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**Linda Mitry,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2710-035-ME]

#### PPL Maine, LLC; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

August 19, 2005.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47879), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for a new license for the Orono Hydroelectric Project, located on the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River, in Penobscot County, Maine, and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA). In the EA, Commission staff analyze the potential environmental effects of relicensing the project and conclude that issuing a new license for the project, with appropriate environmental measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

A copy of the EA is on file with the Commission and is available for public inspection. The EA may also be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Any comments should be filed within 30 days from the issuance date of this notice, and should be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1-A, Washington, DC 20426. Please affix "Orono Project No. 2710" to all comments. Comments may be filed electronically via Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "eFiling" link. For further information, contact Patrick Murphy (202) 502-8755.

**Linda Mitry,**

*Deputy 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 2005 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 significant increases in expected U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' generation investment and increases in operations and maintenance expenses at the project. 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 January 1, 2006, the proposed rates would increase annual revenues approximately 43.1 percent from \$452,952 to \$648,096.

**DATES:** The consultation and comment period will begin on the date of publication of this **Federal Register** notice and will end October 28, 2005.

1. Public Information Forum—September 13, 2005, 1 p.m. central time, Tulsa, OK.

2. Public Comment Forum—October 13, 2005, 1 p.m. central time, Tulsa, OK.

**ADDRESSES:** If forums are requested, they 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. Forrest E. Reeves, Assistant Administrator, Office of Corporate Operations, Southwestern Power Administration, U.S. Department of

Energy, One West Third Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103, (918) 595-6696, [gene.reeves@swpa.gov](mailto:gene.reeves@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, Pub. L. 95-91, dated August 4, 1977. Southwestern's power marketing activities were transferred from the Department of the 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 part 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 part 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, the Administrator, Southwestern, 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 to expected increases in generation investment and operations and maintenance power-related expenses. The Revised Power Repayment Study shows that an increase in annual revenue of \$195,144