

service, persons with Internet access who will eFile a document and/or be listed as a contact for an intervenor must create and validate an eRegistration account using the eRegistration link. Select the eFiling link to log on and submit the intervention or protests.

Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 5 copies of the intervention or protest to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The filings in the above-referenced proceeding are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by clicking on the appropriate link in the above list. They are also available for electronic 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 email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Dated: November 3, 2017.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-24457 Filed 11-9-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Boulder Canyon Project-Rate Order No. WAPA-178

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

**ACTION:** Notice of order concerning formula rates for electric service and calculation of the fiscal year 2018 base charge and rates for the Boulder Canyon Project.

**SUMMARY:** The Deputy Secretary of Energy confirmed and approved Rate Order No. WAPA-178 and Rate Schedule BCP-F10, placing formula rates for electric service from the Boulder Canyon Project (BCP) of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) into effect on an interim basis. The provisional formula rates will provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs, including interest expense, and repay required investment within the allowable periods. The Deputy Secretary has also confirmed and approved the fiscal year (FY) 2018 base charge and rates for BCP electric service.

**DATES:** Rate Schedule BCP-F10 is effective as of December 13, 2017, and will remain in effect through September 30, 2022, pending approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on a final basis or until superseded. The FY 2018 base charge and rates for BCP are applicable December 13, 2017, and will remain in effect through September 30, 2018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Ronald E. Moulton, Regional Manager, Desert Southwest Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, (602) 605-2453, email [moulton@wapa.gov](mailto:moulton@wapa.gov) or Mr. Jack Murray, Vice President of Power Marketing, Desert Southwest Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, (602) 605-2555, email [jmurray@wapa.gov](mailto:jmurray@wapa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Rate Schedule BCP-F9 under Rate Order No. WAPA-171<sup>1</sup> was approved for a five-year period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending September 30, 2020. On June 19, 2017, WAPA proposed to update the formula rates under Rate Schedule BCP-F10 and calculate the FY 2018 base charge and rates in a notice published in the **Federal Register** on June 19, 2017 (82 FR 27813). The notice detailed the proposed formula rates, initiated a public consultation and comment period, and set forth the date and location of public information and comment forums.

By Delegation Order No. 00-037.00B, effective November 19, 2016, the Secretary of Energy delegated: (1) The authority to develop power and transmission rates to the Administrator of WAPA; (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 FERC. Federal rules (10 CFR part 903) govern Department of Energy procedures for public participation in power and transmission rate adjustments.

Under Delegation Order Nos. 00-037.00B and 00-001.00F and in compliance with 10 CFR part 903, 10 CFR part 904 and 18 CFR part 300, I hereby confirm, approve and place Rate Order No. WAPA-178, which places formula rates for BCP electric service into effect on an interim basis, and calculates the base charge and rates for FY 2018. Rate Schedule BCP-F10 will be submitted promptly to FERC for

<sup>1</sup> Rate Order No. WAPA-171 was approved by FERC on a final basis on December 11, 2015, in Docket No. EF15-7-000 (153 FERC ¶ 62,189).

confirmation and approval on a final basis.

Dated: November 3, 2017.

**Dan Brouillette,**  
Deputy Secretary of Energy.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### DEPUTY SECRETARY

*In the matter of:* Western Area Power Administration, Boulder Canyon Project Rate Adjustment for Electric Service Rate Order No. WAPA-178

#### Order Confirming, Approving and Placing Formula Rates for Electric Service Into Effect on an Interim Basis and Calculation of Fiscal Year 2018 Base Charge and Rates

The formula rates set forth in this order are established pursuant to Section 302 of the Department of Energy (DOE) Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7152). This act transferred to and vested in the Secretary of Energy 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 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. 00-037.00B, effective November 19, 2016, the Secretary of Energy delegated: (1) The authority to develop power and transmission rates to the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA); (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 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Federal rules (10 CFR part 903) govern DOE procedures for public participation in power and transmission rate adjustments.

#### Acronyms and Definitions

As used in this Rate Order, the following acronyms and definitions apply:

**Base Charge:** The total charge paid by the contractors for their allocated contingent capacity and firm energy based on the annual revenue requirement. The base charge is composed of a capacity and an energy component.

**Boulder Canyon Project (BCP):** All works and the real property associated with such works authorized by the Boulder Canyon Project Act, as amended, the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984, as amended, and any future additions authorized by Congress, to be constructed and owned by the United States, but exclusive of the main canal and its related appurtenances authorized by the Boulder Canyon Project Act, known as the All-American Canal.

*Contractor:* Any party that has a fully executed contract with WAPA for BCP electric service.

*DOE:* Department of Energy.

*DSW:* Desert Southwest Region.

