

through which the customer purchases the entire power output of the project at the dam. A separate Power Repayment Study (PRS) is prepared for each isolated project, and each has a special rate which is not a part of this study.

The existing rate schedules for the Integrated System were confirmed and approved on a final basis by the FERC on September 18, 1991, for the period October 1, 1990, through September 30, 1994. These rates were extended on an interim basis by the Deputy Secretary of Energy on August 28, 1994, and again on August 8, 1995. The rates are scheduled to expire September 30, 1996. The FY 1996 Integrated System PRSs indicate the need for a rate adjustment of \$1,239,868 annually, or 1.3 percent.

Pursuant to implementing authority in 10 CFR 903.22(h) and 903.23(a)(3), the Deputy Secretary of Energy may extend a FERC-approved rate on an interim basis. The Administrator, Southwestern, published notice in the Federal Register on July 2, 1996, 61 FR 34432, announcing a 15-day period for public review and comment concerning the proposed interim rate extension. In addition, meetings that discussed the proposal were held with customer representatives in April and July 1996. Written comments were accepted through July 17, 1996. No comments on the proposed interim extension were received.

#### Discussion

The existing Integrated System rates are based on the FY 1990 PRS. PRSs have been completed on the Integrated System each year since approval of the existing rates. Rate changes identified by the PRSs since that period have indicated the need for minimal rate increases or decreases. Since the revenue changes reflected by the PRSs were within the plus-or-minus two percent Rate Adjustment Threshold established by Southwestern's Administrator on June 23, 1987, these rate adjustments were deferred in the best interest of the government and provided for the next year's PRS to determine the appropriate level of revenues needed for the next rate period.

The FY 1996 PRS indicates the need for an annual revenue increase of 1.3 percent. As has been the case since the existing rates were approved, the FY 1996 rate adjustment needed falls within Southwestern's plus-or-minus two percent Rate Adjustment Threshold and would normally be deferred. However, the existing rates expire on September 30, 1996. Consequently, Southwestern proposes to extend the existing rates for a one-year period

ending September 30, 1997, on an interim basis under the implementation authorities noted in 10 CFR 903.22(h) and 903.23(a)(3).

Southwestern continues to make significant progress toward repayment of the Federal investment in the Integrated System. Through FY 1995, status of repayment for the Integrated System was \$355,572,353, which represents approximately 36 percent of the \$982,272,106 Federal investment for the Integrated System. The status has increased almost 82 percent since the existing rates were placed in effect.

Information regarding this rate extension, including studies and other supporting material, is available for public review and comment in the offices of Southwestern Power Administration, One West Third Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101.

#### Order

In view of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Secretary of Energy, I hereby extend on an interim basis, for the period of one year, effective October 1, 1996, the current FERC-approved Southwestern Power Administration Integrated System Rates.

Issued at Washington, DC, the 23rd day of September 1996.

Charles B. Curtis,

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-24984 Filed 9-27-96; 8:45 am]

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### Southeastern Power Administration

#### Notice of Proposed Rate Extension

**AGENCY:** Southeastern Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension.

**SUMMARY:** The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy, confirmed and approved, on an interim basis, Rate Schedules KP-1-D, JHK-2-B, JHK-3-B, and PH-1-B for Kerr-Philpott System power. The rates were approved on an interim basis through September 30, 2001, and are subject to confirmation and approval by the Federal Regulatory Commission on a final basis.

**DATES:** Approval of rates on an interim basis is effective October 1, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Leon Jourolmon, Assistant Administrator, Finance & Marketing, Southeastern Power Administration, Department of Energy, Samuel Elbert Building, 2 South Public Square, Elberton, Georgia 30635-2496, (706) 213-3800.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Order issued December 5, 1991, in Docket No. EF91-3041-000, confirmed and approved Wholesale Power Rate Schedules KP-1-D, JHK-2-B, JHK-3-B, and PH-1-B through September 30, 1996. This order extends these rate schedules to September 30, 2001.

Issued at Washington, DC, September 23, 1996.

Charles B. Curtis,  
*Deputy Secretary.*

In the Matter of: Southeastern Power Administration—Kerr-Philpott System Power Rates.

[Rate Order No. SEPA-35]

#### Order Confirming and Approving Power Rates on an Interim Basis

Pursuant to Sections 302(a) and 301(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act, Public Law 95-91, the functions of the Secretary of the Interior and the Federal Power Commission under Section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, 16 U.S.C. 825s, relating to the Southeastern Power Administration (Southeastern) were transferred to and vested in the Secretary of Energy. By Delegation Order No. 0204-108, effective May 30, 1986, 51 FR 19744 (May 30, 1986), the Secretary of Energy delegated to the Administrator the authority to develop power and transmission rates, and delegated to the Under Secretary the authority to confirm, approve, and place in effect such rates on an interim basis, and delegated to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) the authority to confirm and approve on a final basis or to disapprove rates developed by the Administrator under the delegation. On November 4, 1993, the Secretary of Energy issued Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0203-108, granting the Deputy Secretary authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect Southeastern's rates on an interim basis. This rate is issued by the Deputy Secretary pursuant to said notice.

#### Background

Power from the Kerr-Philpott Projects is presently sold under Wholesale Power Rate Schedules KP-1-D, JHK-2-B, JHK-3-B, and PH-1-B. These rate schedules were approved by the FERC on December 5, 1991, for a period ending September 30, 1996 (57 FERC § 62185).

