

Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, until May 15, 2000. All filings should contain an original and eight copies, and must clearly show at the top of the first page "Columbia Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 1895-007".

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental concerns related to the Columbia Hydroelectric Project are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist the staff in defining the issues to be addressed in the EA. For further information, please contact Charles Hall at 202-219-2853, or e-mail charles.hall@ferc.fed.us.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-7672 Filed 3-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Loveland Area Projects-Rate Order No. WAPA-89

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed extension of firm electric service rate.

SUMMARY: This action is a proposal to extend the existing Loveland Area Projects (LAP) firm electric service rate, Rate Order No. WAPA-51, through September 30, 2003. The existing firm electric service rate will expire January 31, 2001. This notice of proposed extension of the rate is issued pursuant to 10 CFR part 903.23(a)(1). In accordance with 10 CFR part 903.23(a)(2), Western will not have a consultation and comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Daniel T. Payton, Rates Manager, Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539-3003, (970) 490-7442, or e-mail dpayton@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, published November 10, 1993 (58 FR 59716), the Secretary of Energy delegated (1) the authority to develop long-term power and transmission rates on a non-exclusive basis to the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (Western); (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, to remand, or to disapprove such rates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In Delegation Order No. 0204-172, effective

November 24, 1999, the Secretary of Energy delegated the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary.

Pursuant to Delegation Order No. 0204-108 and existing Department of Energy procedures for public participation in firm electric service rate adjustments at 10 CFR part 903, Western's LAP firm electric service rate was submitted to FERC for confirmation and approval on January 10, 1994. On July 14, 1994, in Docket No. EF94-5181-000 at 68 FERC ¶ 62,040, FERC issued an order confirming, approving, and placing into effect on a final basis the firm electric service rate for LAP. LAP consists of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project and the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, Western Division. The rate set forth in Rate Order No. WAPA-51 was approved for a 5-year period beginning February 1, 1994, and ending January 31, 1999. On October 16, 1998, upon signing Rate Order No. WAPA-82, the Deputy Secretary extended the existing rate for a 2-year period beginning February 1, 1999, and ending January 31, 2001.

On January 31, 2001, the LAP firm electric service rate expires. This makes it necessary to extend the current rate pursuant to 10 CFR part 903. Upon its approval, Rate Order No. WAPA-51, previously extended under Rate Order No. WAPA-82, will be extended under Rate Order No. WAPA-89.

Western proposes to extend the existing rate of \$2.85/kilowattmonth for capacity and 10.85 mills/kilowatt hour for energy which is sufficient to recover project expenses (including interest) and capital requirements through September 30, 2003. Increased revenue from good hydrologic conditions and lower operation and maintenance expenses over the cost evaluation period have made this possible. For the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, the ratesetting study projected the deficit to peak at \$178 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 1994 and to be repaid in FY 2002. The deficit actually peaked at \$171 million in FY 1993 and was totally repaid in FY 1997. The total annual revenue requirement of \$44.3 million from firm power sales is sufficient to cover the expenses and capital requirements through September 30, 2003.

All documents made or kept by Western for developing this notice for proposed extension of the firm electric service rate will be made available for inspection and copying at the Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region, located at 5555 East Crossroads Boulevard, Loveland, Colorado.

Thirty days after publication of this notice, Rate Order No. WAPA-89 will be submitted to the Deputy Secretary for approval through September 30, 2003.

Dated: March 17, 2000.

Michael S. Hacskeylo,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-7743 Filed 3-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program—Eastern Division—Order No. WAPA-90

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed extension of firm power service and firm peaking power service rates.

SUMMARY: This action is a proposal to extend the existing Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program-Eastern Division (P-SMBP-ED) firm power service and firm peaking power service rates, Rate Order No. WAPA-60, through September 30, 2003. The existing firm power service and firm peaking power service rates will expire January 31, 2001. This notice of proposed extension of rates is issued pursuant to 10 CFR part 903.23(a)(1). In accordance with 10 CFR part 903.23(a)(2), Western will not have a consultation and comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert F. Riehl, Rates Manager, Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800, (406) 247-7388, or e-mail riehl@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, published November 10, 1993 (58 FR 59716), the Secretary of Energy delegated (1) the authority to develop long-term power and transmission rates on a non-exclusive basis to the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (Western); and (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, to remand, or to disapprove such rates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In Delegation Order No. 0204-172, effective November 24, 1999, the Secretary of Energy delegated the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary.

