

Request Additional Information (if needed)—January 2005
 Issue Scoping Document 2—January 2005
 Notice of application is ready for environmental analysis—January 2005
 Notice of the availability of the draft NEPA document—July 2005
 Start 10(j) process—September 2005
 Notice of the availability of the final NEPA document—January 2006
 Ready for Commission's decision on the application—April 2006

Final amendments to the application must be filed with the commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of the notice of ready for environmental analysis.

Linda Mitry,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-308 Filed 2-17-04; 8:45 am]

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, 2004. 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 March 2004. The proposed base charge and rates are scheduled to become effective on October 1, 2004, the beginning of Federal fiscal year (FY) 2005, and will remain in effect through September 30, 2005. 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 18, 2004. Western representatives will explain the proposed base charge and rates at a public information forum on March 25, 2004, beginning at 10:30 a.m. m.s.t., in Phoenix, Arizona (AZ). Interested parties can provide oral and written comments at a public comment forum on April 15, 2004, beginning at 10:30 a.m. m.s.t., 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, AZ. 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 and spinning reserve 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 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 2004, the base charge is \$51,719,075, the forecasted energy rate is 6.46 mills per kilowatt-hour (mills/kWh) and the forecasted capacity rate is \$1.17 per kilowatt month (kWmonth). The composite rate is 12.91 mills/kWh.

The FY 2005 proposed base charge is \$59,460,550, the forecasted energy rate is 6.95 mills/kWh, and the forecasted capacity rate is \$1.27/kWmonth. The proposed composite rate is 13.90 mills/kWh. This is approximately an 8-percent increase from the current composite rate. The proposed base charge and rates are based on the FY 2004 operating plan for Western and the Bureau of 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.

COMPARISON OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED BASE CHARGE AND RATES

	Current Oct. 1, 2003 through Sept. 30, 2004	Proposed Oct. 1, 2004 through Sept. 30, 2005	Percent change increase
Total Composite (mills/kWh)	12.91	13.90	8
Base Charge (\$)	51,719,075	59,460,550	15
Energy Rate (mills/kWh)	6.46	6.95	8
Capacity Rate (\$/kWmonth)	1.17	1.27	8

The increase in the base charge and rates results from higher annual costs in operation and maintenance, replacements, visitor's center costs and lower revenue projections for the visitor center.

Procedural Requirements

Western will hold both a public information forum and a public comment forum. After considering comments, Western will recommend the proposed base charge and rates for final approval by the DOE Deputy Secretary.

The proposed firm power service base charge and rates for BCP are being set under the DOE Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. 7152; 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 that specifically apply to the project involved.

Availability of Information

Interested parties may review and copy all brochures, studies, comments, letters, memorandums, or other documents made or kept by Western for developing the proposed base charge and rates. These documents are at the Desert Southwest Customer Service Regional Office, located at 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ.

Regulatory Procedural Requirements

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*) requires Federal agencies to perform a regulatory flexibility analysis if a final rule is likely to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, and there is a legal requirement to issue a general notice of proposed rulemaking. This action does not require a regulatory flexibility analysis since it is a rulemaking specifically involving rates or services.

Environmental Compliance

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*); Council On Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508); and DOE NEPA Regulations (10 CFR part 1021), Western has determined that 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; therefore, this notice requires no clearance by the Office of Management and Budget.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

Western has determined that this rule is exempt from congressional notification requirements under 5 U.S.C. 801 because the action is a rulemaking specifically relating to rates or services and involves matters of procedure.

Dated: February 2, 2004.

Michael S. HacsKaylo,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 04–3432 Filed 2–17–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7624–3]

Agency Information Collection Activities OMB Responses

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) responses to Agency clearance requests, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR chapter 15.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan Auby (202) 566–1672, or e-mail at auby.susan@epa.gov and please refer to the appropriate EPA Information Collection Request (ICR) Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Responses To Agency Clearance Requests

OMB Approvals

EPA ICR No. 2083.01; Estimating the Value of Improvements to Coastal Waters—A Pilot Study of a Coastal Valuation Survey; was approved 01/22/2004; OMB Number 2090–0024; expires 01/31/2005.

EPA ICR No. 1704.07; Toxic Chemical Release Reporting, Alternate Threshold for Low Annual Reportable Amounts, Recordkeeping, Supplier Notification and Petitions under Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA); in 40 CFR part 372; was approved 01/09/2004;

OMB Number 2070–0143; expires 01/31/2006.

EPA ICR No. 0234.08; Performance Evaluation Studies of Water and Waste Water Laboratories; was approved 01/09/2004; OMB Number 2080–0021; expires 01/31/2007.

EPA ICR No. 1363.13; Toxic Chemical Release Reporting, Recordkeeping, Supplier Notification and Petitions under Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA); in 40 CFR part 372; was approved 01/09/2004; OMB Number 2070–0093; expires 01/31/2006.

Short Term Extensions

EPA ICR No. 1953.02; Information Collection Request for Best Management Practices Alternative, Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards, Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category; OMB Number 2040–0230; on 01/12/2004 OMB extended the expiration date to 04/30/2004.

EPA ICR No. 0616.07; Compliance Requirements for Child Resistant Packaging; Number 2070–0052; on 01/30/2004 OMB extended the expiration date to 04/30/2004.

Dated: February 9, 2004.

Oscar Morales,

Director, Collection Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 04–3452 Filed 2–17–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7624–2]

Notice of Availability for FY 04 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Multi-Media Assistance Agreements

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Compliance (OC), within EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), is soliciting proposals for states and tribes to support their on-going efforts in state/tribal data system modernization. In particular, the grants will fund technical assistance and technical expertise for states/tribes to ensure that they will be able to accurately transmit water enforcement and compliance data to EPA. Grants will be in the range of \$50,000–\$200,000. The total number and amount of the awards will depend on the amount of funds available.

DATES: Electronic or hard copy proposals must be received by April 12,