

filing is to comply with the Commission's November 25, 1997, order which was issued in Docket No. CP96-339-000 and required TPS to file a tariff specifying the terms and conditions under which it will offer open access storage service at an existing liquid natural gas (LNG) peak-shaving facility at Milford, Connecticut. TPS's tariff provides for four types of open access storage service: (1) A firm liquefaction, storage, and vaporization service under Rate Schedule LSV; (2) a firm LNG storage service under Rate Schedule LNG; (3) an interruptible liquefaction, storage and vaporization service under Rate Schedule LSV-1; and (4) an interruptible LNG storage service under Rate Schedule LNG-1. TPS's tariff also permits it to charge market-based rates.

The Commission's letter of March 31, 1998, stated that TPS's February 25, 1998, filing, as well as its initial application, does not contain sufficient information to approve either cost-based rates that comply with Part 284 or market-based rates, and that accordingly, the February 25, 1998, filing was not accepted for filing to be effective April 1, 1998, as requested. The Commission in that letter required TPS to provide an updated market study to support its request for market-based rates and required that TPS clarify why it proposed to establish rate schedules for liquefaction, storage and vaporization service and separate rate schedules for LNG storage service. The Commission in that letter indicated that the tariff sheets would be retained and that they would be construed as pro forma sheets.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest this filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 or 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before April 27, 1998. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project Nos. 8924-030 and 11055-021]

#### Northeast Hydrodevelopment Corp., Wilton Hydro Electric Company; Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

April 15, 1998.

A draft environmental assessment (DEA) is available for public review. The DEA is for two applications to surrender the licenses for the McLane Dam Hydroelectric Project and the Wilton Hydroelectric Project. The Projects are located on the Souhegan River in Hillsboro County, New Hampshire.

The DEA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the DEA can be viewed in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Please submit any comments within 30 days from the date of this notice. Any comments, conclusions, or recommendations that draw upon studies, reports, or other working papers of substance should be supported by appropriate documentation.

Comments should be addressed to David P. Boergers, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Please affix Project Nos. 8924-030 and 11055-021 to all comments. For further information, please contact the project manager, Ms. Rebecca Martin, at (202) 219-2650.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Boulder Canyon Project—Proposed Firm Power Service Base Charge

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed Base Charge adjustment.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Area Power Administration (Western) Desert Southwest Region (DSW) is announcing the fiscal year (FY) 1998 annual rate adjustment process for FY 1999 Revenue Requirements and Rates under Rate Order WAPA-70 for firm power

service for the Boulder Canyon Project (BCP). The annual rate adjustments are a requirement of the ratesetting methodology of WAPA-70 which was approved on a final basis by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on April 19, 1996. The existing rate schedule was placed into effect on November 1, 1995. The power repayment study indicates the proposed Base Charge herein for BCP firm power service is necessary to provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs (including interest expense), plus repayment of required investment within the allowable time period. The proposed Base Charge for firm power service is expected to become effective October 1, 1998. This **Federal Register** notice initiates the formal process for the proposed Base Charge.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before July 20, 1998.

*The forums dates are:*

1. Public information forum, May 14, 1998, 10:30 a.m. MST, Phoenix, Arizona.

2. Public comment forum, June 11, 1998, 10:30 a.m. MST, Phoenix, Arizona.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to, Mr. J. Tyler Carlson, Regional Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457. The public forums will be held at the Desert Southwest Regional Office, 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Maher A. Nasir, Rates Team Lead, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, telephone (602) 352-2768.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with established rate design principles for the BCP, Western has established a proposed Base Charge, consisting of an Energy Dollar and Capacity Dollar, and has established a Forecast Energy Rate and Forecast Capacity Rate. The proposed Base Charge for BCP firm power is based on an Annual Revenue Requirement of \$49,728,625. The proposed Base Charge consists of an Energy Dollar (energy component) amount of \$26,439,847 and a Capacity Dollar (capacity component) amount of \$23,288,777. The Forecast (proposed) Energy Rate is 5.3242 mills/kilowatthour (mills/kWh), and the Forecast (proposed) Capacity Rate is \$0.9947 per kilowatt per month (\$/kWmo).

