

directed NNSA to prepare a lifecycle cost estimate for disposal of surplus plutonium using the dilute and dispose strategy. The completed cost estimate indicated that the estimate-to-complete lifecycle cost of the dilute and dispose strategy would be substantially lower than the cost to complete the MOX Program. In response, the Secretary of Energy halted construction of the MFFF in May 2018 by waiving the requirement to use funds for MFFF construction as required by the *National Defense Authorization Act of 2018*. In a letter dated May 10, 2018, the Secretary of Energy certified “that the remaining lifecycle cost for the dilute and dispose approach will be less than approximately half of the estimated remaining lifecycle cost of the MOX fuel program.” In 2018, NNSA terminated construction of the MFFF. In 2019, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) terminated the construction license for MFFF. With the end of the MOX project there was no longer a disposition path for the 34 MT of surplus plutonium that had been designated for disposition as MOX fuel.

The decision to use the dilute and dispose strategy for disposition of the 34 MT of surplus plutonium allows NNSA to make the maximum use of existing, proven technologies and operating facilities.

Construction of the SPD Project will continue consistent with DOE’s 2016 decision (81 FR 19588). When it becomes operational, the project’s three new gloveboxes for dilution will significantly increase throughput capacity. Other aspects of the SPD Program, including pit transfer from Pantex, ARIES operation at LANL, the capability to transfer plutonium oxide from LANL to SRS, dilution, assay, and shipment of resulting CH-TRU waste to WIPP for emplacement in the underground, are operational and require no upgrades or modifications to continue operations. This decision will result in continued progress toward the disposition of 34 MT of surplus plutonium while eliminating potential conflicts with ongoing construction projects and new missions within the nuclear security enterprise.

After analyzing options for expanding a PDP capability at SRS or LANL and considering the current high volume of major construction projects across the nuclear security enterprise, NNSA has decided to revisit the initiation of the PDP capital line-item project. This will result in initiation of the PDP project in the mid-2030s rather than the mid-2020s. NNSA may re-evaluate this decision as conditions change in the nuclear security enterprise. In the

meantime, NNSA will continue to dismantle surplus pits and produce plutonium oxide at LANL and remains fully committed to dispositioning 34 MT of surplus plutonium.

The Surplus Plutonium Disposition line-item project execution at SRS will continue as planned and NNSA will continue to dilute and ship downblended plutonium as defense-related contact handled transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for permanent disposal. This decision will allow NNSA to focus on removal of material from South Carolina in alignment with the DOE-South Carolina Settlement Agreement.

### Mitigation Measures

Operations at each facility involved in the SPD Program would result in airborne emissions of various pollutants, including radionuclides, and organic and inorganic constituents. These emissions would continue to be controlled using Best Available Control Technology to ensure that emissions are compliant with applicable standards. Impacts would be controlled by use of glovebox confinement, packaging as applicable, and confinement and air filtration systems to remove radioactive particulates before discharging process exhaust air to the atmosphere. Occupational safety risks to workers would be limited by adherence to Federal and state laws, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, NNSA requirements including regulations and orders, and plans and procedures for performing work. NNSA facility operations adhere to programs to ensure the reduction of human health and safety impacts. Workers are protected from specific hazards by use of engineering and administrative controls, use of personal protective equipment, and monitoring and training. Implementation of DOE’s required Radiological Protection Program limits impacts by ensuring that radiological exposures and doses to all personnel are maintained As Low As Reasonably Achievable and by providing job specific instructions to the facility workers regarding the use of personal protective equipment.

The Emergency Preparedness Program required for each site mitigates potential accident consequences by ensuring that appropriate organizations are available to respond to emergency situations and take appropriate actions to recover from accident events, while reducing the spread of contamination and protecting facility personnel and the public.

### Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on April 3, 2024, by Jill Hruby, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator, NNSA, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 16, 2024.

**Treena V. Garrett,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S.*

*Department of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2024–08390 Filed 4–18–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Boulder Canyon Project

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed fiscal year 2025 Boulder Canyon Project base charge and rates for electric service.

**SUMMARY:** The Desert Southwest region (DSW) of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) proposes an adjustment to the fiscal year (FY) 2025 base charge and rates for Boulder Canyon Project (BCP) electric service under Rate Schedule BCP–F11. The proposed FY 2025 base charge is unchanged from FY 2024 and will remain at \$74.3 million. The proposed base charge and rates would go into effect on October 1, 2024, and remain in effect through September 30, 2025. Publication of this **Federal Register** notice will initiate the public process.

**DATES:** A consultation and comment period begins today and will end July 18, 2024. DSW will present a detailed explanation of the proposed FY 2025 base charge and rates at a public information forum on May 20, 2024, from 10 a.m. Mountain Standard Time to no later than 12 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. DSW will also host a public comment forum on June 18, 2024, from 10 a.m. Mountain Standard Time to no later than 12 p.m. Mountain

Standard Time, or until the last comment is received.