*FERC:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

*Reclamation:* Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

*WAPA:* Western Area Power Administration.

*Working Capital:* Funds advanced by the contractors to meet BCP cash flow needs.

#### Effective Date

Rate Schedule BCP-F10 is effective as of December 13, 2017, and will remain in effect through September 30, 2022, pending approval by FERC on a final basis or until superseded. The FY 2018 base charge and rates are applicable December 13, 2017, and will remain in effect through September 30, 2018.

#### Public Notice and Comment

WAPA followed the Procedures for Public Participation in Power and Transmission Rate Adjustments and Extensions (10 CFR parts 903) and General Regulations for the Charges for the Sale of Power from the BCP (10 CFR 904), in developing these formula rates and schedule. WAPA took the following steps to involve the public in the rate adjustment process:

1. WAPA published a **Federal Register** notice on June 19, 2017 (82 FR 27813), announcing the proposed formula rates, initiating the 90-day public consultation and comment period, setting forth the date and location of public information and public comment forums, and outlining the procedures for public participation.

2. On July 19, 2017, WAPA held a public information forum in Phoenix, Arizona. WAPA's representatives explained the need for the formula rate adjustment and proposed changes to the formula rates, answered questions, and provided presentation handouts.

3. On August 18, 2017, WAPA held a public comment forum in Phoenix, Arizona, to provide contractors and interested parties an opportunity to comment for the record.

4. WAPA posts information about this public process at: <https://www.wapa.gov/regions/DSW/Rates/Pages/boulder-canyon-rates.aspx>.

#### Comments

WAPA received comments from the Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona and the Colorado River Commission during the public consultation and comment period and responds to them in the paragraphs that

follow. All comments received were considered in preparing this Rate Order. The comments have been paraphrased where appropriate without compromising their meaning.

*Comment:* A commenter requested further explanation of how Reclamation's \$15 million for working capital was derived and whether the increase in working capital over the prior marketing period was necessary. The commenter requested steps be taken to further moderate the impact of collecting the working capital amount in the FY 2018 base charge.

*Response:* The greatest need for working capital is generally during the first quarter of a FY when receipts are not sufficient to cover obligations and expenditures. Because the working capital for the new marketing period will be incrementally funded over 12 billing cycles, the full amount will not be available until FY 2019. For FY 2018, the carryover balance from the marketing period ending September 30, 2017, will be available to cover funding shortfalls before the full \$15 million of working capital is collected. Because the carryover balance for the marketing period ending September 30, 2017, must be refunded by September 30, 2018, Reclamation must have the \$15 million in working capital to maintain a positive cash balance at the end of FY 2018.

Following the public comment forum, Reclamation reviewed their budgets and revenue projections for FY 2018. To moderate the base charge increase, Reclamation was able to further reduce its replacement budget by \$800,000 and increased revenue projections for the Hoover Dam Visitor Center by \$3 million. This resulted in a net decrease to the base charge of \$3.8 million.

*Comment:* A commenter requested Reclamation's working capital analysis and footnotes be updated with the latest budget figures reflected in the revised base charge.

*Response:* The analysis was updated with the revised budget figures and posted to WAPA's Web site provided above. There was no change to Reclamation's working capital needs.

*Comment:* A commenter thanked all parties involved for the efforts made to moderate the impact of Reclamation's working capital needs on the in FY 2018 base charge. The commenter encouraged further efforts as well.

*Response:* Reclamation and WAPA were able to collectively moderate the impact of the working capital collection by reducing agency budgets by approximately \$4.5 million. Reclamation and WAPA will continue to work collaboratively to ensure the stability of the base charge.

*Comment:* A commenter thanked Reclamation and WAPA for their collaborative efforts to moderate the impact of the working capital collection in FY 2018 by billing over a 12-month period rather than a one-time collection. The commenter also requested that pre-2017 and post-2017 marketing period balances be accounted for separately, included the post retirement benefit (PRB) amounts.

*Response:* Reclamation and WAPA are able to separately identify balances between pre-2017 and post-2017 marketing periods, including PRB balances.

#### Background and Provisional Base Charge and Rates

The Hoover Dam, authorized by the Boulder Canyon Project Act (45 Stat. 1057, December 21, 1928), sits on the Colorado River along the Arizona-Nevada border. The Hoover Dam's power plant has 19 generating units (two for plant use) and an installed capacity of 2,078.8 megawatts (4,800 kilowatts for plant use). High-voltage transmission lines and substations deliver this power to southern Nevada, Arizona, and southern California.

