

*Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

*Tentative Topics* (agenda topics may change up to the day of the meeting; please contact Shannon A. Brennan for the most current agenda):

Board Retreat, Monday, March 20, 2006.

Open Meeting, Tuesday, March 21, 2006 and Wednesday, March 22, 2006.

- Idaho Cleanup Project

Environmental Management Cleanup Status Report.

- Fiscal Year 2007 Budget.
- Long-Term Plans for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management.
- Radioactive Waste Management Complex Stakeholder Involvement Discussion.

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral presentations pertaining to agenda items should contact Shannon A. Brennan at the address or telephone number listed above. The request must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Individuals wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of five minutes to present their comments.

*Minutes:* The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the U.S. Department of Energy's Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Shannon A. Brennan, Federal Coordinator, at the address and phone number listed above.

Issued at Washington, DC on February 24, 2006.

**Carol Matthews,**

*Acting Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. E6-2953 Filed 3-1-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Paducah

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EMSSAB), Paducah. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of this meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Thursday, March 16, 2006; 5:30 p.m.–9 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** 111 Memorial Drive, Barkley Centre, Paducah, Kentucky 42001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William E. Murphie, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Department of Energy Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office, 1017 Majestic Drive, Suite 200, Lexington, Kentucky 40513, (859) 219-4001.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management and related activities.

*Tentative Agenda*

5:30 p.m.	Informal Discussion
6 p.m.	Call to Order Introductions Review of Agenda Approval of February Minutes
6:15 p.m.	Deputy Designated Federal Officer's Comments
6:35 p.m.	Federal Coordinator's Comments
6:40 p.m.	Ex-officiis' Comments
6:50 p.m.	Public Comments and Questions
7 p.m.	Task Forces/Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife Management Area—Tim Kreher</li> <li>• Water Disposition/Water Quality Task Force—End State Maps</li> </ul>
8 p.m.	Public Comments and Questions
8:10 p.m.	Break
8:20 p.m.	Administrative Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation for April Presentation</li> <li>• Budget Review</li> <li>• Review of Workplan</li> <li>• Review Next Agenda</li> </ul>
8:30 p.m.	Review of Action Items
8:35 p.m.	Subcommittee Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Committee</li> </ul>
8:50 p.m.	Final Comments
9 p.m.	Adjourn

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact David Dollins at the address listed below or by telephone at (270)

441-6819. Requests must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Individuals wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of five minutes to present their comments.

*Minutes:* The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the U.S. Department of Energy's Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday–Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available at the Department of Energy's Environmental Information Center and Reading Room at 115 Memorial Drive, Barkley Centre, Paducah, Kentucky between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., on Monday through Friday or by writing to David Dollins, Department of Energy, Paducah Site Office, Post Office Box 1410, MS-103, Paducah, Kentucky 42001 or by calling him at (270) 441-6819.

Issued at Washington, DC, on February 23, 2006.

**Carol Matthews,**

*Acting Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. E6-2954 Filed 3-1-06; 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 of proposed base charge and rates adjustment.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Area Power Administration (Western) is proposing an adjustment to the Boulder Canyon Project (BCP) electric service base charge and rates. The current base charge and rates expire September 30, 2006. The current base charge is not sufficient to pay all annual costs including operation, maintenance, replacements, interest expense, and to repay investment obligations within the required period. The proposed base charge will provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs and to repay investment obligations within the allowable period. A detailed rate package that identifies the reasons for the base charge and rates adjustment will be available in March 2006. The

proposed base charge and rates are scheduled to become effective on October 1, 2006, and will remain in effect through September 30, 2007. This **Federal Register** notice initiates the formal process for the proposed base charge and rates.

**DATES:** The consultation and comment period will begin today and will end May 31, 2006. Western representatives will explain the proposed base charge and rates at a public information forum on April 4, 2006, beginning at 10:30 a.m. MST, in Phoenix, Arizona (AZ). Interested parties can provide oral and written comments at a public comment forum on May 3, 2006, beginning at 10:30 a.m. MST, at the same location.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Desert Southwest Customer Service Regional Office, located at 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. Send comments to: Mr. J. Tyler Carlson, Regional Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, e-mail [carlson@wapa.gov](mailto:carlson@wapa.gov). Western will post information about the rate process on its Web site at <http://www.wapa.gov/dsw/>