**ADDRESSES:** The public information and public comment forums will be held virtually and in person at WAPA’s Desert Southwest Regional Office located at 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85009. Instructions for participating in the forums will be posted on DSW’s website at least 14 days prior to the public information and comment forums at: [www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/dsw/rates/boulder-canyon-project-rates](http://www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/dsw/rates/boulder-canyon-project-rates). DSW will accept written comments any time during the consultation and comment period.

As access to Federal facilities is controlled, any U.S. citizen wishing to attend a public forum at WAPA must present an official form of picture identification (ID), such as a U.S. driver’s license, U.S. passport, U.S. Government ID, or U.S. military ID at the time of the meeting. Foreign nationals should contact Tina Ramsey, Rates Manager, Desert Southwest Region, Western Area Power Administration, (602) 605–2565, or [dswpwrmrk@wapa.gov](mailto:dswpwrmrk@wapa.gov) in advance of a forum to obtain the necessary form for admittance to the Desert Southwest Regional Office. Written comments and requests to be informed of Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) actions concerning the proposed base charge and rates should be sent to: Jack D. Murray, Regional Manager, Desert Southwest Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005–6457, or [dswpwrmrk@wapa.gov](mailto:dswpwrmrk@wapa.gov). DSW will post information concerning the rate process and written comments received to its website at: [www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/dsw/rates/boulder-canyon-project-rates](http://www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/dsw/rates/boulder-canyon-project-rates).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tina Ramsey, Rates Manager, Desert Southwest Region, Western Area Power Administration, (602) 605–2565, or [dswpwrmrk@wapa.gov](mailto:dswpwrmrk@wapa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Hoover Dam,<sup>1</sup> authorized by the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928, as amended (43 U.S.C. 617, *et seq.*), sits on the Colorado River along the Arizona-Nevada border. The Hoover Dam power plant has 19 generating units (two for plant use) with installed capacity of 2,078.8 megawatts (4,800 kilowatts for plant use). In collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), WAPA markets and delivers hydropower from the Hoover Dam power plant through high-voltage transmission lines and substations to

customers in Arizona, Southern California, and Southern Nevada.

The rate-setting methodology for BCP calculates an annual base charge rather than a unit rate for Hoover Dam hydropower. The base charge recovers an annual revenue requirement that includes projected costs for investment repayment, interest, operations, maintenance, replacements, payments to states, and Hoover Dam visitor services. Non-power revenue projections such as water sales, Hoover Dam visitor revenue, ancillary services, and late fees help offset these projected costs. Hoover power customers are billed a percentage of the base charge in proportion to their power allocation. Unit rates are calculated for comparative purposes but are not used to determine the charges for service.

On March 31, 2023, FERC approved and confirmed Rate Schedule BCP–F11, under Rate Order No. WAPA–204, on a final basis through September 30, 2027.<sup>2</sup> Rate Schedule BCP–F11 and the BCP Electric Service Contract require WAPA to determine the annual base charge and rates for the next fiscal year before October 1 of each year. The FY 2024 BCP base charge and rates expire on September 30, 2024.

COMPARISON OF BASE CHARGE AND RATES

	FY 2024	FY 2025	Amount change	Percent change
Base Charge (\$) .....	\$74,334,285	\$74,334,285	\$0.00	0.0
Composite Rate (mills/kWh) .....	23.10	24.61	1.51	6.5
Energy Rate (mills/kWh) .....	11.55	12.30	0.75	6.5
Capacity Rate (\$/kW-Mo) .....	\$2.15	\$2.19	\$0.04	1.9

The proposed FY 2025 base charge for BCP electric service is projected to remain at \$74.3 million, the same as FY 2024.

Reclamation’s FY 2025 budget is decreasing \$700,000 from \$87.9 million to \$87.2 million, a 0.8 percent decrease from FY 2024. Reflected in this budget, O&M costs are increasing \$1.1 million primarily due to higher projected labor costs for salaries, benefits, and overhead. Several large projects are being delayed, decreasing replacements costs by \$2.2 million. Post-retirement benefits costs are increasing \$109,000 based on a higher five-year average of recent actual expenses. Visitor services costs are increasing by \$270,000 primarily due to higher projected labor costs for salaries, benefits, overhead,

and overtime. The FY 2024 budget amounts cited for Reclamation do not include approximately \$20.8 million in costs that are funded by prior year carryover from FY 2023.

WAPA’s FY 2025 budget is increasing approximately \$600,000 to \$10.1 million, a 5.9 percent increase from FY 2024. WAPA’s O&M costs are increasing \$770,000 from FY 2024 due to higher labor projections for salaries, overtime, overhead, and benefits. The increase in O&M costs is offset by a \$208,000 decrease in replacement costs and modest decreases in WAPA’s post-retirement benefit costs and interest expenses due to lower 5-year averages of recent actual expenses. The FY 2024 budget amounts for WAPA do not include approximately \$282,000 in costs

that are funded by prior year carryover from FY 2023.