The rate-setting process for BCP is different from most WAPA power systems. The Boulder Canyon Project Amended and Restated Implementation Agreement (BCPIA), executed in 2016 between WAPA, Reclamation, and contractors, carried forward the rate methodology used for the marketing period ending September 30, 2017. This rate methodology requires contractors to pay a base charge rather than a unit rate for power. The base charge is designed to collect sufficient revenue to cover all annual costs and to repay investment obligations within allowable time periods. Each contractor is billed a base charge in proportion to their allocation of power from the Hoover Dam. A unit rate is calculated for comparative purposes but is not used to determine charges for electric service.

Since a new 50-year marketing period commences on October 1, 2017, WAPA is updating the formula rates for a five-year period and calculating the base charge and rates for FY 2018.

The revision to Rate Schedule BCP-F10 is:

*Capacity:* Shall be equal to the annual capacity dollars divided by 2,074 megawatt hours. This rate is applied to unauthorized overruns.

The existing formula used to calculate the forecast capacity rate was revised from 1,951 to 2,074 megawatts to reflect the current generating (nameplate) capacity for the BCP, as required by the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011.

No other changes to the formula rates in the rate schedule were proposed.

The update to the FY 2018 formula driven base charge and rates are:

	FY 2017 base charge	FY 2018 base charge	Percent change
Base Charge .....	\$69,662,289	\$76,910,193	10.4
Composite Rates (mills/kWh) .....	19.63	19.98	1.75

The FY 2018 base charge increased from \$69.6 million in FY 2017 to \$76.9 million in FY 2018, a 10.4 percent increase. The composite rate increased to 19.98 mills per kilowatt month, a 1.75 percent increase. Although the overall BCP budget decreased in FY 2018, the establishment of a working capital fund for the new 50-year marketing period caused the FY 2018 base charge to increase. As part of the BCPIA, Reclamation is establishing a \$15 million working capital fund to cover short-term liabilities until sufficient revenues are received. This fund is particularly important at the beginning of a fiscal year when project-related expenses tend to be greater than the revenue collected. This working capital fund balance will be reviewed annually in accordance with the BCPIA.

#### Certification of Rates

WAPA's Administrator certified that the provisional formula rates for BCP electric service under Rate Schedule BCP-F10 result in the lowest possible rates consistent with sound business principles. The provisional formula rates were developed following administrative policies and applicable laws.

#### Availability of Information

All brochures, studies, comments, letters, memorandums and other documents used by WAPA to develop the provisional formula rates are available for inspection and copying at the Desert Southwest Regional Office, Western Area Power Administration, 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. Many of these documents are also available on WAPA's Web site: <https://www.wapa.gov/regions/DSW/Rates/Pages/boulder-canyon-rates.aspx>.

#### RATEMAKING PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS

##### Environmental Compliance

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 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), WAPA has determined that this action is

categorically excluded from preparing an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement.

#### 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.

#### Submission to FERC

The formula rates 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 under the authority delegated to me, I confirm and approve, on an interim basis, the formula rates under Rate Schedule BCP-F10. Rate Schedule BCP-F10 is applicable the first full billing period on or after November 13, 2017, and will remain in effect through September 30, 2022, pending FERC's confirmation and approval of the rate schedule or substitute formula rates on a final basis.

Dated: November 3, 2017.  
Dan Brouillette,  
*Deputy Secretary of Energy.*

#### Rate Schedule BCP-F10

##### (Supersedes Rate Schedule BCP-F9)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

#### DESERT SOUTHWEST REGION

#### Boulder Canyon Project

#### SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE

##### Effective

The first day of the first full billing period beginning on or after December 13, 2017, and extending through September 30, 2022, or until superseded by another rate schedule, whichever occurs earlier.

##### Available

In the marketing area serviced by the Boulder Canyon Project.

#### Applicable

To power supplied by the Boulder Canyon Project through one meter, at one point of delivery, unless otherwise provided by contract.

#### Character and Conditions of Service

Alternating current at 60 hertz, three-phase, delivered and metered at the voltages and points established by contract.

#### Base Charge

The charge paid by each contractor for their allocated capacity and firm energy based on the annual revenue requirement. The base charge shall be composed of a capacity component and an energy component:

**Capacity Charge:** Each month WAPA shall bill each contractor for a capacity charge equal to one-twelfth (1/12) of the capacity dollars multiplied by each contractor's contingent capacity percentage as provided by contract.

**Energy Charge:** Each month WAPA shall bill each contractor for an energy charge equal to that period's monthly energy ratio, multiplied by the contractor's energy dollars as provided by contract.

#### Forecast Rates

**Energy:** Shall be equal to the annual energy dollars divided by the lesser of the total master schedule energy or 4,501 megawatt hours. This rate is applied to excess energy, unauthorized overruns, and water pump energy.

