

Order No. WAPA-132 which extends the existing CRSP transmission and ancillary services rates through September 30, 2010.

Dated: June 29, 2007.

Clay Sell,

Deputy Secretary.

Department of Energy; Deputy Secretary

Rate Order No. WAPA-132

In the Matter of: Western Area Power Administration Rate Extension for Colorado River Storage Project Transmission and Ancillary Services Rates; Order Confirming and Approving a Temporary Extension of the Colorado River Storage Project Transmission and Ancillary Services Rates

The transmission and ancillary services rates were established following 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 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 system involved.

By Delegation Order No. 00-037.00, effective December 6, 2001, the Secretary of Energy delegated: (1) The authority to develop power and transmission rates to the Administrator of the 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.

Background

The existing rates, contained in Rate Order No. WAPA-99, were approved for 5 years and are effective through September 30, 2007.

Discussion

CRSP firm power, transmission, and ancillary services rates were placed into effect in 2002,² with expiration in 2007.

In 2005, CRSP firm power rates were found to be insufficient, so a new increased firm electric service rate was placed into effect on October 1, 2005, through September 30, 2010.³ The CRSP transmission and ancillary services rates remained the same, with expiration in 2007. Western is temporarily extending the CRSP transmission and ancillary services rates until 2010 pursuant to 10 CFR part 903.23(b). This will result in the CRSP firm electric, transmission, and ancillary services rates having the same expiration date, and will permit a concurrent public process and rate approval period for those services. The existing transmission and ancillary services rate formula methodologies collect annual revenues sufficient to recover annual expenses (including interest) and capital requirements, thus ensuring repayment of the project costs under the cost recovery criteria set forth in DOE order RA 6120.2. As permitted by 10 CFR part 903.23(b), Western did not have an advanced notice and comment period, and did not hold public information and comment forums on the temporary extension of CRSP transmission and ancillary services rates.

Order

In view of the above and under the authority delegated to me, I hereby temporarily extend for a period effective from October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2010, the existing rate schedules SP-PTP6, SP-NW2, SP-NFT5, SP-SD2, SP-RS2, SP-EI2, SP-FR2, and SP-SSR2 for transmission and ancillary services.

Dated: June 29, 2007.

Clay Sell,

Deputy Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Consideration of Certain Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act Standards Set Forth in the Energy Policy Act of 2005

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of determination.

SUMMARY: As a non-regulated electric utility, the Western Area Power Administration (Western) must consider and determine whether to implement certain standards under the Energy

Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct of 2005), which amended the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). Western considered five standards: Net metering, fuel source diversity, fossil fuel generation efficiency, smart metering, and consumer interconnections. After considering the comments received, Western will not adopt the EPAct of 2005 standards for PURPA at this time.

DATES: The decision to not adopt these standards is effective August 10, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah K. Emler, Desert Southwest Region, Federal Power Programs Manager, 615 S. 43rd Avenue, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, or by telephone (602) 605-2555, or e-mail emler@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Western, as a non-regulated electric utility, is subject to Title XII, Subtitle E of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and is required to consider the implementation of certain PURPA standards.

Western was established on December 21, 1977, under the Department of Energy Organization Act of 1977 (DOE Act). The DOE Act transferred to Western the power marketing functions of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), including the construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission lines and attendant activities.

Western sells power to cooperatives, municipalities, public utility districts, private utilities, Federal and State Agencies, Indian tribes, water systems and irrigation districts. Electric power marketed by Western is generated by the hydroelectric resources of Reclamation, the Corps of Engineers, and the International Boundary and Water Commission. Additionally, Western markets the United States' entitlement from the large Navajo coal-fired plant near Page, Arizona.

Western's transmission system, totaling approximately 17,000 line miles with over 290 substations, includes several project-specific systems, some of which are interconnected with one another. There are also numerous interconnections between Western's systems and other systems. Geographically, Western's transmission systems operate in 15 states that are generally west of the Mississippi River.

Western's obligations to its customers are contractually established. Customer requirements in excess of the power and energy available from Western must be obtained by the customer from other sources.

The major projects from which Western markets power include the

² Rate Order No. WAPA-99, 67 FR 60656 (Sept. 26, 2002). Approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on November 14, 2003 (105 FERC ¶ 62, 093).

³ Rate Order No. WAPA-117, 70 FR 47823 (August 15, 2005). Approved by FERC on June 13, 2006 (115 FERC ¶ 62,271).