Pursuant to Delegation Order No. 0204-108 and existing Department of Energy procedures for public

participation in firm power service rate adjustments at 10 CFR part 903, Western's P-SMBP-ED firm power service and firm peaking power service rates were submitted to FERC for confirmation and approval on January 10, 1994. On July 14, 1994, in Docket No. EF94-5031-000 at 68 FERC ¶ 62,040, FERC issued an order confirming, approving, and placing into effect on a final basis the firm power service and the firm peaking power service rates for the P-SMBP-ED. The rates set forth in Rate Order No. WAPA-60 were approved for a 5-year period beginning February 1, 1994, and ending January 31, 1999. On October 16, 1998, upon signing Rate Order No. WAPA-83, the Deputy Secretary extended the existing rates for a 2-year period beginning February 1, 1999, and ending January 31, 2001.

On January 31, 2001, the P-SMBP-ED firm power service and firm peaking power service rates will expire. This makes it necessary to extend the current rates pursuant to 10 CFR part 903. Upon its approval, Rate Order No. WAPA-60, previously extended under Rate Order No. WAPA-83, will be extended under Rate Order No. WAPA-90.

Western proposes to extend the existing rate of \$3.20/kilowattmonth for capacity and the rate of 8.32 mills/kilowatthour for energy which are sufficient to recover project expenses (including interest) and capital requirements through September 30, 2003. Increased revenue from good hydrologic conditions and lower operation and maintenance expenses over the cost evaluation period have made this possible. For the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, the ratesetting study projected the deficit to peak at \$178 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 1994 and to be repaid in FY 2002. The deficit actually peaked at \$171 million in FY 1993 and was totally repaid in FY 1997. The total annual revenue requirement of \$135.2 million from firm power sales is sufficient to cover the expenses and capital requirements through September 30, 2003.

All documents made or kept by Western for developing the proposed extension of the firm power service and firm peaking power service rates will be made available for inspection and copying at the Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region, located at 2900 4th Avenue North, Billings, Montana.

Thirty days after publication of this notice, Rate Order No. WAPA-90 will be submitted to the Deputy Secretary for approval through September 30, 2003.

Dated: March 9, 2000.

Michael S. Hacsakaylo,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-7744 Filed 3-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6566-8]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Continuing Collection; Comment Request; Performance Evaluation Studies on Water and Wastewater Laboratories

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB):

Performance Evaluation Studies on Water and Wastewater Laboratories, EPA ICR #234.07, OMB Control #2080-0021, current expiration date is 9/30/2000. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: National Exposure Research Laboratory, 26 W. Martin L. King Drive, Room 525, Cincinnati, OH 45268.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ray Wesselman, (513) 569-7194, FAX to (513) 569-7115 or Email to WESSELMAN.RAY@EPA.GOV

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are laboratories which produce results of official/required drinking water or wastewater analyses.

Title: Performance Evaluation Studies on Water and Wastewater Laboratories (OMB Control No. 2080-0021; EPA ICR NO. 234.07) currently expiring 9/30/2000.

Abstract: The EPA receives analytical results on drinking waters and wastewaters from a variety of laboratories and must rely on these data as a primary basis for many of its regulatory decisions. As a consequence, it has become desirable to have an objective demonstration that the contributing laboratories are capable of producing valid data. The subject

Performance Evaluation Studies are designed to fulfill this need to document and improve the quality of analytical data for certain critical analyses within drinking water, major point-source discharge and ambient water quality samples. Participation in Water Pollution (WP) studies that relate to wastewater analyses, and Water Supply (WS) studies that relate to drinking water analyses, is only mandated by the EPA for those laboratories that receive federal funds to do such analyses; however successful performance in these studies is often required by states that certify laboratories for drinking water and wastewater analyses. Participation in the Discharge Monitoring Report—Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) studies is mandatory for those designated wastewater dischargers who are doing self-monitoring analyses required under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

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.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and record-keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to total 241,619 hours and \$9,853,259. The total number of annual responses is estimated to be 23,430, which leads to an estimated average of 10.3 hours per response. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal