PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. submits these comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NOPR”) issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC” or “Commission”) on May 16, 2019, in the above-referenced docket.

I. BACKGROUND

In the NOPR, the Commission proposes to amend its regulations to incorporate by reference, with certain enumerated exceptions, the latest version (i.e., Version 003.2) of certain Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities adopted by the Wholesale Electric Quadrant (“WEQ”) of the North American Energy Standards Board (“NAESB”). The WEQ Version 003.2 Standards build upon the standards in the WEQ Version 003.1 Standards and include, in their entirety, the modifications submitted to the Commission in WEQ Version 003.1, which were the subject of an earlier notice of proposed rulemaking.¹

II. COMMENTS

While PJM generally supports the Commission’s proposal to amend its regulations to incorporate WEQ Version 003.2 Standards, PJM requests that the Commission clarify in the final rule that—consistent with Commission precedent and currently-effective policy—each public utility may seek as part of its compliance filing: (1) waiver of new or revised standards in the WEQ Version 003.2 Standards; and (2) renewal of existing waivers previously granted by the Commission. In Order No. 676-H, the Commission adopted WEQ Version 3 and explicitly stated that “[p]ublic utilities may seek waiver of the standards for newly developed or newly revised standards and for the renewal of existing waivers. [FERC’s] policy on when these waivers will be granted or denied is not being changed in this Final Rule. All requests for waiver and requests for renewals of prior granted waiver requests must be submitted…the same date on which the compliance filing is due.”

PJM requests a similar clarification be included in the final rule for this proceeding. Pursuant to section 4.2 of the PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff, PJM was previously granted waiver of various NAESB WEQ standards. These waivers continue to be necessary. While PJM understands that currently-effective FERC policy precludes the Commission from automatically extending existing waivers or ruling on PJM-specific waivers in this rulemaking proceeding, PJM would appreciate the

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3 Order No. 676-H at PP 72-73, 86-88.

4 Id. at P 73 (“Furthermore, consistent with previous practice, the Commission does not automatically extend existing waivers without Commission review and approval. When the Commission adopts new
opportunity to demonstrate in its compliance filing for the final rule in this proceeding that PJM’s existing FERC-approved rules continue to be “consistent with or superior” to certain newly proposed WEQ Version 003.2 Standards.⁵

III. CONCLUSION

Wherefore, for the foregoing reasons, PJM respectfully requests that the Commission accept and favorably act upon these comments in the final rule.

Respectfully submitted,

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⁵ For example, in its compliance filing, PJM will request partial waivers of the preemption and right-of-first refusal processes in the WEQ Version 003.2 Standards. PJM’s currently-effective, partial waiver of the preemption and right-of-first refusal processes in WEQ Version 003.0 Standards is required due to the negative effect on the PJM day-ahead and real-time energy markets that would result from these processes absent the currently-effective waiver. As PJM will explain more thoroughly in its compliance filing, the preemption and right-of-first refusal processes in the WEQ Version 003.2 Standards would exacerbate such negative effects without renewal and expansion of the waiver for these processes. Therefore, PJM will request in its compliance filing a partial waiver of the preemption and right-of-first refusal processes in the WEQ Version 003.2 Standards to avoid the associated negative effects on the PJM day-ahead and real-time energy markets.