

and laws affecting DOE, Western, and the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP).

In the Report, Western provides methods to replace lost capacity using spot market, seasonal (6 months), and mid- to long-term (1 year or more) resource acquisitions. Western will consult with firm power customers periodically about the amount and term of resource acquisitions to be made on their behalf, which Western would then acquire and deliver to them. Western will evaluate and select resources based on criteria broadly defined in the Report and follow a least-cost strategy. Greater public involvement and more complex evaluation procedures and acquisition methods will be used for long-term acquisitions rather than for seasonal acquisitions.

Western will use a screening tool and a production cost computer model to evaluate future resource offers from potential suppliers. The Report details how these evaluation tools are applied to evaluate five hypothetical resource purchases. These resource alternatives were designed to illustrate the screening and evaluation tools' abilities to survey and select from among many diverse replacement resource options and to consider transmission system constraints and possible solutions. The Report concludes that the screening criteria and evaluation tools developed will enable Western to select economically and technically feasible replacement power resources.

#### Public Involvement

Section 1809 of the GCP Act requires the Secretary of Energy to consult with representatives of the CRSP power customers, environmental organizations, the Colorado River Basin States, and with the Department of the Interior in this process. Western published a notice initiating the formal, public consultation process on August 8, 1994, at 59 FR 40357. On October 7, 1994, at 59 FR 51191, Western announced four regional public consultation meetings.

A 20-page, Replacement Resources Information Packet was prepared that included Western's process to complete the method identification requirement of the GCP Act. On October 20, 1994, Western mailed this information packet, along with the text of the October **Federal Register** notice, to 900-plus organizations and individuals on Western's Replacement Resources Methods mailing list, including representatives of organizations with which Western was required to consult. In November 1994, Western held four regional public involvement meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah; Denver, Colorado;

Phoenix, Arizona; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Comments from organizations and the public were accepted through December 19, 1994, the comment deadline.

Western prepared newsletters in February and October 1995 that provided updates on the status of replacement resources activities. These newsletters were distributed to Western's mailing list. On April 30, 1996, at Western's CRSP Customer Service Center's Annual Customer Meeting in Salt Lake City, Western provided an update on replacement resources activities to CRSP power customers and to representatives of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. This update included a discussion of public comment received by Western.

On July 2, 1996, Western published a notice of availability of a Draft Methods Report at 61 FR 34433. Notice was made to those entities who responded to Western's mailer and wanted information or copies of the Draft Report. Western held public consultation meetings at Albuquerque, Phoenix, Denver, and Salt Lake City between July 23 and July 29, 1996. At these meetings, Western presented the proposed replacement resource methods, which will be implemented with the Report. A 60-day public comment period closed on September 3, 1996. Western mailed a subsequent newsletter in December 1996, updating changes implemented by Western from the comments received during the public comment period.

#### Environmental Compliance

Western will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 through an appropriate level of environmental analysis of the impacts of specific replacement resources when such specific resources are identified.

#### Regulatory Requirements

DOE has determined this is not a significant regulatory action because it does not meet the criteria of Executive Order 12866, 58 FR 51735. 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: May 4, 1998.

**Michael S. HacsKaylo,**  
*Administrator.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Amistad and Falcon Projects—Notice of Order Confirming and Approving an Extension of the Power Rate Formula—WAPA-81

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

**ACTION:** Notice of rate order.

**SUMMARY:** This action is to extend the existing Amistad and Falcon Projects' power rate formula until June 7, 1999. Without this action, the existing power rate formula will expire June 7, 1998; and no rate formula will be in effect for this service.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Dave Sabo, CRSP Manager, CRSP Customer Service Center, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 11606, Salt Lake City, UT 84147-0606, telephone (801) 524-5493.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** By Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, published November 10, 1993 (58 FR 59716), the Secretary of Energy delegated (1) the authority to develop long-term power and transmission rates on a nonexclusive basis 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; 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 (FERC).

Pursuant to Delegation Order No. 0204-108 and existing Department of Energy (DOE) procedures for public participation in power rate adjustments at 10 CFR Part 903, the power rate formula for Western's Amistad and Falcon Projects was submitted to FERC for confirmation and approval on June 10, 1993. On September 29, 1993, in Docket No. EF93-5101-000 at 64 FERC ¶ 62,225, FERC issued an order confirming, approving, and placing into effect on a final basis the power rate formula for the Amistad and Falcon Projects. The rate was approved for the 5-year period beginning June 8, 1993, and ending June 7, 1998.

