



OFFICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

OPP Update

**NASUCA Summer Meeting
June 2024**

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Disclaimer

The views expressed herein are the speakers' views, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, individual Commissioners, or other Commission staff members. Nothing herein should be viewed as a prediction or prognostication of how the Commission will act on any matter.



Statutory Language

Enabling Statute: Section 319 of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 825q-1.

Specific authority:

- The Director **shall** coordinate assistance to the public with respect to authorities exercised by the Commission.
- The Director **shall** also coordinate assistance available to persons intervening or participating or proposing to intervene or participate in proceedings before the Commission.

Also:

- The Commission **may**, under rules promulgated by it, provide compensation for reasonable attorney's fees, expert witness fees, and other costs of intervening or participating in any proceeding before the Commission to any person whose intervention or participation substantially contributed to the approval, in whole or in part, of a position advocated by such person. Such compensation may be paid only if the Commission has determined that—**(A)** the proceeding is significant, and **(B)** such person's intervention or participation in such proceeding without receipt of compensation constitutes a significant financial hardship to him.



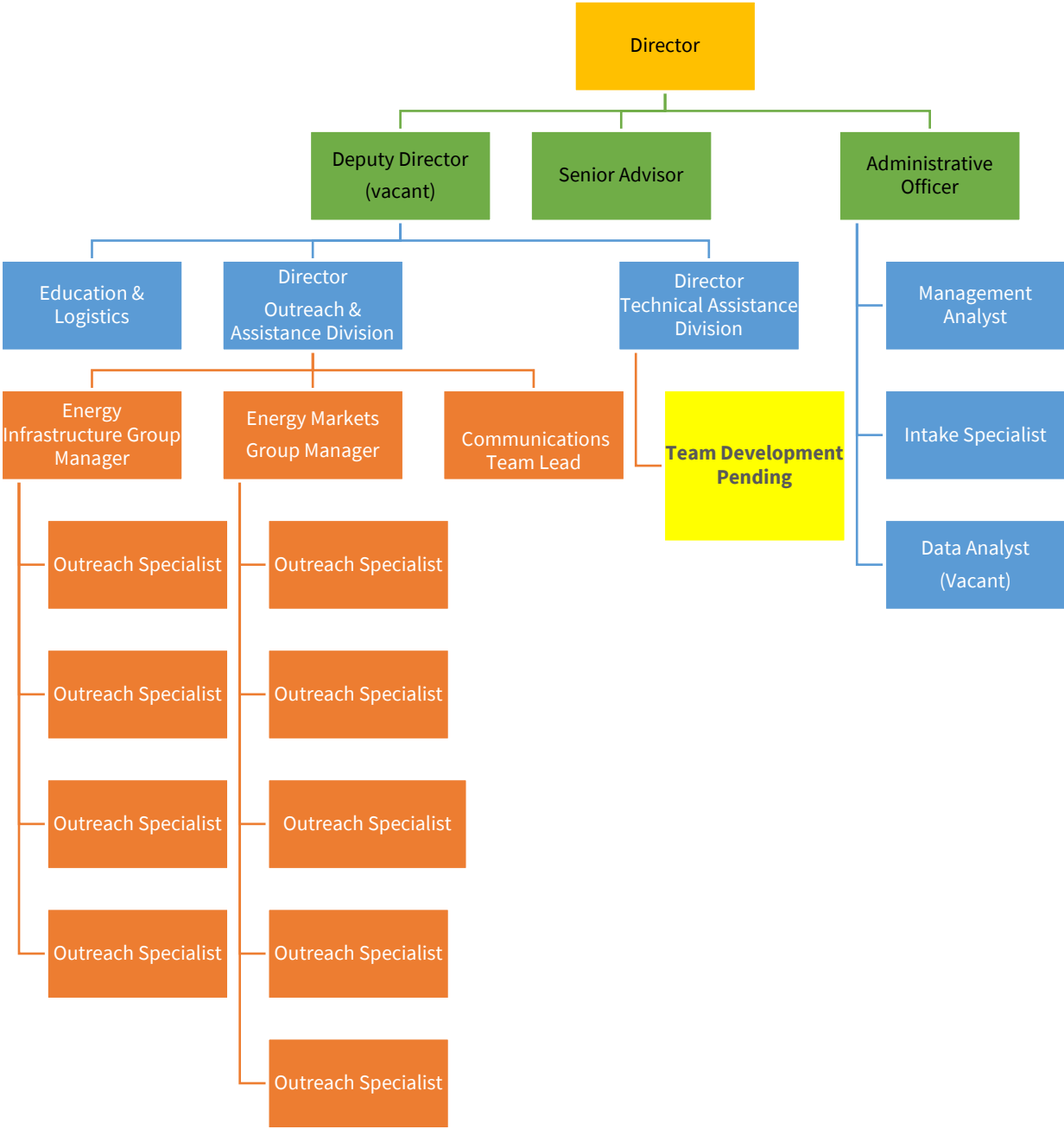
OPP's Mission

To empower, promote, and support public voices at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

- Engage with the public through direct outreach, education and technical assistance
- Public liaison for procedural information
- Within FERC, lead inter-office collaboration on procedural and public outreach improvements



OPP's Structure



OPP is Non-Decisional

- OPP employees are **non-decisional**, meaning that we do not participate in the development of FERC's rulings **in contested cases**. *Ex parte* rules prevent the public from speaking with most FERC personnel about contested cases off the record. However, OPP's non-decisional status permits the public to talk to us without limits or concerns. Moreover, OPP does not advocate or take sides. Our goal is to help members of the public participate at FERC, regardless of their viewpoint.
- OPP may opine in internal FERC policy discussions impacting public participation and as to system changes (such as the software systems that enable comments, intervention, and information access), but not in contested proceedings.
- Since *ex parte* rules do not apply to generic proceedings such as a rulemakings or administrative matters, OPP has been engaged in policymaking deliberations with FERC colleagues on recent major rulemakings impacting our constituents.



