

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Southeastern Power Administration

Cumberland System of Projects

AGENCY: Southeastern Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rates, public forum, and opportunities for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: Southeastern Power Administration (Southeastern) proposes to revise existing schedules of rates and charges applicable to the sale of power from the Cumberland System of Projects effective for a 5-year period, October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2013. Additionally, opportunities will be available for interested persons to review the rates and supporting studies and to submit written comments. Southeastern will evaluate all comments received in this process.

DATES: Written comments are due on or before July 10, 2008. A public information and comment forum will be held at 10 a.m., May 22, 2008. Persons desiring to speak at the forum should notify Southeastern at least three (3) days before the forum is scheduled, so that a list of forum participants can be prepared. Others may speak if time permits.

ADDRESSES: The forum will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 920 Broadway, Nashville, Tennessee 37203, phone (615) 244-0150. Written comments should be submitted to: Administrator, Southeastern Power Administration, Department of Energy, 1166 Athens Tech Road, Elberton, GA 30635-6711.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J. W. Smith, Southeastern Power Administration, Department of Energy, 1166 Athens Tech Road, Elberton, Georgia 30635, (706) 213-3800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Deputy Secretary of Energy confirmed and approved on an interim basis on February 20, 2008, Wholesale Power Rate Schedules CBR-1-F, CSI-1-F, CEK-1-F, CM-1-F, CC-1-G, CK-1-F, and CTV-1-F applicable to Cumberland System of Projects power for a period ending September 30, 2008. Final approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is pending.

Discussion: The marketing policy for the Cumberland System of Projects provides peaking capacity, along with 1500 hours of energy annually with each kilowatt of capacity, to customers outside the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) transmission system. Due to restrictions on the operation of the Wolf Creek Project imposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a precaution to prevent failure of the dam, Southeastern is not able to provide peaking capacity to these customers. Southeastern implemented an interim operating plan for the Cumberland System to provide these customers with energy that did not include capacity. Because previous rate schedules recovered all costs from capacity and excess energy, Southeastern developed the interim rate schedules to recover costs under the interim operating plan. The interim rate schedules were approved by the Administrator under the Administrator's authority to develop and place into effect on a final basis rates for short-term sales of capacity, energy, or transmission service effective February 25, 2007. On February 20, 2008, the Deputy Secretary of Energy approved an extension of the interim rate schedules for a period from February 25, 2008 to September 30, 2008. The rate schedules have been forwarded to FERC with a request for approval on a final basis. An updated study, dated February 2008, shows that existing rates are adequate to recover all costs required by present repayment criteria.

Southeastern is proposing to include \$19.7 million of replacements per year

from FY 2008 to FY 2028, for a total of \$394 million. Including this \$394 million, the existing rates are not adequate to recover all costs. A revised repayment study with a revenue increase of \$6,036,000 over the current study demonstrates that rates would be adequate to meet repayment criteria. The total revenue requirement is \$52,350,000. The additional revenue requirement amounts to a 13 percent increase in revenues.

Southeastern is including three rate alternatives per rate schedule. All of the rate alternatives have a revenue requirement of \$52,350,000, which includes the \$6,036,000 increase in revenue.

The first set includes the rates necessary to recover costs under the interim operating plan. These rates are based on energy. The rate is 13.29 mills per kilowatt-hour for all Cumberland energy. The customers will pay a ratable share of the transmission credit the Administrator of Southeastern Power Administration (Administrator) provides the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) as consideration for delivering capacity and energy for the account of the Administrator to points of delivery of Other Customers or interconnection points of delivery with other electric systems for the benefit of Other Customers, as agreed by contract between the Administrator and TVA. This rate will remain in effect as long as Southeastern is unable to provide capacity due to the Corps' imposed restrictions on the operation of the Wolf Creek Project.

The second rate alternative will recover cost from capacity and energy. This will be in effect once the Corps raises the lake level at the Wolf Creek Project. When the lake level rises and capacity is available, the capacity will be allocated to the customers.

The third rate alternative is based on the original Cumberland Marketing Policy. All costs are recovered from capacity and excess energy. The rates under this alternative are as follows:

CUMBERLAND SYSTEM RATES

TVA:	
Capacity	\$1.996 per kw/month.
Additional Energy	11.048 mills per kwh.
Outside Preference Customers (Excluding Customers served through Carolina Power & Light Company):	
Capacity	\$3.462 per kw/month.
Energy	11.048 mills per kwh.
Customers Served through Carolina Power & Light Company, Western Division:	
Capacity	\$3.940 per kw/month.
Transmission	\$1.1522 per kw/month.

These rates will go into effect once the Corps lifts the restrictions on the operation of the Wolf Creek Dam and the interim operating plan becomes unnecessary.

The referenced repayment studies are available for examination at 1166 Athens Tech Road, Elberton, Georgia 30635-6711. The Proposed Rate Schedules CBR-1-G, CSI-1-G, CEK-1-G, CM-1-G, CC-1-H, CK-1-G, and CTV-1-G are also available.

Dated: March 31, 2008.

Leon Jouroimon,

Acting Administrator.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6697-8]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under section 309 of the Clean Air Act and section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at 202-564-7167.

Summary of Rating Definitions; Environmental Impact of the Action

LO—Lack of Objections

The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC—Environmental Concerns

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA would like to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EO—Environmental Objections

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that must be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the

preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EU—Environmentally Unsatisfactory

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potentially unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the CEQ.

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1—Adequate

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

Category 2—Insufficient Information

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3—Inadequate

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this

proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

Draft EISs

EIS No. 20070488, ERP No. D-DOE-A09800-00, Programmatic—Designation of Energy Corridors in 11 Western States, Preferred Location of Future Oil, Gas, and Hydrogen Pipelines and Electricity Transmission and Distribution Facilities on Federal Land, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WA and WY.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about potential underestimation of wetlands in the designated corridors.

Rating EC2.

EIS No. 20080042, ERP No. D-AFS-J65508-MT, Debaugan Fuels Reduction Project, Proposed Fuels Reduction Activities, Lolo National Forest, Superior Ranger District, Mineral County, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about water quality impacts. EPA requested additional analysis and information to assess and mitigate impacts of the management actions.

Rating EC2.

EIS No. 20080047, ERP No. D-USN-A11080-00, Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training Program, To Provide Mid- and High-Frequency Active Sonar Technology and the Improved Extended Echo Ranging (IEER) System during Atlantic Fleet Training Exercises, Along the East Coast of United States (US) and in the Gulf of Mexico.

Summary: EPA does not object to the proposed action.

Rating LO.

EIS No. 20080054, ERP No. D-DOE-J05080-MT, MATL 230-kV Transmission Line Project, To Construct, Operate, Maintain, and Connect a 230-kV Electric Transmission Line, Issuance of Presidential Permit for Right-to-Way Grant, Cascade, Teton, Chouteau, Pondera, Toole and Glacier Counties, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about water quality and wetland impacts. EPA recommended a modified preferred alternative that would better optimize the environmental, social and economic trade-offs for this project. EPA requested additional information regarding mitigation of impacts.

Rating EC2.

Final EISs

EIS No. 20070457, ERP No. F-UAF-B15000-MA, Final