Boulder Canyon Project, Central Arizona Project, Central Valley Project, Colorado River Storage Project, Colorado River Basin Project, Falcon-Amistad Project, Parker-Davis Project, and the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program. Each of these projects is a separate entity with its own geographic area, power marketing criteria, revenue requirements, and power and energy rates. Consideration of the PURPA standards was on a Western-wide basis, as opposed to a project-by-project or system-by-system basis.

A brochure entitled "Preconsideration of Sections 1251, 1252, and 1254 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005" was prepared and made available for public review in September 2006, and posted at <http://www.wapa.gov/dsw/pwrmkt/PURPA/>. A public hearing was held on October 26, 2006, at Western's Corporate Service Office in Lakewood, CO, and written comments on Western's consideration of the standards were received through November 10, 2006. In addition to the publication of this notice, Western's final action will also be made available to the public at <http://www.wapa.gov/dsw/pwrmkt/PURPA/>.

Response to Comments

Western received comments from three entities within the comment period. Two entities supported Western's initial preconsideration to forego the implementation of the PURPA standards. A third entity expressed a similar agreement with Western's initial assessment regarding fossil fuel generation efficiency standards, (Section 1251(a)(13)), and smart metering, (Section 1252(a)(14)). However, the same entity did express several other concerns.

1. An objection was raised regarding Western's assertion that there was no need for action in response to the net metering standard, (Section 1251(a)(11)). The entity requested a guarantee of net metering services, as opposed to being covered by a broad categorization of Western's primary customers. This commenter represents a group of Federal agencies that are end users of electricity and are not utilities. Applying a net metering standard to a customer served by multiple power suppliers presents unique challenges. Western currently has an ongoing metering issue with a Federal agency customer regarding a renewable energy system that has proven quite difficult to resolve. Western believes that these situations are better dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Western prefers to establish policy on an agency-wide basis and not by exception for a narrow

segment of our customer base. However, Western commits to work with its end use customers in a targeted and focused manner to provide assistance in implementing net metering services.

2. In the case of fuel sources, (Section 1251(a)(12)), Western was asked to adopt this standard on a contingent basis. The thought was that if Western's mission changes over the next decade in response to increased demand, the diversification standard would become relevant and should be held as a contingent standard to cover that possibility.

Western does not own generation and predominately markets hydroelectric power. Western sees no value in adopting a diverse fuel source standard when Congress has not given us authority to generate power. If Congress authorizes Western to own generating resources at some point in the future, Western will consider implementing a fuel source diversity standard at that time.

3. Regarding interconnection (Section 1254(a)(15)), one commenter indicated substantial interest in energy conservation and was interested in preserving a requirement through the proposed standard that Western aid them, as a retail customer, in adopting energy conservation measures, such as interconnection service to on-site generation facilities.

Western is primarily a bulk wholesale electric provider that provides a very limited amount of energy to end-use loads. Western's power is marketed by individual projects primarily to preference customers, most of which are electric utilities. These electric utilities in turn blend the Federal hydropower resource into their resource base and sell it to their retail customers. Those preference customers would principally be responsible for interconnection service "to the local distribution facilities", as opposed to Western.

Western's facilities are primarily bulk transmission system facilities. Western's policies and procedures for interconnections to its power system are set forth in Western's Open Access Transmission Tariff which is on file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. These policies and procedures will be used to manage all interconnection requests that Western receives. Western commits to work with its end use customers as needed on a case-by-case basis to address consumer interconnection issues.

4. One entity indicated that its interests were not represented by the general treatment that has been given to Western's customer base in considering the proposed standards. This

commenter stated that the customer had substantial and ongoing renewable energy and energy conservation programs that would be positively impacted by the adoption of the PURPA standards. The guarantees provided under those standards are essential to planning and the viability of renewable energy and conservation programs.

For the reasons already expressed in response to comments on the net metering and consumer interconnection standards, Western prefers to establish policy on an agency-wide basis and not by exception for a narrow segment of our customer base. Western intends to support ongoing customer renewable energy and energy conservation in a targeted manner on a case-by-case basis.

Environmental Compliance

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), Western has determined this action is categorically excluded from preparing an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement.

Determination Under Executive Order 12866

Western 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.

Dated: June 29, 2007.

Timothy J. Meeks,
Administrator.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA–HQ–OARM–2006–0835; FRL–8338–4]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Applicant Background Questionnaire: Race, National Origin, Gender, and Disability Demographics (Renewal); EPA ICR #2248.03; OMB Control Number 2030–0045

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document