Constituent Services



- Requests for guidance on filings intervention/rehearing/comment/case status
- Jurisdictional questions
- Documents and data access
- Concerns about possible LNG facility or gas pipeline in their community
- Landowner calls on property restoration issues



Expanded Outreach in Priority Proceedings



Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association is at Chanceford Township.

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It is a full house here at the FERC Office of Public Participation- public information meeting regarding the proposed Cuffs Run P... See more



Home



Video




Friends




Marketplace



Notific



York Energy Storage Waterpower Project's Preliminary Permit



FERC staff is seeking public comments on the York Energy Storage Waterpower Project proposed preliminary permit. Comments are due April 1, 2024.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

February 10, 2023

Subject: Request for Comments on Environmental Issues - Proposed Plaquemines LNG Amendment, FERC Docket No. CP17-66-001

Dear Community Leader:

Please find enclosed a copy of a public notice issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) regarding a liquefied natural gas (LNG) project being constructed in/near your community. Plaquemines LNG, among other activities, proposes to modify its previously approved project by increasing its peak workforce from about 3,600 up to 6,000 personnel per day and performing construction activities 24-hours-per-day, 7-days-per-week. As described in the notice, FERC staff is requesting comments on environmental issues to assist in its preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) for these proposed changes. An environmental impacts assessment is an integral part of the FERC's decision-making process. The purpose of an EA is to inform decision-makers and the public about potential impacts on the natural and human environment that could result from the authorization of a proposed action. To ensure comments are timely, they should be submitted in Washington, DC on or before 5:00pm EST on March 6, 2023.

FERC established the Office of Public Participation (OPP) to empower, promote, and support public voices in Commission proceedings. The enclosed notice has been provided to potentially affected landowners, federal and state regulatory agencies, elected officials, and others. You are receiving a copy of this notice along with additional information about OPP as part of our effort to expand notification and awareness of FERC proceedings. We have identified your organization as having the potential to reach larger audiences and it is our hope that you will share this notice with your members and the community-at-large. Our office stands ready to assist you with your questions or to help you or others participate in this proceeding. If you have any questions about this notice or the FERC's review process, please contact the Office of Public Participation via email at opp@ferc.gov or by phone at (202) 502-6595. You can also visit www.ferc.gov/opp for further information.

Sincerely,

NICOLE
SITARAMAN

Digitally signed by NICOLE
SITARAMAN
Date: 2023.02.10 11:34:00 -0500

1-800-485-15332-000



Community Meetings and Speaking Engagements



Education Initiative

OPP Publishes Explainer on Western Markets Expansion

[gov/OPP/western-markets-explainer](https://www.ferc.gov/OPP/western-markets-explainer)

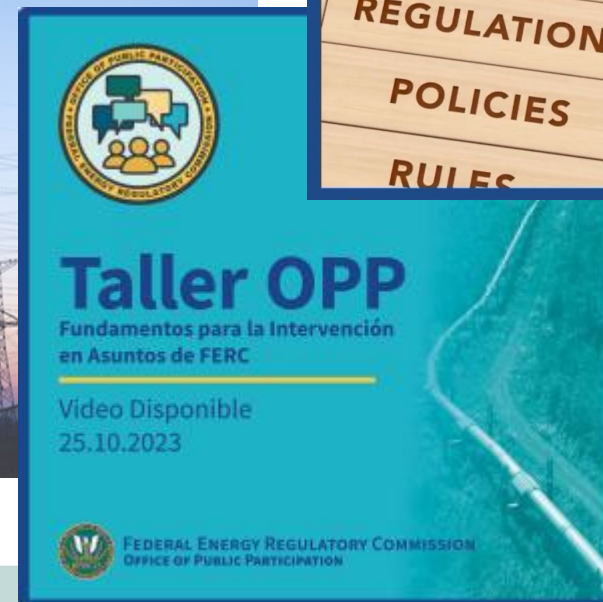


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Fresh off the Press!

Office of Public Participation's Rulemaking Process Explainer

GUIDELINES	REQUIREMENTS
COMPLIANCE	LEGAL
REGULATIONS	LAWS
POLICIES	PRACTICES
RULES	STANDARDS



Latest News: Transmission!

OPP coordinating with FERC program offices on explainers and outreach on:

- **Order No. 1920** (Regional Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation) - <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/news/fact-sheet-building-future-through-electric-regional-transmission-planning-and>
- **Order No. 1977** (Backstop Transmission Siting Procedures) - <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/news/ferc-unanimously-approves-backstop-transmission-siting-procedures>

Stay Tuned!



What's Next?

- New Technical Assistance Division more-in depth educational products and public-friendly energy markets research tools
- July WorkshOPP on Construction and Land Restoration
- Implementation of Broader Language Access Services
- Expanded outreach in more gas and hydropower matters
- Collaboration with other FERC Offices on specific procedural improvements and increased outreach to Tribal communities
- *Stay Tuned:* September 12 FERC Workshop on Interconnection Innovations and Efficiencies



Thank You!

Email: OPP@ferc.gov | **Phone:** (202) 502-6595

Web: www.ferc.gov/OPP



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