must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

Dated: July 17, 2015.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015–18108 Filed 7–23–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Boulder Canyon Project-Rate Order No. WAPA–171

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Extension of Existing Rate-setting Formula and Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Base Charge and Rates.

SUMMARY: This action extends the existing Boulder Canyon Project (BCP) rate-setting formula through September 30, 2020, and approves the base charge and rates for FY 2016. The existing Electric Service Rate Schedule, BCP–F8, is set to expire on September 30, 2015. The Electric Service Rate Schedule contains a rate-setting formula that is recalculated annually based on updated financial and sales data.

DATES: The first day of the first full billing period beginning on or after October 1, 2015, and extending through September 30, 2020, or until superseded by another rate schedule, whichever occurs earlier.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ronald E. Moulton, Regional Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005–6457, (602) 605–2453, email *moulton@wapa.gov,* or Mr. Jack Murray, Rates Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005–6457, (602) 605–2442, email *jmurray@wapa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The existing Rate Schedule BCP–F8 under Rate Order No. WAPA–150[1] was approved for a five-year period beginning on October 1, 2010, and ending September 30, 2015.

Western proposed extending the existing rate-setting formula pursuant to 10 CFR part 903.23(a), Formula Rate Schedule BCP–F9 under Rate Order No. WAPA–171. The notice of proposed extension was published in the **Federal Register** on February 9, 2015 (80 FR 6955). As allowed by 10 CFR part 903.23(a), Western held a public information forum and public comment forum. The consultation and comment period ended May 11, 2015. All comments received during the comment period were considered in the development of the final rates.

By Delegation Order No. 00–037.00A, effective October 25, 2013, the Secretary of Energy delegated: (1) The authority to develop power and transmission rates to the Administrator of Western Area Power Administration (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 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Following review of Western's proposal within the Department of Energy, I hereby approve Rate Order No. WAPA–171, which extends the existing rate-setting formula through September 30, 2020, and approves the proposed BCP electric service base charge and rates for FY 2016. Rate Order No. WAPA–171 will be submitted to FERC for confirmation and approval on a final basis.

Dated: July 17, 2015.

Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall,

Deputy Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPUTY SECRETARY

In the matter of:

Western Area Power Administration, Rate Extension for the Boulder Canyon Project, Electric Service Formula Rate Schedule

Rate Order No. WAPA–171

ORDER CONFIRMING AND APPROVING AN EXTENSION OF THE BOULDER CANYON PROJECT ELECTRIC SERVICE RATE-SETTING FORMULA AND FY 2016 BASE CHARGE AND RATES FORMULA RATE SCHEDULE

These rates were established in accordance with Section 302 of the Department of Energy (DOE) Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7152). This act transferred to and vested in the Secretary of Energy the power marketing functions of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) under the Reclamation Act of 1902 (ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388), as amended and supplemented by subsequent laws, particularly section 9(c) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h(c)), and other acts that specifically apply to the project involved.

By Delegation Order No. 00–037.00A, effective October 25, 2013, the Secretary of Energy delegated: (1) The authority to develop power and transmission rates to the Administrator of Western Area Power Administration (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 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This extension is issued pursuant to the Delegation Order and DOE rate extension procedures at 10 CFR part 903.23(a).

BACKGROUND

On December 9, 2010, in Docket No. EF10–7–000 at 133 FERC ¶ 62,229, FERC issued an order confirming, approving and placing into effect on a final basis Electric Service Rate Schedule BCP–F8 for the Boulder Canyon Project (BCP). Electric Service Rate Schedule BCP–F8, Rate Order No. WAPA–150, was approved for five years beginning October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2015.

Western followed the Procedures for Public Participation in Power and Transmission Rate Adjustments and Extensions set forth in 10 CFR part 903.23(a) in extending the BCP rate-setting formula through September 30, 2020, and setting the new base charge and rates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. The steps Western took to involve interested parties in the rate process were:

1. On February 9, 2015, Western published a notice in the **Federal Register** (80 FR 6955) announcing the extension of the rate-setting formula and the proposed base charge and rates for BCP. Publication of this notice initiated the public consultation and comment period, and announced the public information and public comment forums. Western also announced the public forum dates and posted the BCP rate adjustment at *http://www.wapa.gov/dsw/pwrmkt/BCP/RateAdjust.htm.*

2. On March 11, 2015, Western hosted an informal customer meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. At this informal

[1] FERC confirmed and approved Rate Order No. WAPA–150 on December 9, 2010, in Docket No. EF10–7–000, *See* United States Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration, Boulder Canyon Project, 133 FERC ¶ 62,229 (December 9, 2010).

meeting, Western explained the rationale for the adjustment in the proposed base charge and rates, and answered questions. Contractors were notified of the informal meeting at the BCP Engineering and Operating Committee meetings in October 2014 and January 2015.

3. On April 1, 2015, Western held a public information forum at the Desert Southwest Regional Office in Phoenix, Arizona. Western provided detailed explanations of the proposed base charge and rates for BCP, and answered questions. Western provided a copy of the rate presentation, supporting documentation, and informational handouts.

