

appropriate link in the above list. They are also available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an eSubscription link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive e-mail notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please e-mail [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Notice of Availability of Request for Interest

**AGENCY:** Western Area Power Administration, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of Request for Interest.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power marketing administration within the U.S. Department of Energy, announces the availability of a Request for Interest (RFI). Western is seeking interest from any entity or entities interested in identifying a proposed transmission project, primarily in Western's service area, and/or desiring to participate with Western and possibly others by constructing, financing, owning, operating or maintaining transmission facilities or acquiring transmission rights or entering into long-term transmission service agreements on that project.

**DATES:** To be assured consideration, all Statements of Interest should be received by Western April 3, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information or to obtain a copy of this RFI, please contact Transmission Infrastructure Program, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 281213, Lakewood, CO 80228-8213, e-mail [txrfi@wapa.gov](mailto:txrfi@wapa.gov). The RFI is also available on Western's Web site at <http://www.wapa.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Western markets and transmits wholesale hydroelectric power, generated at Federal dams across the western United States. This power is sold to customers in accordance with Federal Law. Western's transmission system was developed to deliver the Federal hydropower to those customers.

Western owns and operates an integrated 17,000 circuit mile, high-voltage transmission system across 15 western states and a 1.3 million square-mile service area. Western's service area encompasses all of the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming; as well as parts of Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Minnesota, and Texas. Today, Western makes capacity on its transmission system, excess to that needed to serve its preference customers, available through the policies and procedures outlined in its Open Access Transmission Tariff.

This RFI is being issued under authority granted to Western in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). Section 402 of the Recovery Act gives Western authority to construct, finance, facilitate, plan, operate, maintain or study construction of new or upgraded electric power transmission lines and related facilities with at least one terminus within the area served by Western and for delivering or facilitating the delivery of power generated by renewable energy resources constructed or reasonably expected to be constructed. The law provides borrowing authority to facilitate Western's participation, and further specifies that Western, in the course of selecting potential projects to be funded under this section, shall seek requests for interest from entities interested in identifying potential projects. This FRN fulfills that requirement.

#### Environmental Compliance

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures and Guidelines (10 CFR part 1021), Western has determined that this action is categorically excluded from further NEPA analysis. Future actions under this authority will undergo appropriate NEPA analysis.

Dated: February 20, 2009.

**Timothy J. Meeks,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. E9-4610 Filed 3-3-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Notice of Proposed Program and Request for Public Comments

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Proposed Program and Request for Public Comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Area Power Administration (Western) proposes to adopt a Transmission Infrastructure Program. The Program is being proposed to implement section 402 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) for the purpose of constructing, financing, facilitating, planning, operating, maintaining, or studying construction of new or upgraded electric power transmission lines and related facilities with at least one terminus within the area served by Western and for delivering or facilitating the delivery of power generated by renewable energy resources constructed or reasonably expected to be constructed. The proposed Program would use authority granted under this section to borrow funds from the U.S. Treasury to accomplish these purposes. The Recovery Act also calls for Western to use a public process to develop practices and policies that implement the authority granted by this section. To expedite the development process, Western is offering this initial proposal. This **Federal Register** notice (FRN) seeks public comment on these proposed principles, policies and practices.

**DATES:** The consultation and comment period begins today and ends April 3, 2009. Western will present an explanation of the proposed program and accept oral and written comments at a public meeting on March 23, 2009, beginning at 1 p.m. MDT, in Lakewood, Colorado. The meeting will also be Webcast. Western will accept written comments any time during the consultation and comment period. Written comments on the proposed Program should be submitted to Western by April 3, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at Western's Corporate Services Office, 12155 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80228 on the date listed above. Send written comments to: Transmission Infrastructure Program, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 281213, Lakewood, CO 80228-8213, e-mail [txprogram@wapa.gov](mailto:txprogram@wapa.gov). Western will post information about the program development on its Web site at