

Street Suite 1500, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103. Rate Schedule SRD–23 is available on Southwestern’s website at www.energy.gov/swpa/rates-and-repayment.

Certification of Rates

I have certified that the provisional rate under Rate Schedule SRD–23 is the lowest possible rate consistent with sound business principles. The rate was developed following administrative policies and applicable laws.

Ratemaking Procedure Requirements

Environmental Compliance

Southwestern has determined that this action fits within the following categorical exclusions listed in appendix B to subpart D of 10 CFR 1021.410: B4.3 (Electric power marketing rate changes). Categorically excluded projects and activities do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment. A copy of the categorical exclusion determination is available on Southwestern’s website at <https://www.energy.gov/swpa/southwestern-power-administration>.

Determination Under Executive Order 12866

Southwestern 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.

Submission to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Rate Schedule SRD–23 herein confirmed, approved, and placed into effect on an interim basis, together with supporting documents, will be submitted to FERC for confirmation and final approval.

Order

In view of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Secretary of Energy, I hereby confirm, approve and place in effect on an interim basis, effective October 1, 2024, Rate Schedule SRD–23, *Wholesale Rates for Hydro Power and Energy at Sam Rayburn Dam and Reservoir*. The rate schedule shall remain in effect on a temporary basis through September 30, 2027, or until the FERC confirms and approves the rate on a final basis, or until it is superseded by a subsequent rate.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on August 26, 2024, by Michael S. Wech, Administrator for Southwestern Power Administration,

pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document, with the original signature and date, is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of DOE. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 27, 2024.

Treena V. Garrett,
Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S.
Department of Energy.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

Rate Schedule SRD–23¹

Wholesale Rates for Hydro Power and Energy

At Sam Rayburn Dam and Reservoir

Effective

During the period October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2027, in accordance with interim approval from Rate Order No. SWPA–84 issued by the Administrator on October 1, 2024, and pursuant to final approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Applicable

To wholesale customers which have contractual rights from Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) to purchase the Hydro Power and Energy generated at the Sam Rayburn Dam and Reservoir.

Character and Conditions of Service

Three-phase, alternating current, delivered at approximately 60 Hertz, at the nominal voltage, at the point of delivery, and in such quantities as are specified by contract.

1. Wholesale Rates, Terms, and Conditions for Hydro Power and Energy

1.1. This rate shall be applicable regardless of the quantity of Hydro Power and Energy available or delivered from the Sam Rayburn Dam and Reservoir; *provided, however*, that if an Uncontrollable Force prevents utilization of both of the project’s power generating units for an entire billing period, and if during such billing period water releases were being made which

otherwise would have been used to generate Hydro Power and Energy, then Southwestern shall, upon request by the customer(s), suspend billing for subsequent billing periods, until such time as at least one of the project’s generating units is again available.

1.2. The term “Uncontrollable Force,” as used herein, shall mean any force which is not within the control of the party affected, including, but not limited to, failure of water supply, failure of facilities, flood, earthquake, storm, lightning, fire, epidemic, riot, civil disturbance, labor disturbance, sabotage, war, acts of war, terrorist acts, or restraint by court of general jurisdiction, which by exercise of due diligence and foresight such party could not reasonably have been expected to avoid.

1.3. Hydro Power Rates, Terms, and Conditions

1.3.1. Monthly Charge for the Period of October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2027

\$460,549 per month (\$5,526,588 per year) for Sam Rayburn Dam Hydro Power and Energy purchased from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2027.

[FR Doc. 2024–19564 Filed 8–29–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Boulder Canyon Project

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice concerning fiscal year 2025 base charge and rates for electric service.

SUMMARY: The Deputy Secretary confirms, approves, and places into effect on a final basis the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Desert Southwest Region’s (DSW) fiscal year (FY) 2025 base charge and rates for Boulder Canyon Project (BCP) electric service under Rate Schedule BCP–F11. The FY 2025 base charge is unchanged from FY 2024 and will remain at \$74.3 million.

DATES: The FY 2025 base charge and rates are effective October 1, 2024, and will remain in effect through September 30, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack D. Murray, Regional Manager, Desert Southwest Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005–6457, or Tina Ramsey, Rates Manager, Desert Southwest Region, Western Area Power

¹ Supersedes Rate Schedule SRD–15

Administration, (602) 605–2565, or email: dswpwrnrk@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 31, 2023, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved and confirmed Rate Schedule BCP–F11, under Rate Order No. WAPA–204, on a final basis through September 30, 2027.¹ WAPA published a **Federal Register** notice (Proposed FRN) on April 19, 2024 (89 FR 28767), proposing the FY 2025 base charge and rates under Rate Schedule BCP–F11. The Proposed FRN also initiated a 90-day public consultation and comment period and

set forth the date and location of the public information and public comment forums.

