Today the Commission is publishing a White Paper to set forth its assessment of how the electric utility industry should move forward to achieve long-term benefits for electricity customers, and how it intends to change the rule proposed in the above docket on July 31, 2002, to meet the concerns that have been raised in rulemaking comments.

The White Paper is being placed in the record of this rulemaking docket. It will also be available on the Commission's website at http://www.ferc.gov/Electric/RTO/mrkt-strct-comments/discussion_paper.htm.

The Commission welcomes public comment on this document. All comments will be available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's web site at http://www.ferc.gov, using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. Comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper; see 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site under the "e-Filing" link. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

The Commission also intends to begin holding regional technical conferences in the near future, to discuss with states and market participants in each region reasonable timetables for addressing wholesale market design issues discussed in the White Paper and ways to tailor the Commission's final rule to benefit customers within the region. We will issue notices of the conferences shortly.

By direction of the Commission

Secretary