

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.

[FR Doc. 99-32468 Filed 12-14-99; 8:45 am]

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

year (FY) thereafter shall become effective on an interim basis upon approval by the Deputy Secretary of Energy, subject to final approval by FERC. The rates for the second, third, and fourth FYS for the BCP-F5 became effective on a final basis upon approval by the Deputy Secretary. The rates for the fifth FY (FY 2000) shall become effective on a final basis upon approval by the Deputy Secretary. The FY 2000 Base Charge represents the charges for the fifth FY since FERC approval of the current rate methodology.

The Procedures for Public Participation in Power and Transmission Rate Adjustments and Extensions, 10 CFR part 903, have been followed by Western in determining the Base Charge. The FY 2000 Base Charge for BCP firm power is based on an Annual Revenue Requirement of \$46,145,334. The Base Charge consists of an energy dollar of \$23,860,434.50, a forecasted energy rate of 4.59 mills/kWh, a capacity dollar of \$22,284,899.50, and a forecasted capacity rate of \$0.95 per kilowattmonth (kWmonth).

The following summarizes the steps taken by Western to ensure involvement of all interested parties in the determination of the Base Charge and Rates:

1. The proposed rate adjustment was initiated on February 22, 1999, when a letter announcing an informal customer meeting was mailed to all BCP Contractors. The informal meeting was held on March 9, 1999, in Phoenix, Arizona. At this informal meeting, Western explained the rationale for the rate adjustment, presented the FY 2000 Base Charge and Forecast Capacity and Energy Rates, and answered questions.

2. A **Federal Register** notice was published on March 24, 1999 (64 FR 14227), officially announcing the proposed rates for BCP, initiating the public consultation and comment period, and announcing the public information forum and public comment forum.

3. On March 24, 1999, letters were mailed from Western's Desert Southwest Regional Office to all BCP Contractors and interested parties, transmitting the **Federal Register** notice of March 24, 1999 (64 FR 14227), and announcing the times and locations for the two public forums.

4. On April 13, 1999, letters were mailed from Western's Desert Southwest Regional Office to all BCP Contractors and interested parties, transmitting a package of updated information related to the FY 2000 Base Charge and Forecast Capacity and Forecast Energy Rates

compiled since the March 9, 1999, informal customer meeting.

5. On April 21, 1999, beginning at 10 a.m., a public information forum was held at Western's Desert Southwest Regional Office in Phoenix, Arizona. At the public information forum, Western provided detailed explanations of the proposed FY 2000 Base Charge and Forecast Capacity and Forecast Energy Rates for BCP, identified the issues that could change the proposed FY 2000 Base Charge and Forecast Capacity and Forecast Energy Rates, and answered questions. A rate information handout was provided at the forum.

6. On May 18, 1999, letters were mailed from Western's Desert Southwest Regional Office to all BCP Contractors and interested parties, transmitting a package of responses to data requests and questions from the April 21, 1999, public information forum.

7. On June 2, 1999, beginning at 10:30 a.m., a public comment forum was held at Western's Desert Southwest Regional Office in Phoenix, Arizona. A handout containing information regarding the updated FY 2000 Base Charge and Forecast Capacity and Forecast Energy Rates was provided. After providing this information, Western gave the public an opportunity to comment for the record. Three representatives made oral comments.

8. Two comment letters were received during the 90-day consultation and comment period. The consultation and comment period ended June 22, 1999. All formally submitted comments have been considered in developing the Base Charge for FY 2000. Written comments were received from the following sources:

Irrigation and Electrical Districts Association of Arizona (Arizona)
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (California)

The comments and responses, paraphrased for brevity, are presented below:

Civil Service Retirement Costs and Post-Retirement Health and Life Insurance Benefits

Comment: Western received comments related to Western's lack of authority to collect the unfunded portion of the Civil Service Retirement Costs and Post-Retirement Health and Life Insurance Benefits in this rate process. Specifically, the Contractors assert that funds collected for these costs for the BCP would have to be deposited into the Colorado River Dam Fund (CRDF) and could not be transferred to a general fund account managed by the Office of Personnel

Management. Accordingly, the Contractors believe that collection of these costs is inappropriate. The Contractors are also concerned that proper tracking of these funds is also needed to ensure they are being used only for BCP and are not lost in a general fund.

Response: Under a legal opinion provided by the General Counsel of the DOE by memorandum dated July 1, 1998, the Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) have the authority to collect, through the rates, the full costs of the Retirement Benefits. In addition, the FERC has issued at least two orders approving the inclusion of such costs in PMA rates; *Western Area Power Administration* (Intertie Project), 87 FERC ¶ 61,346, at 62,337-62,338 (1999), and *Southeastern Power Administration*, 86 FERC ¶ 61,195, at 61,681 (1999). Based on the FY 1999 data currently available, a total of \$1.3 million is expected to be collected for these retirement costs for FY 2000, which represents approximately 3 percent of the BCP revenue requirement. Western has previously recovered \$1.3 million for Civil Service Retirement Costs and Post-Retirement Health and Life Insurance Benefits costs in FY 1998 and anticipates recovering another \$1.3 million in FY 1999. Under the provisions of the Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act, 43 U.S.C. 618, *et seq.*, all receipts from the BCP shall be paid into the CRDF and are available for defraying the costs of operation. Western will continue to deposit these funds into the CRDF in compliance with these authorities.

