
United States
Department of Energy

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

OE Docket Nos. PP-33-1 and EA-33-A



Rescission of Presidential Permit and
Electricity Export Authorization to Mexico

Order Nos. PP-33-1 and EA-33-A

July 20, 2009

**Rescission
of
Presidential Permit and Electricity Export Authorization**

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Order Nos. PP-33-1 and EA-33-A

I. BACKGROUND

The Department of Energy (DOE) has the responsibility for implementing Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038, which requires the issuance of Presidential permits for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of electric transmission facilities at the United States international border. In addition, exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated by DOE pursuant to sections 301(b) and 402(f) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7151(b), 7172(f)) and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 824a(e))¹.

On July 28, 1959, the Federal Power Commission (FPC) granted a Presidential permit in Docket No. E-6868 (now Presidential Permit No. PP-33) to Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Rio Grande). That Order authorized Rio Grande to construct a 14.4/24.9-kilovolt (kV) electric distribution facility across the U.S. border with Mexico at the Rio Grande River's Heath Crossing in Brewster County, Texas. From that point the transmission line continued into Mexico to the community of Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, Mexico.

On August 13, 1959, in the same FPC docket (now OE Docket No. EA-33), Rio Grande was authorized to export electric energy from the U.S. to Mexico using the facilities authorized in Presidential Permit No. PP-33.

On June 1, 2009, Rio Grande notified DOE that the facilities authorized in Presidential Permit No. PP-33 have not been active since June 1999, and that the facilities have been removed.

II FINDING AND DECISION

DOE has determined that this action is among those classes of actions not normally requiring preparation of an environmental assessment and, therefore, is eligible for categorical exclusion under Appendix B to Subpart D, paragraph B4.10 of "DOE's

¹ The authority to administer the International Electricity Regulatory Program through the regulation of electricity exports and the issuance of Presidential permits has been delegated to the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability in Redelegation Order No. 00-002.10C issued on May 29, 2008.

National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (10 CFR Part 1021).” Specifically, this categorical exclusion is provided for deactivation, dismantling, and removal of electric powerlines, substations, switching stations, and other transmission facilities, and right-of-way abandonment. Documentation of the use of this categorical exclusion has been placed in this Docket.

III. ORDER

Based on the above, it is hereby ordered that, pursuant to the provisions of EO 10485, as amended by EO 12038, and the Rules and Regulations issued thereunder (Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, section 205.320-329, Presidential Permit No. PP-33 issued to Rio Grande on July 28, 1959 is hereby rescinded. In addition, pursuant to section 202(e) of the FPA and the Rules and Regulations issued thereunder (Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, sections 205.300-309), the electricity export authorization issued to Rio Grande on August 13, 1959, in Order No. EA-33, is hereby rescinded.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on July 20, 2009.



Anthony J. Como
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