DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Proposed Salt Lake City Area Integrated Projects Firm Power Rate and Colorado River Storage Project Transmission and Ancillary Services Rates—Rate Order No. WAPA–190

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed firm power rates and transmission and ancillary services formula rates.

SUMMARY: Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) proposes a new Salt Lake City Area Integrated Projects (SLCA/IP) firm power rate and revised Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) transmission and ancillary services formula rates. The existing rates for these services expire on September 30, 2020. Currently, there is a 4.25 percent projected decrease to the firm power composite rate. WAPA also proposes modifications to the Cost Recovery Charge (CRC) formula. WAPA proposes changes to the annual transmission revenue requirement. WAPA also proposes to add generator imbalance service to the energy imbalance rate schedule and implement a new rate schedule for the sale of surplus products.

DATES: A consultation and comment period will begin January 21, 2020 and end April 20, 2020. WAPA will present a detailed explanation of the proposed rates and modifications at a public information forum on the following date and time: March 12, 2020, 11 a.m. MDT to 1 p.m. MDT. WAPA will accept oral and written comments at a public comment forum on the following date and time: March 12, 2020, 1:30 p.m. to no later than 3 p.m. MDT. WAPA will accept written comments any time during the consultation and comment period.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests to be informed about Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) actions concerning the proposed rates submitted by WAPA to FERC for approval should be sent to: Mr. Steven Johnson, CRSP Manager, Colorado River Storage Project Management Center, DOE, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 Marquette Avenue, Room 2110, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402. For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings

Take notice that the Commission has received the following Natural Gas Pipeline Rate and Refund Report filings:

Applicants: Rockies Express Pipeline LLC.
Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing: REX 2020–01–13 Negotiated Rate Agreements to be effective 1/14/2020.

Applicants: Adelphia Gateway, LLC.
Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing: Adelphia NAESB update Filing 1–13–20 to be effective 1/13/2020.

Time on the specified comment date.

For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 6717–01–P
Western Area Power Administration, 299 South Main Street, Suite 200, Salt Lake City, UT 84111, (801) 524–6372, or email: johnsons@wapa.gov or CRSPPMC-RATE-ADJ@wapa.gov. WAPA will post information about the proposed rates and written comments received to its website at: https://www.wapa.gov/regions/CRSP/rates/Pages/rates.aspx.

The public information and comment forum location is 299 South Main Street, 23rd Floor Conference Room, Salt Lake City, Utah.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Thomas Hackett, Rates Manager, Colorado River Storage Project Management Center, Western Area Power Administration, (801) 524–5503, or email: CRSPPMC-rate-adj@wapa.gov.


The proposed firm power rate is a fixed rate, and WAPA will continue to use the formula-based methodology for the proposed transmission and ancillary services rates, which include an annual update to the applicable financial and load data. WAPA intends the proposed rates to be effective October 1, 2020. The charges under the formula rates will be annually updated each October 1 thereafter. The proposed rates will remain in effect until September 30, 2025, or until WAPA supersedes or changes the rates through another public rate process pursuant to 10 CFR part 903, whichever occurs first.

The proposed rates will provide WAPA with sufficient revenue to recover annual Operation, Maintenance and Replacement (OM&R) expenses, interest expense, irrigation assistance, and capital repayment requirements while ensuring repayment of the project within the cost recovery criteria set forth in Department of Energy (DOE) Order Resource Application 6120.2.

### SLCA/IP Firm Power Rate

Under the Current Rate Schedule SLIP–10, the energy rate is 12.19 mills per kilowatthour (mills/kWh), and the capacity rate is $5.18 per kilowatmonth ($/kW/month). The composite rate of all charges, used for reference only as a comparison against other wholesale power rates, is 29.42 mills/kWh.