The existing BCP firm power Base Charge is based on an Annual Revenue

Requirement of \$43,479,183, consisting of an Energy Dollar (energy component) amount of \$22,527,359 and a Capacity Dollar (capacity component) amount of \$20,951,824. The existing BCP energy rate is 4.41 mills/kWh and capacity rate is \$0.89/kWmo.

#### Authorities

Since the proposed rates constitute a major rate adjustment as defined by the procedures for public participation in general rate adjustments, as cited below, both a public information forum and a public comment forum will be held. After review of public comments, Western will recommend proposed charges/rates for approval on a final basis by the Deputy Secretary of DOE pursuant to Rate Order No. WAPA-70.

The power rates for the BCP are established pursuant to the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101, *et seq.*), the Reclamation Act of 1902 (43 U.S.C. 391, *et seq.*), as amended and supplemented by subsequent enactments, particularly section 9(c) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h(c)), the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 (43 U.S.C. 1501, *et seq.*), the Colorado River Storage Project Act (43 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*), the Boulder Canyon Project Act (43 U.S.C. 617, *et seq.*), the Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act (43 U.S.C. 618, *et seq.*), the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619, *et seq.*), the General Regulations for Power Generation, Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement at the BCP, Arizona/Nevada (43 CFR Part 431) published in the **Federal Register** at 51 FR 23960 on July 1, 1986, and the General Regulations for the Charges for the Sale of Power From the BCP, Final Rule (10 CFR Part 904) published in the **Federal Register** at 50 FR 37837 on September 18, 1985, and the DOE financial reporting policies, procedures, and methodology (DOE Order No. RA 6120.2 dated September 20, 1979).

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

#### Regulatory Procedure Requirements

##### *Regulatory Flexibility Analysis*

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601-612, requires Federal agencies to perform a regulatory flexibility analysis if a proposed rule is likely to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Western has determined that this action relates to rates or services offered by Western and, therefore, is not a rule within the purview of the act.

##### *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 this action is categorically excluded from the preparation of 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; accordingly, no clearance of this notice by the Office of Management and Budget is required.

#### Availability of Information

All brochures, studies, comments, letters, memorandums, and other documents made or kept by Western for the purpose of developing the proposed rates for energy and capacity are and will be made available for inspection and copying at Western's Desert Southwest Regional Office, 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.

Dated: April 10, 1998.

**Michael S. Hacksaylo,**

*Acting Administrator.*

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6000-2]

#### Agency Generic Information Collection Request: Regional Compliance Assistance Program Evaluation

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following

proposed Generic Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Measuring the Program Effectiveness of EPA Regional Compliance Assistance Projects. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the collection as described below.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before June 22, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Lynn Vendinello (2224A), Office of Compliance, US EPA, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by calling Lynn Vendinello at 202-564-7066 or via e-mail at vendinello.lynn@epamail.epa.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lynn Vendinello, 202-564-7066 or vendinello.lynn@epamail.epa.gov.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Affected entities:* Entities potentially affected by this action are those businesses and technical assistance providers who receive and/or participate in EPA's Regional compliance assistance activities. Technical assistance providers are comprised of such groups as: state pollution prevention programs, state small business assistance programs, small business development centers, manufacturing extension partnership programs, and trade associations. The request for information from these affected entities will be voluntary.

*Title:* Regional Compliance Assistance Activities Program Evaluation. (OMB) Control No. XXXX-XXXX; EPA ICR No. 1758.02). This is a new collection.

*Abstract:* Since EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) was formed three years ago, there has been an increased focus on the use of compliance assistance as an appropriate tool to assist the regulated community in improving its compliance. In particular, OECA has focussed its compliance assistance on small business and small communities that have not had much exposure to traditional enforcement and therefore may not be fully aware of their compliance obligations. Compliance assistance consists of information and technical assistance provided to the regulated community to help it meet the requirements of environmental law. First and foremost, compliance assistance ensures that the regulated community understands its obligations by providing clear and consistent descriptions of regulatory requirements. The bulk of OECA's compliance assistance activities are undertaken in our regional offices. Regional