

6450-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

Western Area Power Administration

Colorado River Storage Project--Notice of Order Confirming and Approving an Extension of the Firm Transmission Service Rate-WAPA-74

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Rate Order

**SUMMARY:** This action is to extend the existing Colorado River Storage Project firm transmission rate until March 31, 1998. Without this action, the existing firm transmission rate will expire September 30, 1997 and no rate will be in effect for this service.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Dave Sabo, CRSP Manager, CRSP Customer Service Center, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 11606, Salt Lake City, UT 84147-0606, (801) 524-5493.

**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 nonexclusive basis to the Administrator of Western Area Power Administration (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 such rates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

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

procedures for public participation in power rate adjustments at 10 CFR Part 903, Western's Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) firm transmission rate case was submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for confirmation and approval on August 13, 1992. On February 18, 1993, in Docket Nos. EF92-5172-000 and EF92-5172-001, at 62 FERC ¶ 61,159, FERC issued an order confirming, approving, and placing in effect on a final basis Rate Schedule SP-FT4 for firm transmission service over the CRSP transmission system. The rate was approved for the 4-year period beginning October 1, 1992, and ending September 30, 1996. The Deputy Secretary of Energy extended the rate through September 30, 1997, in an Order published at 61 FR 52338, on October 7, 1996.

Following review of Western's proposal within the Department of Energy, I approved rate order No. WAPA-74, which extends the existing CRSP firm transmission Rate Schedule SP-FT4 until March 31, 1998.

Dated: September 19, 1997

Elizabeth A. Moler  
Deputy Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

In the Matter of: )  
 )  
Western Area Power Administration )  
Rate Extension for ) Rate Order No. WAPA-74  
Colorado River Storage Project )  
Transmission Rate )

ORDER CONFIRMING AND APPROVING AN EXTENSION  
OF THE COLORADO RIVER STORAGE PROJECT  
FIRM TRANSMISSION RATE

(October 1, 1997)

This firm transmission rate was established pursuant to Section 302(a) of the Department of Energy (DOE) Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7152(a), through which the power marketing functions of the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) under the Reclamation Act of 1902, ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388, as amended and supplemented by subsequent enactments, particularly section 9© of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939, 43 U.S.C. § 485h(c), and other acts specifically applicable to the project system involved, were transferred to and vested in the Secretary of Energy (Secretary).

By Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, published November 10, 1993 (58 FR 59716), the Secretary delegated (1) the authority to develop long-term power and transmission rates on a nonexclusive basis to the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (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 such rates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This rate extension is issued pursuant to the Delegation Order and the DOE rate extension procedures at 10 CFR Part 903.

## **BACKGROUND**

In the order issued February 18, 1993, at 62 FERC ¶ 61,159, in Docket Nos. EF92-5172-000 and EF92-5172-001, the FERC confirmed, approved, and placed in effect on a final basis Rate Schedule SP-FT4 for firm transmission service over the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) transmission system. The rate was approved for the period from October 1, 1992, through September 30, 1996. The Deputy Secretary of Energy extended the rate through September 30, 1997, in an Order published at 61 FR 52448, on October 7, 1996. During the last firm-power rate adjustment for the Salt Lake City Area Integrated Projects, placed into effect on December 1, 1994 (SLIP-F5), the CRSP firm transmission rate was also examined for possible adjustment. It was determined that the existing firm transmission rate was adequate to meet revenue requirements.

## **DISCUSSION**

On September 30, 1997, Western's CRSP firm transmission rate will expire. This makes it necessary to extend the current Rate Schedule SP-FT4 pursuant to 10 CFR 903.23.

Western proposes to extend the existing CRSP transmission rate until March 31, 1998, to allow Western to develop transmission and ancillary services rates consistent with those required of public utilities under FERC Order No. 888 and the laws and

regulations that govern Western's actions. Western began a public rate adjustment process with the publication of a notice in the Federal Register on June 25, 1997. That public rate adjustment process will include the proposal of transmission rates which are consistent with FERC Order No. 888. Western is developing open access tariffs consistent with FERC Order No. 888.

We anticipate that process, which will provide opportunities for public information and comment forums, will take several months to complete, given the complex issues Western and its interested public must address.

#### ORDER

In view of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Secretary, I hereby extend for a period effective October 1, 1997, until March 31, 1998, the existing Rate Schedule SP-FT4 for firm transmission service over the Colorado River Storage Project transmission system.

Dated: September 19, 1997

Elizabeth A. Moler  
Deputy Secretary