4. On April 29, 2015, Western held a comment forum to give the public an opportunity to comment for the record. Individuals representing multiple entities commented at this forum.

5. Western received two comment letters during the consultation and comment period, which ended May 11, 2015. All comments have been considered in preparing this Rate Order.

Comments:

Written comments were received from the following organizations: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, California Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona, Arizona

The comments and responses regarding the electric service base charge and rates, paraphrased for brevity when not affecting the meaning of the statement(s), are discussed below. Direct quotes from comment letters are used for clarification, where necessary.

Comment: Commenters expressed concern that many BCP Contractors, who will be new as of October 1, 2017, are not familiar with Western's existing rate-setting formula methodology. Western should consider reaching out to these new Contractors prior to October 1, 2017, and educate them on the methodology or, alternatively, alter the length of this proposed extension period so a new rate period will begin with the FY 2018 rate and base charge adjustment process.

Response: Western has been providing outreach and education opportunities to the new BCP Contractors through the Post-2017 remarketing and new electric service contracts negotiation processes. In addition, under the BCP Implementation Agreement, Western submits BCP rates to the Deputy Secretary of Energy for approval each year and with the proposed extension, the new Contractors will have an opportunity to participate and be educated in the annual rate process through informal customer meetings, as well as formal public information and comment forums.

Comment: The BCP Contractors have proposed a joint audit paid for by the contractors with funds from prior year carryover. This joint audit would be completed prior to the termination of the Hoover Electric Service Contracts.

Response: Western and Reclamation support the proposal of a joint audit prior to the termination of the existing Hoover Electric Service Contracts. Western and Reclamation also support the Contractors' proposal to fund the audit costs by reducing prior year carryover which effectively increases the FY 2016 base charge.

Comment: Contractors expressed their support for extending the existing rate-setting formula methodology and approval of the base charge and rates for FY 2016.

Response: Western appreciates the contractors expressing its support with the extension of the existing rate-setting formula methodology and calculation of the base charge and rates for FY 2016.

DISCUSSION

On September 30, 2015, the BCP Electric Service Rate Schedule BCP–F8 will expire. This makes it necessary to extend the existing rate-setting formula and approve the FY 2016 Base Charge and Rates. With this approval, the existing rate-setting formula under Rate Schedule BCP–F9 will be extended under Rate Order No. WAPA–171.

The existing electric service rate-setting formula provides adequate revenue to pay all annual costs, including interest expense, and to repay investment within the cost recovery criteria as set forth in DOE Order RA 6120.2. Rate Order No. WAPA–171 extends the existing rate-setting formula through September 30, 2020, thereby continuing to ensure project repayment within the cost recovery criteria.

The existing base charge for FY 2015 is $61,008,518, the composite rate is 16.28 mills/kWh, the energy rate is 8.14 mills/kwh, and capacity rate is $1.61/kW/month.

The BCP increase in the electric service base charge and rates for FY 2016 is driven by three factors: 1) an increase of approximately $2 million in annual expenses, primarily estimated replacements and visitor center costs, and principal payments for uprating program and capitalized investments from FY 2015 to FY 2016; 2) a $1.5 million reduction in projected carryover between FY 2015 and FY 2016; and 3) a projected increase of $750K in other revenues, which acts as an offset to total expenses. The proposed base charge for FY 2016 is $63,735,856, composite rate is 18.33 mills/kWh, energy rate is 9.17 mills/kWh, and capacity rate is $1.72/kW/month. While there is an increase between FY 2015 and FY 2016, Western notes the base charge and rates for FY 2015 were artificially reduced due to actions taken by Contractors in FY 2014 and issues faced by Reclamation. During FY 2014, the BCP Contractors refinanced the highest interest rate debt on the visitor facilities and air slots investments, effectively eliminating them as a cost in the power repayment study. This transaction had the effect of increasing carryover by approximately $5 million at the end of FY 2014, and decreasing the base charge for FY 2015. At the same time, due to budget sequestration issues at the end of FY 2013, expenses at the end of FY 2013 were much lower than expected. The final results, received in mid-FY 2014, also served to increase the amount of carryover available to apply against the base charge and rates for FY 2015.

AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

Information about this extension and adjustment of electric service base charge and rates, including power repayment studies, comments, letters, memoranda, and other supporting material made or kept by Western to develop the provisional base charge and rates, is available for public review in the Desert Southwest Customer Service Regional Office, Western Area Power Administration, 615 South 43 Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.

Dated: July 17, 2015

Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall

Deputy Secretary

Formula Rate Schedule BCP–F9

(Supersedes Schedule BCP–F8)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

Boulder Canyon Project Desert Southwest Customer Service Region

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE

Effective:

The first day of the first full billing period beginning on or after October 1, 2015, and extending through September 30, 2020, or until superseded by another rate schedule, whichever occurs earlier.

Available:

In the marketing area serviced by the Boulder Canyon Project (BCP).

Applicable:

To power Contractors served by the BCP supplied through one meter, at one

point of delivery, unless otherwise provided by contract.