The rate-setting methodology for BCP electric service requires calculation of an annual base charge rather than a unit rate for Hoover Dam hydropower. The base charge recovers an annual revenue requirement that includes projected costs of investment repayment, interest, operations, maintenance, replacements, payments to states, and Hoover Dam visitor services. Non-power revenue projections such as water sales, Hoover Dam visitor revenue, ancillary services,

and late fees help offset these projected costs. Hoover power contractors are billed a percentage of the base charge in proportion to their power allocation. Unit rates are calculated for comparative purposes but are not used to determine the charges for electric service.

Rate Schedule BCP–F11 and the BCP Electric Service Contract require WAPA to calculate the annual base charge and rates for the next fiscal year before October 1 of each year. The FY 2024 BCP base charge and rates expire on September 30, 2024.

COMPARISON OF BASE CHARGE AND RATES

	FY 2024	FY 2025	Amount change	Percent change
Base Charge (\$)	74,334,285	74,334,285	0.00	0.0
Composite Rate (mills/kWh)	23.10	24.39	1.29	5.6
Energy Rate (mills/kWh)	11.55	12.20	0.65	5.6
Capacity Rate (\$/kW-Mo)	2.15	2.17	0.02	0.9

The FY 2025 base charge for BCP electric service is unchanged and will remain at \$74.3 million, the same as FY 2024.

The Bureau of Reclamation’s (Reclamation) FY 2025 budget is decreasing \$700,000 from \$87.9 million to \$87.2 million, a 0.8 percent decrease from FY 2024. Reflected in this budget, operation and maintenance (O&M) costs are increasing \$1.1 million primarily due to higher projected labor costs for salaries, benefits, and overhead. Several large projects are being delayed, decreasing replacements costs by \$2.2 million. Post-retirement benefit costs are increasing \$109,000 based on a higher five-year average of recent actual expenses. Visitor services costs are increasing by \$270,000 primarily due to higher projected labor costs for salaries, benefits, overhead, and overtime. The FY 2024 budget amounts cited for Reclamation do not include approximately \$20.8 million in costs that are funded by prior year carryover from FY 2023.

WAPA’s FY 2025 budget is increasing approximately \$600,000 from \$9.6 million to \$10.1 million, a 5.9 percent increase from FY 2024. WAPA’s O&M costs are increasing \$770,000 from FY 2024 due to higher projected labor costs for salaries, benefits, overhead, and overtime. The increase in O&M costs is offset by a \$208,000 decrease in replacement costs and modest decreases in WAPA’s post-retirement benefit costs and interest expenses due to lower five-

year averages of recent actual expenses. The FY 2024 budget amounts for WAPA do not include approximately \$282,000 in costs that are funded by prior year carryover from FY 2023.

Non-power revenue projections for Reclamation and WAPA are decreasing \$2.1 million due to lower estimated revenue for the Commercial Use Fee program and ancillary services. Prior year carryover is projected to be \$4.1 million, a \$1.9 million increase from FY 2024.

The composite and energy rates are both increasing 5.6 percent and the capacity rate is increasing 0.9 percent from FY 2024. These unit rate calculations use forecasted energy and capacity values, which have been decreasing due to the ongoing drought in the Lower Colorado River Basin.

Public Notice and Comment

DSW followed the Procedures for Public Participation in Power and Transmission Rate Adjustments and Extensions (10 CFR part 903) and General Regulations for the Charges for the Sale of Power from the BCP (10 CFR part 904). DSW took the following steps to involve interested parties in the rate process:

1. DSW provided a website where information is posted about this rate process. The website is located at <https://www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/dsw/rates/boulder-canyon-project-rates/>.

2. On April 19, 2024, a **Federal Register** notice (89 FR 28767) (Proposed

FRN) announced the proposed FY 2025 base charge and rates and initiated a 90-day public consultation and comment period.

3. On April 19, 2024, DSW notified contractors and interested parties of the proposed rates and provided a copy of the published Proposed FRN by email.

4. On May 20, 2024, DSW held a public information forum, with options to attend virtually or in person, at the Desert Southwest Regional Office, Phoenix, Arizona. DSW representatives explained the proposed base charge and provided contractors and interested parties an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments for the record.

5. On June 20, 2024, DSW held a public comment forum, with options to attend virtually or in person, at the Desert Southwest Regional Office, Phoenix, Arizona, to provide an opportunity for contractors and other interested parties to provide comments for the record.

