or be impacted by) the IOU long term procurement plans. Thus, the issue raised in this section: "Impact of resource adequacy on costs and procurement practices", should be of prominent importance during the workshops. Furthermore, Constellation

_

¹¹ See ACR, Appendix A, page 11

believes that the issues it has asked the Staff to include and explore with respect to "slice of load" utility procurement practices are also applicable with respect to the issues to be discussed here; specifically including credit risk policies, portfolio risk policies, and the use of the Independent Evaluator in utility procurements. Finally, Constellation believes that several of the questions posed in this section go directly to the issue of the existing hybrid market structure in California. 12 To ensure that this important topic is fully addressed, however, Constellation requests that the following specific questions be added to the discussion topics:

- Is the existing policy that supports the hybrid market structure, in which the assets owned by vertically integrated utilities receive cost recovery under traditional costs of service rates, appropriate for California?
- If not, how can California transition away from this structure?
- If so, how can it be maintained without compromising the effectiveness of competitive market structures, such as capacity markets?
- How can an independent evaluation of the procurement options be accomplished? Should standardized RFOs be utilized in the procurement process?

III. Conclusion

Constellation provides these pre-workshop comments to assist the Commission with its next cycle of procurement-related proceedings as described in the December 2, 2005 ACR. As described above, Constellation generally agrees with the procedural structure for addressing substantive issues, but raises here critical substantive issues which directly impact the scope of the anticipated process. Constellation is concerned that a continuation of the hybrid market structure that currently exists in California undermines the development of those wholesale

 $^{^{12}}$ Specifically, the following questions listed on Page 11 of Appendix A of the ACR: "Evaluation of the Level Playing Field in IOU Procurement (i.e., contracting for utility owned generation vs. power purchase agreements, Role of Procurement Review Groups IOU Procurement, and Practices and Procedures used by IOUs in their Requests for Offers (RFOs), including use of all source or all party RFOs (open to new only or existing generation)."

markets and precludes the California energy markets from becoming truly competitive, at either the wholesale or the retail level. Constellation also opposes the proposed requirement that ESPs make the same type of procurement planning submissions that jurisdictional public utilities are required to make under AB 57, suggesting instead that the Commission focus on how compliance with RAR and RPS processes will be determined, rather than determining how ESPs should individually procure to meet that regulatory requirement.

Constellation is prepared to work with the Commission and market participants throughout this proceeding to help develop well designed policies and practices that will bring much needed infrastructure to California through competitive markets – markets that will ensure optimal economic and environmental efficiency in resource development.

Respectfully submitted,

December 12, 2005

Lisa M. Decker, Esq. Counsel

Constellation Energy Group, Inc. 111 Market Place, Suite 500 Baltimore, Maryland 21202 Phone: (410) 468-3792

Phone: (410) 468-3792 Fax: (410) 468-3499

Email: Lisa.Decker@constellation.com

On behalf of Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Inc. and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. Andrew B. Brown

Ellison Schneider & Harris L.L.P. 2015 H Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: (916) 447-2166 Fax: (916) 447-3512

Email: abb@eslawfirm.com

Attorneys for Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Inc., and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of "Pre-Workshop Comments of Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Inc. and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. on Assigned Commissioner's Ruling Regarding Next Steps in Procurement Proceeding" on all known parties to R.04-04-003 by transmitting an e-mail message with the document attached to each party named in the official service list. Parties without e-mail addresses were mailed a properly addressed copy by first-class mail with postage prepaid.

Executed on December 12, 2005 at Sacramento, California

Eric Janssen

Service List R.04-04-003 December 12, 2005

keith.mccrea@sablaw.com lisa.decker@constellation.com garson_knapp@fpl.com jimross@r-c-s-inc.com toms@i-cpg.com lurick@sempra.com hchoy@isd.co.la.ca.us dhuard@manatt.com msnow@manatt.com pucservice@manatt.com mlennon@whitecase.com mcmannes@aol.com klatt@energyattorney.com kduggan@capstoneturbine.com douglass@energyattorney.com annette.gilliam@sce.com berj.parseghian@sce.com beth.fox@sce.com case.admin@sce.com woodrujb@sce.com michael.backstrom@sce.com ehull@ci.chula-vista.ca.us dgarber@sempra.com fortlieb@sandiego.gov gbaker@sempra.com troberts@sempra.com KMelville@sempra.com mshames@ucan.org bpowers@powersengineering.com jkloberdanz@semprautilities.com wkeilani@semprautilities.com WKeilani@semprautilities.com ileslie@luce.com keith.fuller@itron.com george.hanson@ci.corona.ca.us chris@emeter.com mdjoseph@adamsbroadwell.com jeanne.sole@sfgov.org joe.como@sfgov.org map@cpuc.ca.gov mflorio@turn.org armi@smwlaw.com ayk@cpuc.ca.gov kpp@cpuc.ca.gov rmd@cpuc.ca.gov filings@a-klaw.com

nes@a-klaw.com

rsa@a-klaw.com scarter@nrdc.org evk1@pge.com jlkm@pge.com j0b5@pge.com magq@pge.com bcragg@gmssr.com bcragg@gmssr.com chrishilen@dwt.com jsqueri@gmssr.com jarmstrong@gmssr.com jkarp@whitecase.com stevegreenwald@dwt.com edwardoneill@dwt.com lcottle@whitecase.com mrh2@pge.com ssmyers@att.net I brown123@hotmail.com mecsoft@pacbell.net aclark@calpine.com sherifl@calpine.com moxsen@calpine.com rick noger@praxair.com wbooth@booth-law.com eric@strategyi.com ramonag@ebmud.com rschmidt@bartlewells.com gmorris@emf.net igalloway@ucsusa.org clyde.murley@comcast.net nrader@calwea.org tomb@crossborderenergy.com pcmcdonnell@earthlink.net jennifer.holmes@itron.com michaelboyd@sbcglobal.net jbradley@svmg.org bmcc@mccarthylaw.com sberlin@mccarthylaw.com joyw@mid.org chrism@mid.org sarveybob@aol.com dkates@sonic.net brbarkovich@earthlink.net johnrredding@earthlink.net jweil@aglet.org gabriellilaw@sbcglobal.net hydro@davis.com puma@davis.com gtholan@caiso.com

grosenblum@caiso.com

matt@bradylawus.com dcarroll@downeybrand.com dkk@eslawfirm.com glw@eslawfirm.com lmh@eslawfirm.com steven@iepa.com dmahmud@mwdh2o.com rliebert@cfbf.com mpa@a-klaw.com dws@r-c-s-inc.com bjones@mjbradley.com carlo.zorzoli@enel.it aweller@sel.com jbwilliams@mwe.com myuffee@mwe.com mary.lynch@constellation.com eyussman@knowledgeinenergy.com brianhaney@useconsulting.com tcarlson@reliant.com ghinners@reliant.com michael.crumley@elpaso.com william.tomlinson@elpaso.com dsaul@solel.com ckmitchell1@sbcglobal.net curtis.kebler@gs.com npedersen@hanmor.com cmlong@earthlink.net roger.pelote@williams.com frank.cooley@sce.com laura.genao@sce.com dwood8@cox.net tim.hemig@nrgenergy.com daking@sempra.com rru@sandag.org kmelville@sempra.com liddell@energyattorney.com tcorr@sempra.com ygross@sempraglobal.com scottanders@sandiego.edu amabed@semprautilities.com irene.stillings@sdenergy.org jennifer.porter@sdenergy.org jkloberdanz@semprautilities.com kmorton@sempra.com mschmidt@semprautilities.com susan.freedman@sdenergy.org centralfiles@semprautilities.com jcervantes@sandiego.gov kjk@kjkammerer.com marks@alohasys.com

ctoca@utility-savings.com mjskowronski@inlandenergy.com jskillman@prodigy.net rhoffman@anaheim.net imcarthur@elkhills.com Icasentini@drintl.com diane fellman@fpl.com freedman@turn.org nao@cpuc.ca.gov ddowers@sfwater.org scasey@sfwater.org Dan.adler@calcef.org dwang@nrdc.org dickerson05@fscgroup.com gxl2@pge.com vjw3@pge.com rejohnson@att.com petertbray@yahoo.com cem@newsdata.com iames.boothe@hklaw.com jeffgray@dwt.com lisa_weinzimer@platts.com cpuccases@pge.com mdbk@pge.com ell5@pge.com nbb2@pge.com sscb@pge.com rwalther@pacbell.net brflynn@flynnrci.com service@spurr.org keithwhite@earthlink.net vhconsult@earthlink.net jay.bhalla@intergycorp.com jackp@calpine.com kena@calpine.com sschleimer@calpine.com greg.blue@dynegy.com mona.tierney@constellation.com pthompson@summitblue.com bill.chen@constellation.com sia2@pwrval.com ceyap@earthlink.net mrw@mrwassoc.com mrw@mrwassoc.com dmarcus2@sbcglobal.net craigtyler@comcast.net elvine@lbl.gov rhwiser@lbl.gov knotsund@berkeley.edu philm@scdenergy.com

janreid@coastecon.com bill@jbsenergy.com. vwood@smud.org cmkehrein@ems-ca.com e-recipient@caiso.com eleuze@caiso.com katherine.gensler@ferc.gov ppettingill@caiso.com rsparks@caiso.com saeed.farrokhpay@ferc.gov brian.theaker@williams.com edchang@flynnrci.com abb@eslawfirm.com mclaughlin@braunlegal.com dgeis@dolphingroup.org kdw@woodruff-expert-services.com lkaye@ka-pow.com mlgillette@duke-energy.com blaising@braunlegal.com www.esterfield@stoel.com gbrowne@smud.org hcronin@water.ca.gov cabaker906@sbcglobal.net kmills@cfbf.com rlauckhart@globalenergy.com jesus.arredondo@nrgenergy.com karen@klindh.com ntoyama@smud.org don.winslow@ppmenergy.com alan.comnes@dynegy.com mtrexler@climateservices.com samuel.r.sadler@state.or.us lscott@landsenergy.com LAdocket@cpuc.ca.gov ajo@cpuc.ca.gov bsk@cpuc.ca.gov cab@cpuc.ca.gov tam@cpuc.ca.gov dsh@cpuc.ca.gov djh@cpuc.ca.gov cpe@cpuc.ca.gov jef@cpuc.ca.gov jf2@cpuc.ca.gov kdg@cpuc.ca.gov kms@cpuc.ca.gov kl1@cpuc.ca.gov Irm@cpuc.ca.gov lp1@cpuc.ca.gov

msw@cpuc.ca.gov

meb@cpuc.ca.gov

meg@cpuc.ca.gov mts@cpuc.ca.gov nil@cpuc.ca.gov psd@cpuc.ca.gov pha@cpuc.ca.gov rae@cpuc.ca.gov gig@cpuc.ca.gov rls@cpuc.ca.gov sjl@cpuc.ca.gov sed@cpuc.ca.gov sst@cpuc.ca.gov car@cpuc.ca.gov tdp@cpuc.ca.gov tcx@cpuc.ca.gov tbo@cpuc.ca.gov vjb@cpuc.ca.gov ztc@cpuc.ca.gov info@tobiaslo.com Mmesseng@energy.state.ca.us JMcMahon@navigantconsulting.com meg@cpuc.ca.gov bfranklin@eob.ca.gov cleni@energy.state.ca.us dks@cpuc.ca.gov jtachera@energy.state.ca.us kgriffin@energy.state.ca.us mjaske@energy.state.ca.us pduvair@energy.state.ca.us trf@cpuc.ca.gov tglaviano@energy.state.ca.us wsm@cpuc.ca.gov dsandino@water.ca.gov fdeleon@energy.state.ca.us aorchar@smud.org aulmer@water.ca.gov ipacheco@water.ca.gov Iharris@water.ca.gov kglick@eob.ca.gov rwethera@energy.state.ca.us rmiller@energy.state.ca.us