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**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP07-208-000]

#### Rockies Express Pipeline LLC; Notice of Technical Conference

July 28, 2008.

On August 5, 2008, staff of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP) will hold a technical conference for the REX East Project. Rockies Express Pipeline LLC requested the Technical Conference to discuss compliance with Environmental Condition 147 of the Commission's May 30, 2008 Order.

The technical conference will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, at 9 a.m. (EDT) in Room 3M-2B at the Commission Headquarters, 888 1st Street, NE., Washington, DC.

Information concerning any changes to the above may be obtained from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 502-8004 or toll free at 1-866-208-FERC (208-3372).

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Southwestern Power Administration

#### Robert D. Willis Power Rate

**AGENCY:** Southwestern Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of public review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern), has prepared Current and Revised 2008 Power Repayment Studies that show the need for an increase in annual revenues to meet cost recovery criteria. Such increased revenues are required primarily due to increases in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' operations and maintenance estimates. The Administrator has developed a proposed Robert D. Willis rate schedule, which is supported by a power repayment study, to recover the required revenues. Beginning October 1,

2008, the proposed rates would increase annual revenues approximately 14.0 percent from \$815,580 to \$929,388.

**DATES:** The consultation and comment period will begin on the date of publication of this **Federal Register** notice and will end September 4, 2008. A combined Public Information and Comment Forum is scheduled to be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma at 1 p.m. central time on August 13, 2008, if requested.

**ADDRESSES:** If the Forum is requested, it will be held in Southwestern's offices, Room 1402, Williams Center Tower I, One West Third Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. James K. McDonald, Assistant Administrator, Office of Corporate Operations, Southwestern Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, One West Third Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103, (918) 595-6690, [jim.mcdonald@swpa.gov](mailto:jim.mcdonald@swpa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The U.S. Department of Energy was created by an Act of the U.S. Congress, Department of Energy Organization Act, Public Law 95-91, dated August 4, 1977. Southwestern's power marketing activities were transferred from the Department of Interior to the Department of Energy, effective October 1, 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 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 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. 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 Southwestern's transmission facilities that consist of 1,380 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, 24 substations, and 46 microwave and VHF radio sites. Costs associated with the Robert D. Willis and Sam

Rayburn Dams, two projects that are isolated hydraulically, electrically, and financially from the Integrated System are repaid by separate rate schedules.

Following Department of Energy guidelines, Southwestern's Administrator prepared a Current Power Repayment Study using the existing Robert D. Willis rate. The Study indicates that Southwestern's legal requirement to repay the investment in the power generating facility for power and energy marketed by Southwestern will not be met without an increase in revenues. The need for increased revenues is due primarily to increases in Corps of Engineers' operations and maintenance expenses at the project. The Revised Power Repayment Study shows that an increase in annual revenue of \$113, 808 (a 14.0 percent increase), beginning October 1, 2008, is needed to satisfy repayment criteria.

Opportunity is presented for Southwestern customers and other interested parties to receive copies of the Robert D. Willis Power Repayment Studies and the proposed rate schedule. If you desire a copy of the Robert D. Willis Power Repayment Data Package with the proposed Rate Schedule, submit your request to the Director, Resources and Rates, Office of Corporate Operations, Southwestern Power Administration, One West Third Street, Tulsa, OK 74103, (918) 595-6680 or via e-mail to [swparates@swpa.gov](mailto:swparates@swpa.gov).

A Public Information and Comment Forum (Forum) is tentatively scheduled to be held on August 13, 2008, to explain to customers and interested parties the proposed rate and supporting studies. The proceeding will be transcribed, if held. A chairman, who will be responsible for orderly procedure, will conduct the Forum. Questions concerning the rate, studies, and information presented at the Forum will be answered, to the extent possible, at the Forum. Questions not answered at the Forum will be answered in writing. However, questions involving voluminous data contained in Southwestern's records may best be answered by consultation and review of pertinent records at Southwestern's offices.

Persons interested in attending the Forum should indicate in writing by letter, e-mail, or facsimile transmission (918-595-6656) by August 7, 2008, their intent to appear at such Forum. Should no one indicate an intent to attend by the above-cited deadline, no such Forum will be held.

Persons interested in speaking at the Forum should indicate in writing by letter, e-mail, or facsimile transmission (918-595-6656) at least seven (7)