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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Southwestern Power Administration

Integrated System Power Rates

AGENCY: Southwestern Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Change to Southwestern Power Administration Integrated System Non-Federal Transmission Service Rate Schedule and Opportunity for Public Review and Comment.

SUMMARY: The Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern), has determined that an additional Section outlining a new methodology within Southwestern's existing Integrated System Non-Federal Transmission Service (NFTS-13) Rate Schedule is necessary to better align Southwestern's rate schedule with standard practices utilized by the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) Regional Transmission Organization. A new section 2.3.6 is proposed that establishes a procedure for determining an Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) for customers that choose to contract for Network Integration Transmission Service (NITS) on Southwestern's transmission system pursuant to the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT).

The proposed Section 2.3.6 does not change Southwestern's NFTS ARR, as determined in its 2013 Integrated System Power Repayment Studies (2013 PRS), but rather replaces the current stated-rate for SPP NITS with a revenue-requirement based methodology that includes determining the SPP NITS ARR portion of Southwestern's NFTS ARR. Furthermore, the proposed Section 2.3.6 affects only those customers that choose to contract for SPP NITS on Southwestern's transmission system under the SPP OATT.

Southwestern has determined that Section 2.3.6 will provide a more appropriate methodology for revenue recovery from NFTS customers that choose to contract for SPP NITS on Southwestern's transmission system under the SPP OATT.

DATES: The consultation and comment period will begin on the date of

publication of this **Federal Register** notice and will end on December 1, 2016. If requested, a combined Public Information and Comment Forum (Forum) will be held at 9:00 a.m. on November 17, 2016. If requested, persons desiring the Forum to be held should indicate in writing to Mr. Marshall Boyken, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) by November 8, 2016, their request for such Forum. If no request is received, no such Forum will be held. Persons interested in speaking at the Forum, if held, should submit a request to Mr. Marshall Boyken, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) by November 10, 2016, so that a list of Forum participants can be developed. All comments on the proposed Section 2.3.6 addition to Southwestern's NFTS Rate Schedule, whether provided to Southwestern in written or electronic copy (MS Word format), are due on or before December 1, 2016.

ADDRESSES: If requested, the Forum will be held in Southwestern's offices, Room 1460, Williams Center Tower I, One West Third Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103. Comments should be submitted to Mr. Marshall Boyken, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Marshall Boyken, Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Office of Corporate Operations, Southwestern Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, One West Third Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103, (918) 595-6646, marshall.boyken@swpa.gov, or facsimile transmission (918) 595-6646.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Originally established by Secretarial Order No. 1865 dated August 31, 1943, Southwestern is an agency within the U.S. Department of Energy created by the Department of Energy Organization Act, Public Law 95-91, dated August 4, 1977. Guidelines for preparation of power repayment studies are included in DOE Order No. RA 6120.2 entitled Power Marketing Administration Financial Reporting. Procedures for public participation in power and transmission rate adjustments of the Power Marketing Administrations are found at title 10, part 903, subpart A of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR part 903). Procedures for the confirmation and approval of rates for the Federal Power Marketing Administrations are found at title 18, part 300, subpart L of the Code of Federal Regulations (18 CFR part 300).

Southwestern markets power from 24 multi-purpose reservoir projects with hydroelectric power facilities constructed and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). These projects are located in the states of Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Southwestern's marketing area includes these states plus Kansas and Louisiana. The costs associated with the hydropower facilities of 22 of the 24 projects are repaid via revenues received under the Integrated System rates, as are those of Southwestern's transmission facilities, which consist of 1,380 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, 26 substations, and 46 communication sites. Costs associated with the Sam Rayburn and Robert D. Willis Dams, two Corps projects that are isolated hydraulically, electrically, and financially from the Integrated System, are repaid under separate rate schedules and are not addressed in this notice.

Rate Schedule Change

The current NFTS-13 Rate Schedule includes a stated rate for NITS that is calculated by dividing Southwestern's monthly revenue requirement, derived from Southwestern's NFTS ARR identified within the 2013 PRS, by the net transmission capacity available for NITS. Modifying Southwestern's rate schedule to include an ARR for SPP NITS, rather than applying a stated rate, is necessary to better align with standard practices utilized by SPP. Therefore, in place of applying the NITS stated rate for SPP NITS on Southwestern's transmission system, the proposed Section 2.3.6 includes a procedure for determining (and updating) an SPP NITS ARR, as a portion of Southwestern's NFTS ARR, based on the amount of revenue assumed to be recovered on an annual basis from NITS customers in each approved PRS. If additional customers choose to contract for SPP NITS on Southwestern's transmission system, the proposed Section 2.3.6 methodology updates the SPP NITS ARR and eliminates the need for Southwestern to revise its NFTS Rate Schedule each time additional customers contract for SPP NITS on Southwestern's transmission system.

