

The Project would entail construction of new 230-kV transmission lines and the upgrade of Western's Signal-Coolidge 115-kV transmission line to 230-kV to interconnect with Western's existing Liberty-Coolidge 230-kV transmission Line.

Because of the potential for incorporating new generation into Western's system, and the proposed interconnections with the existing system, Western has determined the need to prepare an EIS in accordance with U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) NEPA Implementing Procedures found at 10 CFR 1021, Appendix D6 to Subpart D. Although State and local agencies are responsible for issuing permits for the proposed electric generating facility, the EIS will include the analysis of effects from construction and operation of the generating facility as part of the proposed action.

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures in conjunction with the Council of Environmental Quality regulations. Full public participation and disclosure are planned for the entire EIS process. Western anticipates the EIS process will take about 15 months. It will include public information/scoping meetings; coordination and involvement with appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal government agencies; public review and hearing on the published Draft EIS; a published Final EIS; a review period; and publication of a Record of Decision (ROD). Publication of the ROD is anticipated in the fall of 2001.

Dated: August 22, 2000.

Michael S. HacsKaylo,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Notice of Wetlands Involvement for the Captain Jack-Olinda 500-kV Transmission Line Access Road Creek Crossing

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of wetlands involvement.

SUMMARY: The Western Area Power Administration (Western) proposes to install culverts at the access road crossing of a tributary to Miners Creek about 2 miles southwest of Big Bend, California, and about 2,500 feet east of the confluence of Miners Creek and the

Pit River. An existing bridge at the creek crossing has collapsed, denying access to a dead-end transmission structure on the Captain Jack-Olinda 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. If access to the structure is not restored, Western's maintenance crews would need to bulldoze across the creek to reach the structure in the event of structure damage or other emergency. Per a review of the flood hazard maps for Shasta County, California, Western determined that creek crossing does not involve a 100-year floodplain. However, a field review indicates that wetlands associated with the creek and its floodplain could be affected by the crossing. In accordance with the U.S. Department of Energy's Floodplain/Wetland Review Requirements (10 CFR part 1022), Western will prepare a wetland assessment as part of an environmental assessment for the creek crossing and will perform the proposed actions in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to, or within, the affected wetland.

DATES: Comments on the proposed floodplain action are due to the address below no later than September 18, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Ms. Nancy Werdel, Environment Manager, Sierra Nevada Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, 114 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, CA, 95630-4710, fax (916) 985-1934, e-mail werdel@wapa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dave Swanson, Environmental Specialist, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 281213, Lakewood, CO, 80228-8213, telephone (720) 962-7261, fax (720) 962-7263, e-mail swanson@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposal to install culverts at the creek crossing of the tributary to Miners Creek would involve construction activities that could affect the wetlands of the tributary. Construction activities may include the placement of culverts within the creek bed, grading at and near the banks of the creek, and filling road bed material over and around the culverts. The environmental assessment will examine the installation of culverts and alternative crossing methods. The creek crossing is located in Shasta County, California, in T. 36 N., R. 1 W., Section 2. Maps and further information are available from Western from the contacts above.

Dated: August 22, 2000.

Michael S. HacsKaylo,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Washoe Project, Stampede Division—Rate Order No. WAPA-93

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of rate order.

SUMMARY: The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) has confirmed and approved Rate Order No. WAPA-93 and Rate Schedule SNF-5 placing into effect provisional nonfirm energy rates for the Washoe Project, Stampede Division (Stampede), of the Western Area Power Administration (Western). The provisional rates will be in effect for an interim basis until the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) confirms, approves, and places them into effect on a final basis or until they are replaced by other rates. The provisional rates will provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs, including interest expense, and repay the power investment in the allowable period.

DATES: The provisional rates will be effective from October 1, 2000, and continue on an interim basis until FERC confirms, approves, and places the rate schedule into effect on a final basis for 5 years ending September 30, 2005, or until the rate schedule is superseded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Debbie Dietz, Rates Manager, Sierra Nevada Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, 114 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, California 95630-4710, (916) 353-4453, e-mail ddietz@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Deputy Secretary of Energy approved the existing Rate Schedule SNF-4 for Stampede nonfirm energy on September 29, 1995 (Rate Order No. WAPA-67, 60 FR 53785, October 17, 1995). FERC confirmed and approved the rate schedule on March 31, 1997, under FERC Docket No. EF96-5161-000 (78 FERC ¶ 61364). The existing Rate Schedule is effective from October 1, 1995, through September 30, 2000, and is being superseded by Rate Schedule SNF-5.

To serve project use loads and market the energy from Stampede, Western's contract with Sierra Pacific Resources (Sierra) provides for the Stampede