



ESI supports the comments to the NOPR submitted by the Edison Electric Institute (“EEI”) and also requests that the modifications recommended by EEI be adopted. As EEI’s comments are thorough, ESI will not repeat them all, but will focus on a few matters we wish to emphasize. First, ESI agrees with EEI’s underlying theme that in the NOPR, the Commission is proposing to adopt an approach to electronic filing that is unnecessarily complex. ESI fully supports EEI’s recommendation that the Commission continue to allow the filing of tariffs, rate schedules, and service agreements in their native format, using the current eFiling and eLibrary systems. Such an approach would be simpler and more efficient than the use of an entirely new, complicated, and undeveloped software system.

ESI offers the following supporting comments which amplify a few specific issues addressed by EEI. ESI supports the EEI comments on the issue of flexibility. In particular, like EEI, ESI supports the Commission’s proposal, at paragraphs 12 and 23-25 of the NOPR, that tariffs, rate schedules and service agreements may be filed either using either sheet-based or section-based nomenclature, and be filed as entire documents in RTF or PDF format. ESI encourages the Commission to retain as much flexibility as possible in the final rule.

ESI also supports EEI’s requested clarification relating to the documents to be included in the initial “baseline” electronic filings. In the NOPR, it is unclear whether only OATTs or OATTs, power sales tariffs and market-based tariffs will have to be included in the initial baseline. ESI thus requests that the Commission clarify which documents need to be included in the baseline.

In addition, ESI agrees with EEI’s suggestion to eliminate some of the requirements of Order No. 614, including the headers and footers. *See* Order No. 614, *Designation of Electric*

*Rate Schedule Sheets, Final Rule*, 90 FERC ¶ 71,352 (March 31, 2000). The headers and footers are no longer necessary in the context of electronic filings and should be eliminated.

Finally, ESI fully supports EEI's comments with respect to implementation of any new electronic filing system. ESI urges the Commission to provide adequate time for the development of any necessary new software and for the submittal of documents using the new process. ESI concurs with EEI that the minimum lead time before starting to use the new electronic filing system should be at least 24 months from the date of Commission adoption of a final rule. ESI expects that it will need time to learn the complex new filing system and software or develop its own software, to train ESI personnel on the software, to transfer its OATT, rate schedules and service agreements into the software, and to input the relevant meta data field values. Moreover, ESI notes that due to the vintage of some of its rate schedules, many are not currently available in electronic format.

In summary, ESI respectfully requests that the Commission modify its proposed electronic filing rules consistent with the comments submitted by EEI.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 29, 2008