Issued at Washington, DC on October 2, 1996.

Rachel Murphy Samuel,

Acting Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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Alaska Power Administration

[Rate Order No. APA–12]

Eklutna Project - Order Confirming and Approving an Adjustment of Power Rates on an Interim Basis

AGENCY: Alaska Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of a rate order.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Deputy Secretary approved Rate Order No. APA 12 which adjusts the present power rates for the Eklutna Project. This is an interim rate action effective October 1, 1996, for a period of 12 months. This rate is subject to final confirmation and approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a period of up to five years.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rodney L. Adelman, Administrator, Alaska Power Administration, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586–2008.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 16, 1996, the Alaska Power Administration (APA) published a Federal Register notice of its intention to adjust current power rates for the Eklutna Project for a period of up to five years. The present rates are 18.7 mills per kilowatthour for firm energy, 10 mills per kilowatthour for non-firm energy, and 0.3 mills per kilowatthour for wheeling. These rates were approved by FERC Order, Docket No. EF94–1011–000 issued February 2, 1995, for the period October 1, 1994, through September 30, 1999.

Based on comments received during the public information process, APA now proposes that rates be adjusted beginning October 1, 1996, for a period of up to five years. The new rates would be 8.8 mills per kilowatthour for firm energy, 8.8 mills per kilowatthour for non-firm energy, and 0.3 mills per kilowatthour for wheeling. The Federal Register notice also indicated APA's intention to seek interim approval of the proposed rates by the Deputy Secretary of Energy pending final confirmation and approval of the rates by FERC. Following review of APA's proposal within the Department of Energy, I approved on an interim basis Rate Order No. APA–12 which adjusts the present Eklutna Rates for period of up to five years beginning October 1, 1996, subject to final confirmation and approval by FERC.

Issued at Washington, DC, September 30, 1996.

Charles B. Curtis,

Deputy Secretary.

This is an interim rate action subject to review and approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. It is made pursuant to the authorities delegated in DOE Delegation Order No. 0204–108, Amendment No. 3 to that Order.

Background

The Eklutna Project was completed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 1955. The Alaska Power Administration has operated and maintained the project since 1967. The Eklutna Project is a single-purpose project comprised of a dam, reservoir, 30,000-kW hydroelectric plant, 45 miles of 115-kV transmission lines, and three substations serving the Anchorage and Palmer areas. All project costs are allocated to power. The entire output of the project is under contract to three preference customers in the Anchorage-Palmer area on a take-or-pay basis.

Rate Schedules A–F10, A–N11 and A–W2 now in effect for the Eklutna Project were confirmed and approved by order of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Docket No. EF94–1011–000 issued February 2, 1995, for a period ending September 30, 1999.

Discussion

System Repayment

Studies prepared by the Alaska Power Administration, as required by DOE Policy No. RA 6120.2, demonstrate that the present firm rate must be decreased. The decreased rate will provide sufficient revenue to meet requirements for the rate period and meet project repayment criteria by the end of the repayment period. On that basis, the Alaska Power Administration proposes an adjustment of the firm rate for a period not to exceed five years. The Administrator of Alaska Power Administration has certified that the new rates are consistent with applicable law and that they are the lowest possible rates to customers consistent with sound business principles.

Environmental Impact

Alaska Power Administration has concluded with Departmental concurrence that this rate action will have no significant environmental impact within the meaning of the Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It is the Alaska Power Administration's determination that the rate adjustment does not exceed the rate of inflation and therefore is categorically excluded from the NEPA process as defined in 40 CFR 1508.4 and is listed as a categorical exclusion for DOE in 10 CER 1021, Appendix B4.3. The proposed action is not a major Federal action for which preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is required.

Availability of Information

Information regarding this rate action, including studies and other supporting material, is available for public review in the offices of the Alaska Power Administration, 2770 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2B, Juneau, Alaska.

Public Notice and Comment

Opportunity for public review and comment on the rate action was announced by notice in the Federal Register on May 16, 1996, and in three paid advertisements in the newspaper in the market area on June 13, 14, and 15, 1996. The notice provided for a comment period of 90 days following publication in the Federal Register. A public information and comment forum was scheduled in Anchorage, Alaska on June 24, 1996, with public comment period ending August 14, 1994. The public information and comment forum was canceled on June 17, 1994, due to lack of interest, in accordance with 10 CFR 903.15(b), 10 CFR 903.15(c) and the Alaska Power Administration's prior notices of the public forum.

Submission to FERC

The rates herein confirmed, approved, and placed in effect on an interim basis, together with supporting documents, will be submitted promptly to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for confirmation and approval on a final basis.

Order

In view of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Secretary of Energy, I hereby confirm and approve on an interim basis, effective October 1, 1996, attached Wholesale Power Rate Schedules A–F11 A–N12, and A–W3. These rate schedules shall remain in effect on an interim basis for a period of 12 months unless such period is extended or until the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission confirms and approves them or substitute rate schedules on a final basis.

