

instructions. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866)208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202)502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above. To facilitate the subject surrender, the Commission will incorporate into the record for this proceeding, all documents filed with or issued by the Commission as part of the earlier relicensing proceeding (P-696-010).

n. With this notice, we are initiating consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer as required by § 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR 800.4.

o. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS," "PROTEST," or "MOTION TO INTERVENE," as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Boulder Canyon Project

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed base charge and rates adjustment.

SUMMARY: The Western Area Power Administration (Western) is proposing an adjustment to the Boulder Canyon Project (BCP) firm power base charge and rates. The current base charge and rates expire September 30, 2003. The current base charge is not sufficient to pay all annual costs including operation, maintenance, replacement, and interest expenses, and to repay investment obligations within the required period. The proposed base charge will provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs, including operation, maintenance, replacement, and interest expenses, and to repay investment obligations within the allowable period. A detailed rate package that identifies the reasons for the base charge and rates adjustment will be available in April 2003. The proposed base charge and rates are scheduled to become effective on October 1, 2003, the beginning of Federal fiscal year (FY) 2004, and will remain in effect through September 30, 2004. This **Federal Register** notice initiates the formal process for the proposed base charge and rates.

DATES: The consultation and comment period will begin today and will end May 28, 2003. Western representatives will explain the proposed base charge and rates at a public information forum on April 1, 2003, beginning at 10:30 a.m. MST, in Phoenix, AZ. Interested parties can provide oral and written comments at a public comment forum on April 23, 2003, beginning at 10:30 a.m. MST, at the same location.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Desert Southwest Customer Service Regional Office, located at 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. Please send comments to: Mr. J. Tyler Carlson, Regional Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, e-mail carlson@wapa.gov. Western must receive comments by the end of the consultation and comment period to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jack Murray, Rates Team Lead, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-

6457, telephone (602) 352-2442, e-mail jmurray@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Base Charge and Rates for BCP Firm Power

The proposed base charge and rates for BCP firm power service are designed to recover an annual revenue requirement that includes the investment repayment, interest, operation and maintenance, replacements, payment to states, visitor services, and uprating payments. These annual costs are reduced by the projected revenue from water sales, visitor services, water pump energy sales, facility use charges, regulation services, miscellaneous leases, and late fees. The projected annual revenue requirement is the base charge for firm power service and is divided equally between capacity dollars and energy dollars. Annual energy dollars are divided by annual energy sales, and annual capacity dollars are divided by annual capacity sales to determine the proposed energy rate and the proposed capacity rate.

The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) approved the existing rate formula for calculating the base charge and rates in Rate Schedule BCP-F6 for BCP firm power service on September 18, 2000, (Rate Order No. WAPA-94, October 13, 2000). The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) confirmed and approved the rate formula on a final basis in Docket No. EF00-5092-000 issued July 31, 2001. Rate Schedule BCP-F6 became effective on October 1, 2000, for the period ending September 30, 2005. Under Rate Schedule BCP-F6, for FY 2003, the base charge is \$50,761,729, the forecasted energy rate is 5.58 mills per kilowatt-hour (mills/kWh) and the forecasted capacity rate is \$1.08 per kilowatt month (kWmonth). The composite rate is 11.16 mills/kWh.

The FY 2004 proposed base charge is \$53,284,854, the forecasted energy rate is 5.92 mills/kWh, and the forecasted capacity rate is \$1.14/kWmonth. The proposed composite rate is 11.84 mills/kWh. This is approximately a 6-percent increase from the current composite rate. The proposed base charge and rates are based on the FY 2003 operating plan for Western and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and also account for the lower revenue level due to restriction of public tours at Hoover Dam following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack in the United States. The following table compares the current and proposed base charge and rates.