Visitor Center

Comment: A Contractor continues to be concerned that the Visitor Center net revenues are not yet sufficient to fund the agreed-upon 50 percent amortization of the Visitor Center investment.

Response: The Bureau of Reclamation is currently working toward providing the detail necessary to show Government and Contractor responsibility for repayment of the final cost of the Visitor Facilities as required by the Implementation Agreement. Updated final estimated cost information was presented at the August 1999 Coordination Meeting. There has been a dramatic increase in the amount of revenue collected in recent years. Revenues collected *in excess* of expenses totaled \$900,000 in FY 1996, \$2.4 million in FY 1997, and \$5.2 million in FY 1998. Reclamation will continue to research and implement new revenue proposals, and carefully monitor expenses, with a goal of recovering 50 percent of the Visitor

Facilities investment with interest. Western will continue to include these revenues in the power repayment study as they are received.

Joint Planning Study Costs

Comment: A Contractor continues to address concern for costs incurred under the Joint Planning Agreement (JPA) for future transmission and generation project studies, which the contractor asserts are being allocated inappropriately to the BCP Contractors. The Contractor believes these study costs, in addition to the costs required for any transmission upgrades to the system (generator addition, transmission interconnection, etc.), should be charged to the project sponsors or included in Western's Open Access Tariff (OAT) rates. The Contractor also states whether the study costs are charged to the project sponsors or included in the OAT rates, the JPA study costs to date should be tracked and reimbursed to the BCP Contractors.

Response: Western agrees that study work which is project specific to a new line in Western's system, or an interconnection to Western's system, should and will be charged to the entity requesting the interconnection or to the Project (Parker-Davis, Intertie, Boulder Canyon, Colorado River Storage Project) which is being upgraded. Study work charges for the Mead Fault 230-kV duty studies will be charged to the projects shown to impact the system causing the upgrade. After completion of the contracts with those entities causing the impact, Western will be able to move the charges from the BCP, and other Projects, to the entities causing the needed upgrade.

If a project is not interconnecting to Western's system but could potentially cause an impact from one or more busses away, Western will have to perform studies and participate in study groups to assure our needs are considered and met. Often these situations do not enable Western to pass along study costs to the project. In these cases the costs are applied to those Projects on Western's system that are most impacted.

If studies work is of a general nature, Western reserves the authority to assign costs to the Project influenced by the project involved. Work on the California Independent System Operator, the Nevada Independent Scheduling Administrator, and the Arizona Independent Scheduling Administrator is of a general nature. BCP will receive charges from work on these efforts since they pertain to the use of Hoover in their operations, as well as other transmission and generation issues.

BCP's participation is 15 percent of the total cost of the efforts. Western's efforts in the Western Systems Coordinating Council and other reliability forums will also be charged based on the distribution formula for general efforts. In recent years, due to deregulation and significant systems changes, Western has been required to expend an increasing effort to address and protect system reliability.

Finally, the Contractor seems to have misconstrued the nature of the JPA. The JPA is a forum to review projects being considered by JPA signatories to coordinate and collaborate. Studies are performed on upgrades or new initiatives, charged to the appropriate Project, presented and discussed in the JPA committee meetings, and finalized in the annual JPA meeting before becoming a part of Western's system plans. The JPA has also been used as a forum to keep JPA signatories and other interested parties aware of activities impacting the systems.

By Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, published November 10, 1993 (58 FR 59716), the Secretary of Energy delegated (1) the authority to develop long-term power and transmission rates on a nonexclusive basis to the Administrator of Western; (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary of Energy; and (3) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, to remand, or to disapprove such rates to FERC. By subsequent Order effective April 15, 1999, the Secretary rescinded all delegations of authority to the Deputy Secretary, whether contained in Delegation Orders, Departmental Directives, or elsewhere, concerning the Department's Power Marketing Administrations, including, but not limited to, authority delegated or affirmed in Delegation Order No. 0204-108, as amended. However, on November 24, 1999, in Delegation Order No. 0204-172 the Secretary reinstate the authority delegated to the Deputy Secretary in Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, which had been rescinded by his April 15, 1999, Order.

These charges and rates are established pursuant to section 302(a) of the DOE Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. 7152(a), through which the power marketing functions of the Secretary of the Interior and Reclamation under the Reclamation Act of 1902, 43 U.S.C. 371, *et seq.*, as amended and supplemented by subsequent enactments, particularly section 9(c) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939, 43 U.S.C. 485h(c), and

other acts specifically applicable to the project system involved, were transferred to and vested in the Secretary.

Dated: December 3, 1999.

T.J. Glauthier,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-32411 Filed 12-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6509-1]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; A Pilot Study of Children's Total Exposure to Persistent Pesticides and Other Persistent Organic Pollutants (CTEPP)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: A Pilot Study of Children's Total Exposure to Persistent Pesticides and Other Persistent Organic Pollutants, EPA ICR Number 1892.02. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden and cost; where appropriate, it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 14, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the ICR contact Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-2740, by email at farmer.sandy@epa.gov, or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1892.02. For technical information about the collection contact Gary Evans at (919) 541-3124.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: A Pilot Study of Children's Total Exposure to Persistent Pesticides and Other Persistent Organic Pollutants, EPA ICR Number 1892.02. This is a new collection.

Abstract: The research study, "A Pilot Study of Children's Total Exposure to Persistent Pesticides and Other Persistent Organic Pollutants," (CTEPP) is a pilot-scale project involving about 260 children, which investigates the possible exposures that young children may have to common contaminants in their everyday surroundings. These