

*Commenting Deadline*

Written comments should be mailed or e-mailed to: Mr. David Heintzman, Portland General Electric (3WTC-BRHL), 121 SW Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97204; David\_Heintzman@pgn.com

All correspondence should be postmarked no later than March 21, 2000. Comments should show the following caption on the first page: Scoping Comments, Willamette Falls Hydroelectric Project, Project No. 2233. Any comments sent to the Commission must include an original and eight copies and be addressed to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. Please put the docket number, P-2233, on the first page.

For further information please contact Julie Keil PGE at (503) 464-8864 or John Blair of the Commission at (202) 219-2845.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-32434 Filed 12-14-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Southwestern Power Administration

#### Integrated System Rate Schedules

**AGENCY:** Southwestern Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of rate order.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Sections 301(b) and 302(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91) and Section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s) the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy has approved and placed into effect on an interim basis Rate Order No. SWPA-42 which provides the following Integrated System Rate Schedules:

- Rate Schedule P-98C, Wholesale Rates for Hydro Peaking Power
- Rate Schedule NPTS-98C, Wholesale Rates for Non-Federal Transmission Service

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Forrest E. Reeves, Assistant Administrator, Office of Corporate Operations, Southwestern Power Administration, Department of Energy, PO Box 1619, Tulsa, OK 74101, (918) 595-6696, [reeves@swpa.gov](mailto:reeves@swpa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FY 1999 Power Repayment Studies for the Integrated System indicate that rates prescribed by Rate Schedules P-98B, Wholesale Rates for Hydro Peaking Power, and NPTS-98B, Wholesale Rates

for Non-Federal Transmission Service, are adequate to meet repayment criteria within the plus-or-minus two percent rate adjustment threshold. However, certain aspects of the terms and conditions set forth in the rate schedules need to be revised to expand the Real Power Loss provisions and to more accurately reflect actual regional operating conditions for Spinning and Supplemental Operating Reserves. The names of the rate schedules have been changed from P-98B and NPTS-98B to P-98C and NPTS-98C to reflect that revisions have been made.

Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) has followed Title 10, Part 903, Subpart A of the Code of Federal Regulations, "Procedures for Public Participation in Power and Transmission Rate Adjustments," in connection with the minor rate schedule revisions being proposed. The public was advised by notice published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 49483), September 13, 1999, of proposed rate schedule changes and of the opportunity to participate in a 30-day public comment period. Written comments on the proposed rate schedule changes were due on or before October 13, 1999. No written comments were received. In addition, several informal meetings were held with customers and interested parties to discuss the proposed changes.

Information regarding these rate schedule revisions, including supporting material, is available for public review and comment in the offices of Southwestern Power Administration, One West Third Street, Suite 1400, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103.

Following review of Southwestern's proposal within the Department of Energy, I hereby approve Rate Order No. SWPA-42 on an interim basis, through

September 30, 2001, or until confirmed and approved on a final basis by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Dated: December 2, 1999.

**T.J. Glauthier,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

#### Order Confirming, Approving and Placing Revised Power Rate Schedules in Effect on an Interim Basis (January 1, 2000)

[Rate Order, No. SWPA-42]

Pursuant to Sections 301(b) and 302(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act, Public Law 95-91, the functions of the Secretary of the Interior and the Federal Power Commission under Section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, 16 U.S.C. 825s, for the Southwestern Power Administration

(Southwestern) were transferred to and vested in the Secretary of Energy. By Delegation Order No. 0204-108, effective December 14, 1983, 48 FR 55664, the Secretary of Energy delegated to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on an exclusive basis the authority to confirm, approve and place in effect on a final basis, or to disapprove power and transmission rates. This rate order is issued by the Secretary of Energy pursuant to the Department of Energy Organization Act, Public Law 95-91, as noted above.

#### Background

In September 1999, Southwestern completed its review of the adequacy of the current rate schedules for the Integrated System and finalized its FY 1999 Power Repayment The FY 1999 Power Repayment for the Integrated System indicates that rates prescribed by Rate Schedules P-98B, Wholesale Rates for Hydro Peaking Power, and NPTS-98B, Wholesale Rates for Non-Federal Transmission Service, are sufficient to meet repayment criteria within the plus-or-minus 2 percent rate adjustment threshold. However, certain aspects of the terms and conditions set forth in the rate schedules need to be revised to expand the Real Power Loss provisions and to more accurately reflect actual regional operating conditions for Spinning and Supplemental Operating Reserves. Since the proposed changes to the rate schedules are associated with the terms and conditions of service, the net results of the 1997 Integrated System Power Repayment Studies, which was the basis for the existing rate schedules, will not be altered. The designations of the aforementioned rate schedules have been changed from P-98B and NPTS-98B to P-98C and NPTS-98C, respectively, to reflect the fact that revisions have been made.

Title 10, Part 903 Subpart A, of the Code of Federal Regulations, "Procedures for Public Participation in Power and Transmission Rate Adjustments and Extensions" (Part 903) have been followed in connection with the proposed revisions to the rate schedules. An opportunity for customers and other interested members of the public to review and comment on the proposed Rate Schedules P-98C and NPTS-98C was announced by notice published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 49483), September 13, 1999, with written comments due on or before October 13, 1999. In addition, Southwestern held informal meetings with customers to discuss proposed changes and to provide opportunity for input in the development of these

changes. No written comments were received.

### Discussion

Rate Schedule P-98C applies to wholesale customers purchasing hydro peaking power and peaking energy from the Integrated System. This rate schedule is designed for the sale of Federal power and energy. Provisions in the rate schedule are being revised to reflect minor corrections and modifications for the purpose of clarification. Also, terms and conditions regarding specific provisions of this rate schedule are being expanded to address customer or operational concerns. Southwestern proposes to amend the terms and conditions for Real Power Losses by adding a provision for the annual election to self-provide Real Power Losses, and to broaden the application of rates for the Spinning and Supplemental Operating Reserve ancillary services to apply to deliveries of non-Federal power and energy generated by resources located within Southwestern's Control Area and for all deliveries of Hydro Peaking Power and associated energy. The rates for the Spinning and Supplemental Operating Reserve ancillary services will be reduced due to the increase in billing units that result from the expanded application. However, the revenue requirements will remain unchanged.

The existing rate schedule (P-98B) determined the rate for Real Power Losses based upon the average actual costs incurred by Southwestern for the purchase of energy to replace Real Power Losses during the most recent twelve-month period. Southwestern has revised this provision to use the average actual purchase costs during the previous fiscal year (October through September) and to post the rate for Real Power Losses on Southwestern's OASIS by November 1 of each year, with an effective date of January 1 of each calendar year. The timeframe for implementing the annual loss rate has been revised to accommodate the annual election for self-provision of Real Power Losses. Southwestern proposes to implement the revised rate for Real Power Losses effective January 1, 2000. Customers who decide to exercise their election for self-provision of Real Power Losses initially must do so by January 1, 2000, with implementation beginning February 1, 2000. Thereafter, the annual election for self-provision is required to be exercised by December 1 of the prior calendar year, for implementation beginning January 1 of each calendar year.

The provisions for the Spinning and Supplemental Operating Reserves

ancillary services have been broadened to include application to deliveries of non-Federal power and energy generated by resources located within Southwestern's Control Area. In addition, these two ancillary services will also apply to all deliveries of Hydro Peaking Power and associated energy, from and within Southwestern's Control Area. This change in application is needed to accommodate Southwestern's obligation, as a member of the regional reliability council in which it operates, to supply Spinning and Supplemental Operating Reserves for all power generated within Southwestern's Control Area.

Rate Schedule NPTS-98C applies to wholesale customers purchasing Non-Federal Point-to-Point and Network Integration Transmission Service. Both the Real Power Losses and the Spinning and Supplemental Reserve ancillary services have been revised in the same manner as in Rate Schedule P-98C, noted above.

### Comments and Responses

Southwestern has received no formal written comments regarding these Rate Schedule changes.

### Other Issues

There were no other issues raised during the informal meetings or during the formal public participation period.

### Administrator's Certification

The revised rate schedules will repay all costs of the Integrated System including amortization of the power investment consistent with the provisions of Department of Energy Order No. RA 6120.2. In accordance with Section 1 of Delegation Order No. 0204-108, as amended November 10, 1993, 58 FR 59717, and Section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, the Administrator has determined that the proposed System Rate Schedules are consistent with applicable law and the lowest possible rates consistent with sound business principles.

### Environment

No additional evaluation of the environmental impact of the proposed rate schedule changes was conducted since no change has been made to the currently-approved System rates which were determined to fall within the class of actions that are categorically excluded from the requirements of preparing either an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment.

### Order

In view of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Secretary of Energy, I hereby confirm, approve and place in effect on an interim basis, effective January 1, 2000, the Southwestern Integrated System Rate Schedules P-98C and NPTS-98C which shall remain in effect on an interim basis through September 30, 2001, or until the FERC confirms and approves the rates on a final basis.

Dated: December 2, 1999.

**T.J. Glauthier,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Boulder Canyon Project-Base Charge and Rates

**AGENCY:** Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of base charge and rates.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is given of the confirmation and approval by the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) placing the Base Charge and Rates for the Boulder Canyon Project (BCP) firm power into effect for the fifth rate year under the current rate methodology pursuant to Rate Schedule BCP-F5 as approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on April 19, 1996 (Rate Order No. WAPA-70). The Base Charge will provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs, including interest expense, and repayment of required investment within the allowable period. **DATES:** The Base Charge will be placed into effect on December 1, 1999, and will be in effect through September 30, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Anthony Montoya, Power Marketing Manager, Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009-5313, (602) 352-2789, or

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Deputy Secretary of Energy approved the existing Base Charge for firm power service on September 19, 1997. The existing Base Charge was calculated in accordance with the methodology approved under Rate Order WAPA-70. In accordance with Section 13.13 of the BCP Implementation Agreement, the rate methodology and calculated rates for the first rate year and each fifth fiscal