#### Public Notice and Comment

Southeastern prepared a Power Repayment Study dated February 1996 for the Kerr-Philpott System which

showed that revenues at current rates were adequate to meet repayment criteria, with no reserve. On February 6, 1996, by Federal Register Notice (61 F.R. 4433), Southeastern proposed to extend the current Rate Schedules five years, to September 30, 2001. The Notice also announced a Public Information and Comment Forum to be held March 14, 1996, in Raleigh, North Carolina, with a deadline for written comments on May 16, 1996. The Public Information and Comment forum was canceled after no interested party expressed an intention to attend. Southeastern received no written comments.

#### Discussion

##### *System Repayment*

An examination of Southeastern's revised system power repayment study, prepared in February 1996, for the Kerr-Philpott System shows that with the proposed rates, all system power costs are paid within the 50-year repayment period required by existing law and DOE Procedure RA 6120.2. The Administrator of Southeastern has certified that the rates are consistent with applicable law and that they are the lowest possible rates to customers consistent with sound business principles.

##### *Environmental Impact*

Southeastern has reviewed the possible environmental impacts of the rate adjustment under consideration and has concluded that, because the adjusted rates would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the proposed action is not a major Federal action for which preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is required.

##### *Availability of Information*

Information regarding these rates, including studies, and other supporting materials is available for public review in the offices of Southeastern Power Administration, Samuel Elbert Building, 2 South Public Square, Elberton, Georgia 30635, and in the Power Marketing Liaison Office, James Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585.

##### *Submission to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission*

The rates hereinafter confirmed and approved on an interim basis, together with supporting documents, will be submitted promptly to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for confirmation and approval on a final

basis for a period beginning on October 1, 1996, and ending no later than September 30, 2001.

#### Order

In view of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Secretary of Energy, I hereby confirm and approve on an interim basis, effective October 1, 1996, attached Wholesale Power Rate Schedules KP-1-D, JHK-2-B, JHK-3-B, and PH-1-B. The Rate Schedules shall remain in effect on an interim basis through September 30, 2001, unless such period is extended or until the FERC confirms and approves them or substitute rate schedules on a final basis.

Issued in Washington, DC on September 23, 1996.

Charles B. Curtis,

*Deputy Secretary.*

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#### Southwestern Power Administration

##### **Robert D. Willis Power Rate-Order, Confirming, Approving and Placing Decreased Power Rate in Effect on an Interim Basis**

**AGENCY:** Southwestern Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of rate order.

**SUMMARY:** The Deputy Secretary, acting under Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, dated November 4, 1993, 58 FR 59716, has confirmed, approved and placed in effect on an interim basis Rate Schedule RDW-96. The rate schedule supersedes the existing Rate Schedule RDW-94.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** Rate Order No. SWPA-33 specifies October 1, 1996, through September 30, 2000, as the effective period for the rate schedule.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. George C. Grisaffe, Assistant Administrator, Administration and Rates, Southwestern Power Administration, Department of Energy, P.O. Box 1619, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101, (918) 595-6628.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Southwestern's Administrator has prepared the 1996 Current Power Repayment Study for the Robert D. Willis Project based on the annual power rate of \$294,312. The study indicates that the power rate exceeds cost recovery criteria as specified in Department of Energy Order No. RA 6120.2 and Section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944. The Administrator prepared a 1996 Revised Power

Repayment Study for the project which indicated that a reduction in annual revenue of \$27,384, or 9.3 percent, is required effective October 1, 1996, to satisfy cost recovery criteria. In this regard, the Administrator has determined that the annual rate of \$266,928 is the lowest possible rate to the customer consistent with sound business principles. The rate has been approved on an interim basis through September 30, 2000, or until confirmed and approved on a final basis by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Issued in Washington, D. C., this 23rd day of September 1996.

Charles B. Curtis,

*Deputy Secretary.*

In the matter of: Southwestern Power Administration—Robert D. Willis

[Rate Order No. SWPA-33]

Order Confirming, Approving and Placing Decreased Power Rate in Effect on an Interim Basis (September 23, 1996)

Pursuant to Sections 302(a) and 301(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act, Public Law 95-91, the functions of the Secretary of the Interior and the Federal Power Commission under Section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, 16 U.S.C. 825s, for the Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) were transferred to and vested in the Secretary of Energy. By Delegation Order No. 0204-108, effective December 14, 1983, 48 FR 55664, the Secretary of Energy delegated to the Deputy Secretary of Energy on a nonexclusive basis the authority to confirm, approve and place into effect on an interim basis power and transmission rates, and delegated to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on an exclusive basis the authority to confirm, approve and place in effect on a final basis, or to disapprove power and transmission rates. Amendment No. 1 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, effective May 30, 1986, 51 FR 19744, revised the delegation of authority to confirm, approve and place into effect on an interim basis power and transmission rates to the Under Secretary of Energy rather than the Deputy Secretary of Energy. This delegation was reassigned to the Deputy Secretary of Energy by Department of Energy (DOE) Notice 1110.29, dated October 27, 1988, and clarified by Secretary of Energy Notice SEN-10-89, dated August 3, 1989, and subsequent revisions. By Amendment No. 2 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, effective August 23, 1991, 56 FR 41835, the Secretary of the Department of Energy revised Delegation Order No.