6. On July 18, 2024, the public consultation and comment period ended with DSW receiving no comments.

Certification of Rates

WAPA’s Administrator certified the FY 2025 base charge and rates under Rate Schedule BCP–F11 are the lowest possible rates consistent with sound business principles. The base charge and rates were developed following administrative policies and applicable laws.

¹ Order Confirming and Approving Rate Schedule on a Final Basis, FERC Docket No. EF22–4–000.

Availability of Information

Information used by WAPA to develop the base charge and rates for electric service is available for inspection and copying at the Desert Southwest Regional Office, located at 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, 85009. Many of these documents are also available on DSW's website at <https://www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/dsw/rates/boulder-canyon-project-rates/>.

Legal Authority

DOE is setting rates for BCP electric service in accordance with section 302 of the DOE Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7152). This provision transferred to, and vested in, the Secretary of Energy certain functions of the Secretary of the Interior, along with the power marketing functions of Reclamation.

DOE regulations governing charges for the sale of BCP power, 10 CFR 904.7(e), requires annual review of the BCP base charge and an "adjust[ment], either upward or downward, when necessary and administratively feasible, to assure sufficient revenues to effect payment of all costs and financial obligations associated with the [p]roject." WAPA's Administrator provided all BCP contractors an opportunity to comment on the proposed base charge adjustment, consistent with DOE procedures for public participation in rate adjustments. The BCP Electric Service Contract states that for years other than the first year and each fifth year thereafter, when the rate schedule is approved by the Deputy Secretary of Energy on a provisional basis and by FERC on a final basis, adjustments to the base charge "shall become effective upon approval by the Deputy Secretary of Energy." Accordingly, the Deputy Secretary of Energy may approve the FY 2025 base charge and rates for BCP electric service, as authorized by the BCP Electric Service Contract and DOE's procedures for public participation in rate adjustments set forth at 10 CFR parts 903 and 904.²

Following DOE's review of WAPA's proposal, and as authorized by applicable provisions of the BCP Electric Service Contract, I have confirmed, approved, and placed the FY 2025 base charge and rates for BCP electric service, under Rate Schedule BCP F-11, into effect on a final basis through September 30, 2025.

² 50 FR 37835 (Sept. 18, 1985) and 84 FR 5347 (Feb. 21, 2019).

Ratemaking Procedure Requirements Environmental Compliance

WAPA has determined that this action fits within the following categorical exclusions listed in appendix B to subpart D of 10 CFR part 1021: B4.3 (Electric power marketing rate changes). Categorically excluded projects and activities do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment.³ A copy of the categorical exclusion determination is available on WAPA's website at www.wapa.gov/regions/DSW/Environment/Pages/environment.aspx.

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.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on August 23, 2024, by David M. Turk, Deputy Secretary of Energy. That document, with the original signature and date, is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 27, 2024.

Treena V. Garrett,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2024-19562 Filed 8-29-24; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-12223-01-OA]

Local Government Advisory Committee: Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

³ The determination was done in compliance with NEPA (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).

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby provides notice of a meeting for the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) on the date and time described below. This meeting will be open to the public. For information on public attendance and participation, please see the registration information under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The LGAC will meet in-person and virtually from approximately 9 a.m.–3 p.m. central time on Thursday, September 26, 2024. The LGAC will also meet from approximately 8–11 a.m. Friday September 27, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank Sylvester, LGAC Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at Sylvester.Frank.J@epa.gov or 202-603-8133.

Information on Accessibility: For information on access or services for individuals requiring accessibility accommodations, please contact Frank Sylvester, LGAC Designated Federal Officer, at Sylvester.Frank.J@epa.gov or 202-603-8133. To request accommodation, please do so ten (10) business days prior to meeting dates, to give the EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Content

The LGAC will discuss several priority issues at EPA, including climate communication, environmental justice, the EPA's efforts to address cumulative impacts, and water system restructuring. Agenda and meeting materials will be posted online (link below) one week prior to the meeting. For more information on the LGAC, including member biographies, recent meeting summaries and recommendations, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ocir/local-government-advisory-committee-lgac>.

Registration

The meeting will be held virtually as well as in person. Members of the public who wish to participate should register by contacting the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at Sylvester.Frank.J@epa.gov or LGAC@epa.gov by September 12, 2024. Online participation will be via Zoom. In-person participation will be at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, Nebraska: 1040 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

Once available, the agenda and other supportive meeting materials will be available online at <https://www.epa.gov/>