

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



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Order Instituting Rulemaking to Integrate )  
and Refine Procurement Policies and )  
Consider Long-Term Procurement Plans ) Rulemaking 10-05-006  
) (Filed May 6, 2010)  
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**MOTION OF ZEPHYR POWER TRANSMISSION, LLC FOR PARTY STATUS**

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Date: July 9, 2010

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
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Pursuant to Rule 1.4 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission), Zephyr Power Transmission, LLC (Zephyr) moves for party status in the above captioned proceeding.

**I. BACKGROUND**

Zephyr is developing a 1,100-mile, 500 kV high voltage direct current (“HVDC”) transmission line originating near Medicine Bow, Wyoming and terminating south of Las Vegas, Nevada. The project will provide a direct electrical interconnection and long-term firm transmission for 3,000 MW of high-quality wind generation from Wyoming to a California balancing authority at Eldorado, Marketplace or McCullough substations. The project will cost approximately \$3 billion to construct.

The Commission opened this rulemaking as an ongoing effort to ensure a reliable and cost-effective electricity supply in California through integration and refinement of a comprehensive set of procurement policies, practices and procedures underlying long-term procurement plans. It is expected that this will be the forum in which the Commission will consider the electric resource procurement policies and programs and how to implement them. Zephyr is filing this motion to intervene to ensure that Zephyr

and its Wyoming wind developers' potential contribution to the California renewable energy requirements is appropriately understood and recognized in this procurement planning process.

## **II. IDENTITY OF ZEPHYR AND BASIS OF INTEREST**

Zephyr is a Delaware limited liability company and a wholly-owned subsidiary of NorthernLights Transmission Inc. (NorthernLights), which is a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of TransCanada Corporation (TransCanada).

Zephyr has recently concluded a non-discriminatory, transparent open season process to allocate transmission capacity, and has fully allocated 3,000 MW of transmission capacity to wind developers in Wyoming.

Once construction for Zephyr is complete, Zephyr will provide a contiguous and verifiable firm transmission path to a California balancing authority. California consumers will directly benefit from having access to the best wind resources in the WECC, as well as additional resource diversity and renewable procurement options. Zephyr will significantly contribute to California's ability to cost-effectively achieve its stated renewable energy goals. The development, and eventual construction, of the Zephyr project is predicated on the support of wind generators who have signed long term, firm transmission agreements. Merchant transmission developers, like Zephyr (and its prospective wind generation customers) are assuming all development risks for these investments. The magnitude and the at-risk nature of these investments make it imperative that there is a high degree of certainty that renewable energy generators relying on these projects would be eligible to meet renewable portfolio standard (RPS) requirements in California. Ensuring that the Commission staff consider appropriate

assumptions in developing optimal renewable resource portfolios will ensure that Wyoming wind generators are not precluded from entering into power purchase agreements with California load serving entities, which are necessary to underpin the development and construction of the Zephyr project.

Many parties to the proceeding have identified the importance of out-of-state renewables in meeting the 33 percent renewable energy goals by 2020. Zephyr could make a significant contribution toward achieving California's RPS goals.

Zephyr's participation in this proceeding will not prejudice another party, delay the schedule, or expand the scope of this proceeding. Zephyr accepts the record that has been developed in this proceeding to date.

Therefore, Zephyr respectfully requests that they be granted party status for the purposes of providing comments on the Rulemaking, participating in workshops, and any other steps in this proceeding. Zephyr intends to be active parties in this proceeding to assist the Commission.

### III. COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICE

For the purpose of receipt of all correspondence, pleadings, orders, and notices in this proceeding, the following representatives of Zephyr should be placed on the service list as a “party”:

John Dunn  
Project Director  
Zephyr Power Transmission, LLC  
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In addition, the following representative of Zephyr should be placed on the service list as “information only”:

Meredith Lamey  
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#### IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated herein, Zephyr respectfully ask that this Motion for Party Status be granted.

Respectfully submitted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2010 at Washington, D.C.

*Steven A. Weiler*

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of “Motion of Zephyr Power Transmission, LLC for Party Status” on all known parties to R.10-05-006 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 this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2010, at Washington, D.C.

*Brenda Robertson*

Brenda Robertson

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