

Troutman Transmission Monthly

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FERC STANDARDS OF CONDUCT NOPR *Impacts For The Electric World*

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In a much anticipated move in January, FERC put its electric utility Standards of Conduct back on the table for comment, after its similar gas regulations were struck down by a federal court. The ongoing relevance of the Standards of Conduct for electric utilities, a centerpiece of FERC's enforcement efforts in recent years, has been in doubt since the recent court decision. In a January Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NOPR"), FERC asks for comment on whether and how the Standards of Conduct should be narrowed for electric utilities.

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TRANSMISSION PRICING INCENTIVES *Major Projects to Reap Benefits: Future Not so Clear For Smaller Projects*

By Karen Kruse
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In the past year, FERC has loudly declared its willingness to approve incentive-laden transmission rates in order to stimulate investment in the nation's transmission grid. As has been reported previously in the [Troutman Transmission Monthly](#), FERC appears to be backing up its promises with action, at least when major transmission projects with regional benefits are concerned. However, recent orders have called into question whether FERC will also provide sufficient incentives to spark the much-needed investment in medium to small-sized projects across the grid. Several statements by individual Commissioners suggest that incentive transmission rates may not be as easy to come by as many in the industry had hoped. However, it is not clear whether these comments signal a true change in approach for the agency.

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TROUBLE FOR RTOs?

Congressmen Ask GAO to Investigate Midwest ISO's Effect on Costs of Wholesale Power

*By Mary Ellen Stefanou
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In recent years, many in the utility industry have debated whether the costs associated with ISOs and RTOs may outweigh the benefits they provide the wholesale marketplace. They may soon get an answer.

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