Non-power revenue projections for Reclamation and WAPA are decreasing \$2.1 million due to lower estimated revenues for the Commercial Use Fee program and ancillary services. Prior year carryover is projected to be \$4.1 million, a \$1.9 million increase from FY 2024.

The composite and energy rate are both increasing 6.5 percent and the capacity rate is increasing 1.9 percent from FY 2024. These unit rate calculations use forecasted energy and capacity values, which have been decreasing due to the ongoing drought in the Lower Colorado River Basin. Forecasted energy and capacity values may be updated when determining the

<sup>1</sup> Hoover Dam was known as Boulder Dam from 1933 to 1947, but was renamed Hoover Dam by an April 30, 1947, joint resolution of Congress. *See Act*

of April 30, 1947, H.J. Res. 140, ch. 46, 61 Stat. 56–57.

<sup>2</sup> *Order Confirming and Approving Rate Schedule on a Final Basis*, FERC Docket No. EF22–4–000.

final base charge and rates if hydrological conditions change.

WAPA's proposed base charge and rates for FY 2025, which would be effective October 1, 2024, are preliminary and subject to change based on modifications to forecasts before publication of the final base charge and rates.

### Legal Authority

WAPA is establishing rates for BCP electric service in accordance with section 302 of the DOE Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7152). This provision transferred to, and vested in, the Secretary of Energy certain functions of the Secretary of the Interior, along with the power marketing functions of Reclamation. Those functions include actions that specifically apply to the BCP.

WAPA's proposal to calculate the base charge and rates for FY 2025 constitutes a major rate adjustment, as defined by 10 CFR 903.2(d). In accordance with 10 CFR 903.15, 10 CFR 903.16, and 10 CFR 904.7(e), DSW will hold public information and public comment forums for this rate adjustment. DSW will review and consider all timely public comments at the conclusion of the consultation and comment period and adjust the proposal as appropriate.

DOE regulations governing charges for the sale of BCP power, 10 CFR 904.7(e), require annual review of the BCP base charge and an "adjust[ment], either upward or downward, when necessary and administratively feasible, to assure sufficient revenues to effect payment of all costs and financial obligations associated with the [project]." This proposal is issued pursuant to Delegation Order No. S1-DEL-RATES-2016, effective November 19, 2016, in which the Secretary of Energy delegated the authority to develop power and transmission rates to WAPA's Administrator. The BCP Electric Service Contract states that for years other than the first year and each fifth year thereafter, when the rate schedule is approved by the Deputy Secretary of Energy on a provisional basis and by FERC on a final basis, adjustments to the base charge "shall become effective upon approval by the Deputy Secretary of Energy." Accordingly, the Deputy Secretary of Energy would approve the final FY 2025 base charge and rates for BCP electric service, as authorized by the BCP Electric Service Contract and DOE's procedures for public participation in rate adjustments set

forth at 10 CFR parts 903 and 904.<sup>3</sup> The FY 2025 base charge will also be filed at FERC for informational purposes only.

### Availability of Information

All brochures, studies, comments, letters, memorandums, or other documents that DSW initiates or uses to develop the proposed formula rates for electric service and the base charge and rates are available for inspection and copying at the Desert Southwest Regional Office, located at 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. Many of these documents and supporting information are also available on DSW's website at: [www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/dsw/rates/boulder-canyon-project-rates](http://www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/dsw/rates/boulder-canyon-project-rates).

### Ratemaking Procedure Requirements Environmental Compliance

WAPA is in the process of determining whether an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement should be prepared or if this action can be categorically excluded from those requirements.<sup>4</sup>

### Determination Under Executive Order 12866

WAPA has an exemption from centralized regulatory review under Executive Order 12866; accordingly, no clearance of this notice by the Office of Management and Budget is required.

### Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on April 12, 2024, by Tracey A. LeBeau, Administrator, Western Area Power Administration, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. The document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

<sup>3</sup> 50 FR 37835 (Sept. 18, 1985) and 84 FR 5347 (Feb. 21, 2019).

<sup>4</sup> In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures and Guidelines (10 CFR part 1021).

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 16, 2024.

**Treena V. Garrett,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2024-08387 Filed 4-18-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0739; FRL-11816-01-OCSPP]

### Pesticide Registration Review; Draft Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments for Formaldehyde and Paraformaldehyde; Notice of Availability

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of EPA's draft human health and ecological risk assessments for the registration review of formaldehyde and paraformaldehyde and opens a 60-day public comment period on this document.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before June 18, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0739, through the *Federal eRulemaking Portal* at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Additional instructions on commenting and visiting the docket, along with more information about dockets generally, is available at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Chemical Review Manager for formaldehyde identified in table 1 of unit I.

*For general questions on the registration review program, contact:* Melanie Biscoe, Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division (7508P), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (202) 566-0701; email address: [biscoe.melanie@epa.gov](mailto:biscoe.melanie@epa.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. General Information

##### A. Does this action apply to me?

This notice is directed to the public in general and may be of interest to a