[pwrmt/BCP/RateAdjust.htm](#). Western must receive comments by the end of the consultation and comment period to be assured consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Jack Murray, Rates Team Lead, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, telephone (602) 605-2442, e-mail [jmurray@wapa.gov](mailto:jmurray@wapa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed base charge and rates for BCP electric service are designed to recover an annual revenue requirement that includes the investment repayment, interest, operation and maintenance, replacements, payment to states, visitor services and uprating payments. These annual costs are reduced by the projected revenue from water sales, visitor services, water pump energy sales, facility use charges, regulation and spinning reserve services, miscellaneous leases and late fees. The projected annual revenue requirement is the base charge for electric service and is divided equally between capacity and energy. Annual energy dollars are divided by annual energy sales, and

annual capacity dollars are divided by annual capacity sales to determine the proposed energy rate and the proposed capacity rate.

The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) approved the existing rate formula for calculating the base charge and rates in Rate Schedule BCP-F7 for BCP firm power service on August 11, 2005, (Rate Order No. WAPA-120, 70 FR 50316, August 26, 2005). The rate formula has been submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for approval. Rate Schedule BCP-F7 became effective on October 1, 2005, for the period ending September 30, 2010. Under Rate Schedule BCP-F7 for FY 2007, the base charge is \$62,177,350, the forecasted energy rate is 8.10 mills per kilowatthour (mills/kWh), the forecasted capacity rate is \$1.48 per kilowattmonth (kWmonth) and the composite rate is 16.21 mills/kWh.

Under Rate Schedule BCP-F7, the proposed rates for BCP electric service will result in an overall composite rate increase of about 15 percent. The following table compares the current and proposed base charge and rates.

COMPARISON OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED BASE CHARGE AND RATES

	Current October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006	Proposed October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007	Percent change increase
Total Composite (mills/kWh) .....	14.05	16.21	15
Base Charge (\$) .....	57,465,018	62,177,350	8
Energy Rate (mills/kWh) .....	7.03	8.10	15
Capacity Rate (\$/kWmonth) .....	1.37	1.48	8

The increase in the base charge and rates is primarily the result of higher annual costs in operation and maintenance and lower revenue projections for the visitor center, as well as continued drought conditions. Additionally, the FY 2006 base charge and rates included a carry-over of non-reimbursable security costs from FY 2005, which had the effect of suppressing the FY 2006 base charge.

**Legal Authority**

Western will hold both a public information forum and a public comment forum. After considering comments, Western will recommend the proposed base charge and rates for final approval by the Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Western is establishing an electric service base charge and rates for BCP under the DOE Organization Act, (42 U.S.C. 7152); 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 project involved.

By Delegation Order No. 00-037.00, effective December 6, 2001, the Secretary of Energy delegated: (1) The authority to develop power and transmission rates to Western's Administrator, (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary of Energy, and (3) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, to remand or to disapprove such rates to the Commission. Existing Department of Energy (DOE) procedures for public participation in power rate adjustments (10 CFR part 903) were published on September 18, 1985 (50 FR 37835).

**Availability of Information**

Interested parties may review and copy all brochures, studies, comments, letters, memorandums or other documents that Western initiates or uses to develop the proposed rates. These documents are available for inspection and copying at the Desert Southwest Customer Service Regional Office, located at 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ.

**Regulatory Procedure Requirements**

*Regulatory Flexibility Analysis*

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*) requires Federal agencies to perform a regulatory flexibility analysis if a final rule is likely to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities and there is a legal requirement to issue a general notice of proposed rulemaking. This action does not require a regulatory flexibility analysis since it

is a rulemaking specifically involving rates or services applicable to public property.

#### *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 that this action is categorically excluded from preparing 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.

#### *Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act*

Western has determined that this rule is exempt from congressional notification requirements under 5 U.S.C. 801 because the action is a rulemaking of particular applicability relating to rates or services and involves matters of procedure.

Dated: February 15, 2006.

