

Decision on Investment Policy



Philip Leiber Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

ISO Board of Governors General Session December 16-17, 2008 We completed a review of the investment policy and are proposing certain enhancements.

- Last reviewed in 2005
- Enlisted the support of an outside expert
- The current policy was sound overall, but certain improvements are warranted

We proposed changes in three areas. Two areas are process oriented or relate to the entire portfolio.

1. Administrative updates

2. Enhancements to controls & safeguards

- Review policy periodically
- Enhance internal controls
- Provide reports to Corporate Management Committee
- Identify criteria for use of external managers
- Improve safekeeping/Custody

×

 Improve risk management tools / provide for third party portfolio review

The third category of changes specify the investments that we can or cannot purchase.

3. Authorized and prohibited investments

- Revisions and clarifications related to specific authorized investments
- Revise and expand list of prohibited investments
 - Specific types

×

More directly target compliance with FERC rules

We recommend retaining the ability to invest in corporate bonds.

Key policy question: Are purchases of even highly rated corporate debt consistent with a policy that has as a first priority "safety of principal"?

 Non-callable obligations

×

 Yields significantly higher than "riskless" T-Bills



- Unrealized losses experienced in 2008
- Reliability of credit ratings

Conclusion

- Policy has objectives of:
 - Safety of Principle
 - Liquidity
 - Earnings
- Proposed changes provide additional safeguards to ensure these objectives are met.