The revenue requirement for the proposed rate is based upon the most current data available, specifically the fiscal year (FY) 2018 historical financial data and the FY 2021 work plans for WAPA and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). WAPA plans to use the FY 2019 historical financial data and FY 2022 work plans, if available, in the final rate setting study and rate order submission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1—COMPARISON OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED FIRM POWER RATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rate schedule</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Base Rate:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firm Energy: (mills/kWh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firm Capacity: (kW/month)</td>
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<td>Composite Rate (^3): (mills/kWh)</td>
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Currently, WAPA uses Reclamation’s April, 24-month, long-term, average hydrological study in combination with Reclamation’s August Colorado River Simulation System (CRSS) model traces to forecast 5 years of firming-energy purchase requirements. WAPA proposes using the most-probable water releases reported in Reclamation’s August 24-Month Study to determine the first year of firming-energy-purchase projections. For subsequent years, WAPA will continue to use Reclamation’s August CRSS model traces to estimate energy purchase projections while using a rolling median value to minimize fluctuations. In addition, WAPA proposes projecting the required firming-energy purchases, for a period that overlaps the years in which a subsequent rate would become effective, in order to avoid gaps in the forecasts.

Finally, WAPA plans to remove the $4 million per year in purchase power out years in the current rate schedule, which was previously used as a broad-cost estimate of operational energy purchases for the Energy Marketing and Management Office in Montrose, Colorado. Improved modeling tools that incorporate outages and scheduled maintenance produce more accurate estimates of purchase power expenses have rendered this requirement obsolete.

### Cost Recovery Charge

WAPA would continue to use the CRC, if necessary, as a mechanism to adequately recover and maintain a sufficient balance in the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund (Basin Fund)\(^4\) in the event projected expenses significantly exceed projected revenue estimates. The CRC is an additional surcharge on all costs of operation, maintenance, and emergency expenditures.

\(^1\) Order Confirming and Approving Rate Schedules on a Final Basis, FERC Docket Nos. EF15–10–000, 155 FERC ¶ 61,042 (2016).

\(^2\) WAPA–174 was approved by the Deputy Secretary of Energy on August 12, 2016 (81 FR 56632). FERC Order Confirming and Approving Rate Schedules on a Final Basis, FERC Docket No. EF16–5–000, 158 FERC ¶ 62,381 (2017).

\(^3\) The composite rate is used for reference only as a comparison against other wholesale power rates.

\(^4\) Upper Colorado River Basin Fund was established through the CRSP Act of 1956, to receive revenues collected in connection with the projects, to be made available for defraying the project’s costs of operation, maintenance, and emergency expenditures.
Sustainable Hydro Power (SHP) energy deliveries. The CRC may be implemented when, among other things, the Basin Fund’s cash balance is at risk due to low hydropower generation, high prices for firming power, and funding for capitalized investments. The volatility of hydropower generation and power prices continues to be a concern for cost-recovery issues for the SLCA/IP. The CRC is based only on Basin Fund cash analysis and is independent of the Power Repayment Study calculations.

WAPA proposes to move the CRC from a FY timeline to a calendar year (CY) timeline and to use Reclamation’s August 24-month Study to calculate projected purchase power expenses. This aligns the purchase power projections for the CRC with those in the firm power rate. This proposal would change the annual notification date from May 1 to October 1. WAPA would provide its customers with information concerning the anticipated CRC and allow them 45 days to request a waiver or accept the CRC. The established CRC would be in effect for 12 months from the date implemented. If circumstances dictate the need to reassess an enacted CRC, the updated CRC would supersede the previous CRC and remain in effect for 12 months.

The CRC is implemented at WAPA’s discretion based on the balance of the Basin Fund and WAPA’s ability to meet contractual requirements. The minimum Basin Fund carryover balance is $40 million.

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<th>Tier</th>
<th>Criteria, if the Basin Fund beginning balance is:</th>
<th>Review</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>Greater than $150 million with an expected decrease to below $75 million</td>
<td>Annually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii</td>
<td>Less than $150 million but greater than $120 million with an expected 50 percent decrease in the next CY.</td>
<td>Semi-Annual (May/November).</td>
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<td>iii</td>
<td>Less than $120 million but greater than $90 million with an expected 40 percent decrease in the next CY.</td>
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<td>iv</td>
<td>Less than $90 million but greater than $60 million with an expected 25 percent decrease in the next CY.</td>
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<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>Less than $60 million but greater than $40 million with an expected decrease to below $40 million in the next CY.</td>
<td>Monthly.</td>
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WAPA also reserves the right to consider a CRC if annual water releases from Glen Canyon Dam fall below 8.23 million acre-feet regardless of the Basin Fund balance.

Customers can accept either the CRC or WL, not a combination of the two. For these customers, WAPA will establish an energy waiver level (WL) using the CRC formula. The WL provides WAPA the ability to reduce purchase power expenses by scheduling less energy than its contractual obligations. For those customers who agree to schedule no more energy than their proportionate share of the WL, WAPA will waive the CRC for that year.

WAPA also proposes modifications in SLIP–F11 to account for lost revenue associated with the decreased energy deliveries that occur when a customer requests the WL. The details of the calculations will be provided in the customer brochure prior to the public information forum. WAPA also proposes to decrease a customer’s monthly SHP capacity allocation proportionally under the WL to match the monthly energy reduction.

**Transmission Services**

*Annual Transmission Revenue Requirement (ATRR)*

Under this proposal, WAPA would not change the existing formula rate for calculating the Annual Transmission Revenue Requirement (ATRR), which is applicable to both Network Integration and Point-to-Point transmission services. The ATRR is the annual cost of the CRSP Transmission System adjusted for Non-Firm Point-to-Point revenue credits, other miscellaneous charges or credits, and the prior year true-up. WAPA is, however, proposing to change the projection period for calculating the ATRR in order to recover transmission O&M costs on a current basis rather than on a historical basis. Using the current-basis methodology would more accurately align cost recovery with cost incurred. WAPA proposes to estimate transmission costs and loads for the current year in the annual rate calculation, thus changing how the inputs are developed rather than the formula rate itself. WAPA would then true-up cost estimates to actual costs and any revenue collected in excess of WAPA’s actual net revenue requirement would be returned to customers through a credit against the transmission rates in a subsequent year. Actual revenues that collect less than the net revenue requirement would, likewise, need to be recovered through an increased revenue requirement in a subsequent year. The true-up procedure would help ensure WAPA recovers no more and no less than the actual transmission costs for the year.

Unreserved Use Penalties

WAPA proposes no changes to the Unreserved Use penalty rate.

Ancillary Services

*Energy Imbalance and Generator Imbalance Services*

WAPA proposes adding Generator Imbalance Service (GIS), Schedule 9 to WAPA’s Open Access Transmission Tariff to the Energy Imbalance Service Rate Schedule. GIS is provided to CRSP, as a Transmission Service Provider, by the Western Area Colorado Missouri Balancing Authority under Rate Schedule L–A59.

*Spinning and Supplemental Reserves*

WAPA proposes no changes to the Operating Reserves—Spinning and Supplemental Reserves Services formula rate.

*Sale of Surplus Products (SP–SS1)*

WAPA proposes implementing a new rate schedule applicable to the sale of the following surplus energy and capacity products: Energy, regulation, reserves, and frequency response. WAPA would determine the charge for each product at the time of the sale based on market rates, plus applicable administrative costs, and would use separate agreement(s) to specify the terms of sale(s). The customer would be responsible for acquiring transmission electric service contract with each customer/contractor.

Projects firm electric service customer/contractor is entitled to receive each Winter Season and each Summer Season as set forth in the respective firm

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5 SHP Energy—Sustainable Hydro Power energy is the minimum quantity of firm energy, expressed in kWh, that each Salt Lake City Area Integrated
service necessary to deliver the product(s), for which a separate charge may be incurred.