All of the generation from these projects is marketed by Western under the terms of Contract No. 7-07-50-P0890 dated August 9, 1977, and amended on April 10, 1986. According to the terms of the Contract, the customers, Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. and South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc., agreed to purchase the

output of the Amistad and Falcon Powerplants for a 50-year period, beginning when electrical service initially became available. The Cooperatives agreed to take all Amistad and Falcon Projects' power and to pay the United States annual installments that are calculated to repay the power investment costs with interest, within 50 years, and annual operation, maintenance, replacement, and administration costs of the projects.

Following review of Western's proposal within DOE, I have approved Rate Order No. WAPA-81, which extends the existing power rate formula for Amistad and Falcon Projects until June 7, 1999.

Dated: May 6, 1998.

**Elizabeth A. Moler,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[Rate Order No. WAPA-81]

In the Matter of: Western Area Power Administration, Extension for Amistad and Falcon Projects Power Rate Formula

Order Confirming and Approving an Extension of the Amistad and Falcon Projects' Power Rate Formula

June 7, 1998

This rate formula was established pursuant to Section 302(a) of the Department of Energy (DOE) Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. 7152(a), through which the power marketing functions of the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) under the Reclamation Act of 1902, ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388, as amended and supplemented by subsequent enactments, particularly section 9(c) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939, 43 U.S.C. 485h(c), and other acts specifically applicable to the Amistad Project and the Falcon Projects were transferred to and vested in the Secretary of Energy (Secretary).

By Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, published November 10, 1993 (58 FR 59716), the Secretary delegated (1) the authority to develop long-term power and transmission rates on a nonexclusive basis 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; 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 (FERC). This disapprove such rates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This rate extension is issued pursuant to the Delegation Order and

the DOE rate extension procedures at 10 CFR Part 903.

### Background

In the order issued September 29, 1993, at 64 FERC ¶ 62,225, in Docket No. EF93-5101-000, FERC confirmed, approved, and placed into effect on a final basis the power rate formula for the Amistad and Falcon Projects. The rate formula was approved for the period from June 8, 1993, through June 7, 1998.

### Discussion

All of the generation from these projects is marketed by Western under the terms of Contract No. 7-07-50-P0890 dated August 9, 1977, and amended on April 10, 1986. According to the terms of the Contract, the customers, Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. and South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc., agreed to purchase the output of the Amistad and Falcon Powerplants for a 50-year period, beginning when electrical service initially became available. The Cooperatives agreed to take all Amistad and Falcon Projects' power and to pay the United States annual installments that are calculated to repay the power investment costs with interest, within 50 years, and annual operation, maintenance, replacement, and administration costs of the projects.

On June 7, 1998, Western's Amistad and Falcon power rate formula will expire. Pursuant to 10 CFR 903.23, Western proposes to extend the existing rate formula until June 7, 1999, to determine whether it should make any changes in the present rate formula and Power Repayment Study presentation. During the early part of FY 1999, Western will begin a public rate adjustment process to this effect with the publication of a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Order

In view of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Secretary, I hereby extend for a period, effective June 8, 1998, through June 7, 1999, the existing rate formula for the Amistad and Falcon Powerplants.

Dated: May 6, 1998.

**Elizabeth A. Moler,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00537; FRL-5792-4]

### EPA-USDA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The EPA-USDA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) is being established as a subcommittee under the auspices of the EPA National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT). The TRAC is in response to Vice President Gore's request for EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work together to ensure the smooth implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).

**DATES:** The first set of meetings will be held on Thursday, May 28, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, May 29, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A background FQPA information session is being offered to the TRAC on Wednesday, May 27, 1998, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The dates of the three remaining meetings are: June 22 and 23, July 13 and 14, and July 27 and 28, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The first set of meetings will be held at the Washington National Airport Hilton Hotel (Crystal City), 2399 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA; telephone: (703) 418-6800; and fax: (703) 418-3763. Specific locations and times of the three remaining meetings will be announced in the **Federal Register** prior to those meetings. The FQPA information session, with limited public seating, will be held in room 1126 (the "Fishbowl"), Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA (Crystal City). The permanent record is available for inspection during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, Rm. 101, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, telephone: (703) 305-5805.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** By mail: Margie Fehrenbach or Linda Murray, Office of Pesticide Programs (7501C), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: Crystal Mall #2, Rm. 1119, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA; telephone: (703) 305-7090; e-mail: fehrenbach.margie@epa.gov or murray.linda@epa.gov.