Issued at Washington, DC, this 30th day of September 1996.

Charles B. Curtis,

Deputy Secretary.

Schedule A–F12

United States Department of Energy; Alaska Power Administration; Eklutna Project, Alaska

Schedule of Rates for Wholesale Firm Power Service

Effective: October 1, 1996 for a maximum of five years.

Available: In the area served by the Eklutna Project, Alaska.

Character and Conditions of Service: Alternating current, sixty cycles, three-phase, delivered and metered at the low-voltage side of substation.

Monthly Rate: Capacity charge: None.

Energy charge: All energy at 8.8 mills per kilowatt-hour.

Minimum Annual Capacity Charge: None.

Billing Demand: Not applicable.

Adjustments: For transformer losses: If delivery is made at the high-voltage side of the customer's substation but metered at the low-voltage side, the meter readings will be increased 2 percent to compensate for transformer losses.

For power factor: None. The customer will normally be required to maintain power factor at the point of delivery of between 90 percent lagging and 90 percent leading.

For auxiliary power service: Auxiliary power supplies may be used in conjunction with the service hereunder if the parties hereto, prior to the Contractor's utilization of any such auxiliary power supply, have entered into a written operating agreement defining the procedure by which the amount of power and energy will be determined.

Schedule A–N13

United States Department of Energy; Alaska Power Administration; Eklutna Project, Alaska

Schedule of Rates for Wholesale Nonfirm Power Service

Effective: October 1, 1996 for a maximum of five years.

Available: In the area served by the Eklutna Project, Alaska.

Applicable: To firm power customers normally maintaining generating facilities or other sources of energy sufficient to supply their requirements.

Character and Conditions of Service: Alternating current, sixty cycles, three-phase, delivered and metered at the low-voltage side of substation.

Monthly Rate: Capacity charge: None.

Energy Charge: All energy at 8.8 mills per kilowatt-hour.

Minimum Charge: None.

Billing Demand: Not applicable.

Adjustments: For character and conditions of service: None.

For transformer losses: If delivery is made at the high-voltage side of the customer's substation but metered at the low-voltage side, the meter readings will be increased 2 percent to compensate for transformer losses.

Schedule A–W3

United States Department of Energy; Alaska Power Administration; Eklutna Project, Alaska

Schedule of Rates for Wholesale Wheeling Service

Effective: October 1, 1996 for a maximum of five years.

Available: In the area served by the Eklutna Project, Alaska.

Applicable: To all non-federal power transmitted over Eklutna Project transmission facilities for the benefit of Project customers.

Character and Conditions of Service: Alternating current, sixty cycles, three-phase, delivered and metered at the low-voltage side of substation.

Monthly Rate: Capacity charge: None.

Energy Charge: All energy wheeled for others at .3 mills per kilowatt-hour.

Minimum Charge: None.

Billing Demand: Not applicable.

Adjustments: For character and conditions of service: None.

For transformer and transmission losses: As specified in wheeling contracts.

[FR Doc. 96–25730 Filed 10–7–96; 8:45 am]

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP96–392–000]

Black Marlin Pipeline Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

October 2, 1996.

Take notice that on September 27, 1996, Black Marlin Pipeline Company (Black Marlin) tendered for filing to become part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheet to be effective November 1, 1996:

First Revised Sheet No. 205

Black Marlin states that the above-referenced tariff sheet is being filed to revise Sections 3.1 and 3.3 of the General Terms and Conditions of Black Marlin's tariff. The revision to Section 3.1 will permit Transporter and Shipper to mutually agree on the installation, ownership, maintenance and operation of measurement equipment. The revision to Section 3.3 will provide for the verification of such equipment by test at no more than 45 day intervals. This 45 day interval is consistent with Department of Interior regulations governing the testing of measurement equipment located offshore.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.211 and 385.214 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed as provided in Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulation's. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–25694 Filed 10–7–96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. CP96–814–000]

Colorado Interstate Gas Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

October 2, 1996.

Take notice that on September 24, 1996, Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG), Post Office Box 1087, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80944, filed in Docket No. CP96–814–000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205, 157.216 and 157.212 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.216 and 157.212) for authorization to abandon existing facilities and for authorization to install and operate upgraded facilities, at the same location, in Pueblo County, Colorado, to accommodate an existing customers increased growth. CIG makes such request, under its blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83–21–000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Specifically, CIG is proposing to abandon two 2-inch meters at the existing Pueblo West delivery facilities and to install a new 4-inch meter capable of increased deliverability to the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo). CIG states the deliveries at the Pueblo West delivery point will provide system supply to the Pueblo West area.

It is asserted that PSCo is currently entitled under existing agreements to receive up to 985 Dt of natural gas per day at 175 psig, and that the facility upgrade will permit CIG to deliver up to 3,700 Dt of natural gas per day to PSCo at 275 psig. CIG further states that the proposed increased volumes will be within PSCo's existing entitlements. CIG estimates the proposed upgrade will cost approximately $18,000.