Legal Authority

Existing DOE procedures for public participation in power and transmission rate adjustments (10 CFR part 903) were published on September 18, 1985, and February 21, 2019.7 The proposed action is a major rate adjustment, as defined by 10 CFR 903.2(6). In accordance with 10 CFR 903.15(a) and 10 CFR 903.16(a), WAPA will hold public information and public comment forums for this rate adjustment. WAPA will review and consider all timely public comments at the conclusion of the consultation and comment period and make amendments or adjustments to the proposal as appropriate. Proposed rates will be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary for Electricity for approval on an interim basis.

WAPA is proposing the SLCA/IP firm power rate and revised CRSP transmission and ancillary services formula rates in accordance with section 302 of the DOE Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7152). This Act transferred to, and vested in, the Secretary of Energy the power marketing functions of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation under the Reclamation Act of 1902 (ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388), as amended and supplemented by subsequent laws, 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 projects involved.

By Delegation Order No. 00–037.00B, effective November 19, 2016, the Secretary of Energy delegated: (1) The authority to develop power and transmission rates to WAPA’s Administrator; (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Assistant Secretary for Electricity.

Availability of Information

All brochures, studies, comments, letters, memoranda, or other documents that WAPA initiates or uses to develop the proposed rates are available for inspection and copying at the Colorado River Storage Project Management Center, 299 South Main Street, Suite 200, Salt Lake City, Utah. Many of these documents and supporting information are also available on WAPA’s website at https://www.wapa.gov/regions/CRSP/rates/Pages/rates.aspx.

Ratemaking Procedure Requirements

Environmental Compliance

WAPA is in the process of determining whether an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement should be prepared or if this action can be categorically excluded from those requirements.8 Determination Under Executive Order 12866

WAPA 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.


Mark A. Gabriel, Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2020–00890 Filed 1–17–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–10004–35–ORD]

Human Studies Review Board; Notification of Public Meetings

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of the Science Advisor, Policy, and Engagement announces two separate public meetings of the Human Studies Review Board (HSRB) to advise the Agency on the ethical and scientific review of research involving human subjects.

DATES: A virtual public meeting will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2020 from 1 p.m. to approximately 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time. A separate, subsequent teleconference meeting is planned for Tuesday, March 17, 2020, from 2 p.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time for the HSRB to finalize its Report of the January 30, 2020 meeting and review other possible topics.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Meeting access: These meetings will be open to the public. The full agenda with access information and meeting materials will be available at the HSRB website: http://www2.epa.gov/osa/human-studies-review-board.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public who wishes to receive further information should contact the HSRB Designated Federal Official (DFO), Thomas O’Farrell on telephone number (202) 564–8451; fax number: (202) 564–2070; email address: ofarrell.thomas@epa.gov; or mailing address: Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Science Advisor, Mail code 8105R, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting access: These meetings will be open to the public. The full agenda with access information and meeting materials will be available at the HSRB website: http://www2.epa.gov/osa/human-studies-review-board. For questions on document availability, or if you do not have access to the internet, consult with the DFO, Thomas O’Farrell, listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. Special accommodations. For information on access or services for individuals with disabilities, or to request accommodation of a disability, please contact the DFO listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT at least 10 days prior to the meeting to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

How may I participate in this meeting?

The HSRB encourages the public’s input. You may participate in these meetings by following the instructions in this section.

1. Oral comments. To pre-register to make oral comments, please contact the DFO, Thomas O’Farrell, listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. Requests to present oral comments during the meeting will be accepted up to Noon Eastern Time on Thursday, January 23, 2020, for the January 30, 2020 meeting and up to Noon Eastern Time on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 for the March 17, 2020 meeting. To the extent that time permits, interested persons who have not pre-registered may be permitted by the HSRB Chair to present oral comments during either meeting at the designated time on the

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7 50 FR 37835 (September 18, 1985) and 84 FR 3347 (February 21, 2019).

8 In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4347); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508); and DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures and Guidelines (10 CFR part 1021).