Character and Conditions of Service:

Alternating current at 60 hertz, three-phase, delivered and metered at the voltages and points established by contract.

Base Charge:

The total charge paid by a Contractor for annual capacity and energy based on the annual revenue requirement. The base charge shall be composed of an energy component and a capacity component:

ENERGY CHARGE: Each Contractor shall be billed monthly an energy charge equal to the rate year energy dollar multiplied by the Contractor's firm energy percentage multiplied by the Contractor's monthly energy ratio as provided by contract.

CAPACITY CHARGE: Each Contractor shall be billed monthly a capacity charge equal to the rate year capacity dollar divided by 12 multiplied by the Contractor's contingent capacity percentage as provided by contract.

Forecast Rates:

ENERGY: Shall be equal to the rate year energy dollar divided by the lesser of the total master schedule energy or 4,501.001 million kWhs. This rate is to be applied for use of excess energy, unauthorized overruns, and water pump energy.

CAPACITY: Shall be equal to the rate year capacity dollar divided by 1,951,000 kWs, to be applied for use of unauthorized overruns.

Calculated Energy Rate:

Within 90 days after the end of each rate year, a calculated energy rate shall be calculated. If the energy deemed delivered is greater than 4,501.001 million kWhs, then the calculated energy rate shall be applied to each Contractor's energy deemed delivered. A credit or debit shall be established based on the difference between the Contractor's energy dollar and the Contractor's actual energy charge, to be applied the following month or as soon as possible thereafter.

Lower Basin Development Fund Contribution Charge:

The contribution charge is 4.5 mills/kWh for each kWh measured or scheduled to an Arizona purchaser and 2.5 mills/kWh for each kWh measured or scheduled to a California or Nevada purchaser, except for purchased power.

Billing for Unauthorized Overruns:

For each billing period in which there is a contract violation involving an unauthorized overrun of the contractual power obligations, such overrun shall be billed at 10 times the forecast energy rate and forecast capacity rate. The contribution charge shall also be applied to each kWh of overrun.

Adjustments:

None.

ORDER

In view of the foregoing and under the authority delegated to me, I hereby extend from October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2020, the existing BCP rate-setting formula and approve the base charge and rates for FY 2016, on an interim basis for the BCP. Formula Rate Schedule BCP–F9 shall remain in effect on an interim basis, pending FERC confirmation and approval of this extension or substitute rates on a final basis through September 30, 2020.

Dated: July 17, 2015

Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015–18237 Filed 7–23–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Central Arizona Project—Rate Order No. WAPA–172

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Transmission Rates.

SUMMARY: The Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power marketing administration within the Department of Energy (DOE), is proposing an adjustment to the Central Arizona Project (CAP) transmission rates for firm point-to-point transmission service, non-firm point-to-point transmission service, and Network Integration Transmission Service (NITS) on the CAP 115/230-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines. Current rates, under Rate Schedules CAP–FT2, CAP–NFT2 and CAP–NITS2, expire December 31, 2015. Western is not proposing any changes to the existing rate-setting formula through December 31, 2020, but is proposing to adjust the existing rates to provide sufficient revenue to cover all annual costs, including interest expenses, and to repay required investment within the allowable period. Western is also proposing to begin charging for short-term transmission service on the Navajo (500-kV) portion of the CAP under Rate Schedule CAP–NFT3. Western currently markets excess transmission service from the Navajo (500-kV) portion of the CAP on a short-term (less than 12 months) basis at current CAP 115/230-kV rates under Western's Administrator's authority to set rates for short-term sales (Department of Energy Delegation Order No. 00–037.00A, ¶1.5). Western will prepare and provide a brochure detailing information on the proposed rates. Proposed rates, under Rate Schedules CAP–FT3, CAP–NFT3, and CAP–NITS3, are scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2016, and remain in effect through December 31, 2020. Publication of this **Federal Register** notice begins the formal process for the proposed rates.

DATES: The consultation and comment period begins today and will end October 22, 2015. Western will present a detailed explanation of the proposed rates at a public information forum on August 27, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m. MST, in Phoenix, Arizona. Western will accept oral and written comments at a public comment forum on September 24, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m. MST, in Phoenix, Arizona. Western will accept written comments any time during the 90-day consultation and comment period.

ADDRESSES: The public information forum and public comment forum will be held at the Desert Southwest Customer Service Regional Office, located at 615 South 43 Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, on the dates cited above. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Ronald E. Moulton, Senior Vice President and Desert Southwest Regional Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, Arizona 85005–6457, email *moulton@wapa.gov.* Written comments may also be faxed to (602) 605–2490, attention: Mr. Jack Murray, Rates Manager. Western will post official information about the rate process on its Web site at *http://www.wapa.gov/dsw/pwrmkt/CAPTRP/CAPTRP.htm.* Western will also post official comments received via letter, fax and email to this Web site. Western must receive written comments by the end of the consultation and comment period to ensure they are considered in Western's decision-making process. For more information regarding attending the forum, see the Attendance at the Forum section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jack Murray, Rates Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, Arizona 85005–