**Michael S. HacsKaylo,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. E6–2955 Filed 3–1–06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

### **Western Area Power Administration**

#### **The Central Valley Project-Rate Order No. WAPA–128**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Proposed Change of Reactive Power and Voltage Control Revenue Requirement Component.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Area Power Administration (Western) is proposing to revise the transmission revenue requirement (TRR) for existing formula rates associated with Reactive Power and Voltage Control from the Central Valley Project (CVP) and other non-Federal Generation Sources Service (VAR Support). The TRRs for transmission service from the CVP transmission system, the Pacific Alternating Current Intertie (PACI), and the California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP) are assigned a portion of the VAR Support costs under Rate

Schedules CV–T1, CV–NWT3, PACI–T1, and COTP–T1 which extend through September 30, 2009. The proposed revision to the TRRs will remove the VAR Support costs from the TRRs. This formula rate will provide sufficient revenue to repay all annual costs, including interest expense, and repay required investment within the allowable period. Western will prepare a rate brochure that provides detailed information on the impact of this rate adjustment to all interested parties. This proposal is scheduled to go into effect on September 1, 2006, and will remain in effect through September 30, 2009. Publication of this **Federal Register** notice begins the formal process for the proposed revisions to the applicable revenue requirements.

**DATES:** The consultation and comment period begins today and will end April 3, 2006. Western will accept written comments any time during the consultation and comment period.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Mr. Sean Sanderson, Rates Manager, Sierra Nevada Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, 114 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, CA 95630–4710, e-mail [ssander@wapa.gov](mailto:ssander@wapa.gov). Western will post information about the rate process on its Web site at <http://www.wapa.gov/sn/customers/rates/#currentrates/>. Western will post official comments received via letter and facsimile to its Web site after the close of the comment period. Western must receive the written comments by the end of the consultation and comment period to ensure they are considered in Western's decision process.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Sean Sanderson, Rates Manager, Sierra Nevada Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, 114 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, CA 95630–4710, telephone (916) 353–4466, e-mail [ssander@wapa.gov](mailto:ssander@wapa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The current formula rates for transmission service on the CVP (CV–T1 and CV–NWT3), the PACI (PACI–T1), and the COTP (COTP–T1) transmission systems are based on a TRR that includes CVP and other non-Federal generator costs for providing VAR Support. The proposed revision to the TRR will remove the VAR Support costs from the TRRs. Western proposes to collect the revenue requirement for CVP VAR Support costs in the PRR under power rate schedule CV–F11. The removal of VAR Support costs will result in a more equitable treatment of all transmission customers.

The Deputy Secretary of Energy approved Rate Schedules CV–T1, CV–

NWT3, PACI–T1, and COTP–T1 for transmission service and CV–F11 for Base Resource and First Preference Power on November 18, 2004 (Rate Order No. WAPA–115, 69 FR 70510, December 6, 2004), and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) confirmed and approved the rate schedules on October 11, 2005, under FERC Docket No. EF0–5011–000 (113 FERC 61,026). Rate Schedules CV–T1, CV–NWT3, PACI–T1, COTP–T1, and CV–F11 began January 1, 2005, and end on September 30, 2009.

The December 1, 2004, update of the approved rates resulted in annual CVP VAR Support costs of \$336,070. Western currently estimates its annual costs associated with CVP and other non-Federal generator VAR Support to be \$1,486,558. This cost was pro rata assigned to the respective transmission systems on a capacity basis and is one of the costs contained in Component 1 of the CVP, PACI, and COTP formula rates.

As part of the implementing of Western's Open Access Transmission Tariff, Western separated its merchant function from Western's reliability function. It has come to Western's attention, that by including the CVP and other non-Federal generation sources' reactive power and voltage control costs in Western's TRR, Western, in certain circumstances, may be treating its merchant in a manner that is not comparable with other transmission customers. Under Western's current rates, all transmission customers would pay Western for VAR Support. As a result, a transmission customer who also has a generator that is directly connected to Western's system and who has an obligation to provide reactive power within the bandwidth (commonly referred to as the deadband) would also pay Western for VAR Support. Western believes that both Federal generators and non-Federal generators should be treated comparably when they provide VAR Support.

To treat both Federal and non-Federal generators comparably, Western could either: (1) Roll all the VAR Support costs from both types of generators into Western's TRR or (2) Western could exclude all VAR Support from both types of generators from Western's TRR. Western's proposal is the latter.

Based on Western's understanding of the Commission's comparability requirements, Western has agreed to compensate the Calpine Construction Finance Company (CCFC), a non-Federal generator connected to the CVP transmission system, for reactive power costs subject to the outcome of this rate proceeding. Western will compensate