The title of the NFTS-13 Rate Schedule was changed to NFTS-13A to reflect the addition of Section 2.3.6. A redlined version of the NFTS-13 Rate Schedule, which shows the revision proposed by rate schedule NFTS-13A, will be made available upon request. To request a copy, please contact Mr. Marshall Boyken, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Following review and consideration of written comments, the Administrator will determine whether to finalize and submit the proposed NPTS-13A Rate Schedule to the Deputy Secretary of Energy for confirmation and approval on an interim basis, and subsequently to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for confirmation and approval on a final basis. The FERC will allow the public an opportunity to provide written comments on the proposed rate schedule change before making a final decision.

Dated: October 26, 2016.

Scott Carpenter,
Administrator.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0050; FRL-9954-77-OEI]

Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Implementation of the Ambient Air Protocol Gas Verification Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency is planning to submit an information collection request (ICR), "Implementation of Ambient Air Protocol Gas Verification Program" (EPA ICR No. 2375.03, OMB Control No. 2060-0648) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). Before doing so, EPA is soliciting public comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below. This is a proposed extension of the ICR. An Agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 3, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, referencing Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0050 online using www.regulations.gov (our preferred method), or by mail to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20460.

EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public

docket without change including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes profanity, threats, information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Laurie Trinca, Air Quality Assessment Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code C304-06, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone: 919-541-0520; fax: 919-541-1903; email: trinca.laurie@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Supporting documents which explain in detail the information that the EPA will be collecting are available in the public docket for this ICR. The docket can be viewed online at www.regulations.gov or in person at the EPA Docket Center, WJC West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave. NW., Washington, DC. The telephone number for the Docket Center is 202-566-1744. For additional information about EPA's public docket, visit <http://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

Pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, EPA is soliciting comments and information to enable it to: (i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (ii) evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (iii) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (iv) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses. EPA will consider the comments received and amend the ICR as appropriate. The final ICR package will then be submitted to OMB for review and approval. At that time, EPA will issue another **Federal Register** notice to announce the submission of the ICR to OMB and the opportunity to submit additional comments to OMB.

Abstract: This ICR includes ambient air monitoring data reporting and recordkeeping activities associated with the 40 CFR part 58 Appendix A, Ambient Air Quality Surveillance Quality Assurance Regulations. These data and information are collected by

state, local, and tribal air quality management agencies and reported to the EPA.

The EPA Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program's quality assurance requirements in 40 CFR part 58, Appendix A, require: "2.6 Gaseous and Flow Rate Audit Standards. Gaseous pollutant concentration standards (permeation devices or cylinders of compressed gas) used to obtain test concentrations for CO, SO₂, NO, and NO₂ must be traceable to either a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Traceable Reference Material (NTRM), NIST Standard Reference Materials (SRM), and Netherlands Measurement Institute (NMI) Primary Reference Materials (valid as covered by Joint Declaration of Equivalence) or a NIST-certified Gas Manufacturer's Internal Standard (GMIS), certified in accordance with one of the procedures given in reference 4 of this appendix. Vendors advertising certification with the procedures provided in reference 4 of this appendix and distributing gases as "EPA Protocol Gas" must participate in the EPA Protocol Gas Verification Program or not use "EPA" in advertising.

These requirements give assurance to end users that all specialty gas producers selling EPA Protocol Gases are participants in a program that provides an independent assessment of the accuracy of their gases' certified concentrations. In 2010, the EPA developed an Ambient Air Protocol Gas Verification Program (AA-PGVP) that provides end users with information about participating producers and verification results.

Each year, EPA will attempt to compare gas cylinders from every specialty gas producer being used by ambient air monitoring organizations. The EPA's Regions 2 and 7 have agreed to provide analytical services for verification of 40 cylinders/lab or 80 cylinders total/year. Cylinders will be Start Printed Page 30302verified at a pre-determined time each quarter.

In order to make the appropriate selection, the EPA needs to know what specialty gas producers are being used by the monitoring organizations. Therefore, the EPA needs to survey each primary quality assurance organization every year to collect information on specialty gas producers being used and whether the monitoring organization would like to participate in the verification for the upcoming calendar year.

Respondent's obligation to respond: Mandatory (40 CFR part 58).

Estimated number of respondents: 211 (total).