**Capacity:** Shall be equal to the annual capacity dollars divided by 2,074 megawatt hours. This rate is applied to unauthorized overruns.

#### Calculated Energy Rate

Within ninety (90) days after the end of the fiscal year, a calculated energy rate shall be calculated. For any rate year in which energy deemed delivered is greater than 4,501 megawatt hours, WAPA shall apply the calculated energy rate to each contractor's energy deemed delivered to determine the contractor's actual energy charge. A credit or debit shall be established for each contractor based on the difference between the contractor's energy dollars and the contractor's actual energy charge, to be applied in the month following the

calculation or as soon as possible thereafter.

*Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund (Contribution Charge)*

The Contribution Charge is 4.5 mills for each kilowatt hour measured or scheduled to an Arizona purchaser and 2.5 mills for each kilowatt hour measured or scheduled to a California or Nevada purchaser, except for purchased power.

*Billing for Unauthorized Overruns*

For each billing period in which there is a contract violation involving an unauthorized overrun of contractual power obligations, such overrun shall be billed at ten (10) times the forecast energy rate and forecast capacity rate. The Contribution Charge shall also be applied to each kilowatt hour of overrun.

*Adjustments*

None.

[FR Doc. 2017-24496 Filed 11-9-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[EPA-HQ-ORD-2016-0632; FRL-9959-51-OEI]

**Information Collection Request Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Willingness To Pay Survey To Evaluate Recreational Benefits of Nutrient Reductions in Coastal New England Waters (New)**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency has submitted an information collection request (ICR), "Willingness to Pay Survey to Evaluate Recreational Benefits of Nutrient Reductions in Coastal New England Waters (New)" (EPA ICR No. 2558.01, OMB Control No. 2080-NEW) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. This is a request for approval of a new collection. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** (81 FR 78809) on 11/09/2016 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments. A fuller description of the ICR is given below, including its estimated burden and cost to the public. An Agency may not conduct or sponsor

and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**DATES:** Additional comments may be submitted on or before December 13, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, referencing Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-ORD-2016-0632, to (1) EPA online using [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (our preferred method), by email to [Docket\\_ORD@epa.gov](mailto:Docket_ORD@epa.gov), or by mail to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20460, and (2) OMB via email to [oir\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir_submission@omb.eop.gov). Address comments to OMB Desk Officer for EPA.

EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes profanity, threats, information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Marisa Mazzotta, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, Atlantic Ecology Division, 27 Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882; telephone number: 401-782-3026; fax number: 401-782-3139; email address: [mazzotta.marisa@epa.gov](mailto:mazzotta.marisa@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Supporting documents which explain in detail the information that the EPA will be collecting are available in the public docket for this ICR. The docket can be viewed online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in person at the EPA Docket Center, WJC West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave. NW., Washington, DC. The telephone number for the Docket Center is 202-566-1744. For additional information about EPA's public docket, visit <http://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

**Abstract:** Researchers at the EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), Atlantic Ecology Division (AED) are piloting an effort to better understand how reduced water quality due to nutrient enrichment affects the economic prosperity, social capacity, and ecological integrity of coastal New England communities. This project proposes a survey to collect data for a case study of changes in recreation demand and values due to changes in nutrients in northeastern coastal waters. This includes the development of methods and tools for estimating recreational values that can be applied

in other locations, either by EPA researchers, EPA's regional offices or state partners. Cape Cod is in the midst of an extensive regional planning effort related to its coastal waters, and this research can provide helpful socio-economic information to decision makers about the use of those waters. Because the 100-mile radius from Cape Cod includes a large area of southern New England and the largest population centers in New England, the results will be more broadly applicable to residents of southern New England.

One of the key water quality concerns on Cape Cod, and throughout New England, is nonpoint sources of nitrogen, which lead to ecological impairments in estuaries, with resultant socio-economic impacts. The decisions needed to meet water quality standards are highly complex and involve significant cross-disciplinary challenges in identifying, implementing, and monitoring social and ecological management needs. We will focus on understanding recreational uses as valued economic goods in coastal New England (including beachgoing, swimming, fishing, shellfishing, and boating).

**Form Numbers:** 6000-02 and 6000-03.

**Respondents/affected entities:** Individuals and Households.

**Respondent's obligation to respond:** Voluntary.

**Estimated number of respondents:** 2,455 (total).

**Frequency of response:** Once.

**Total estimated burden:** 205 hours (per year). Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.03(b).

**Total estimated cost:** \$7,129 (per year), includes \$0 annualized capital or operation & maintenance costs.

**Changes in the Estimates:** This is a new collection.

**Courtney Kerwin,**

*Director, Collection Strategies Division.*

[FR Doc. 2017-24446 Filed 11-9-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

**FEDERAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD**

**Notice of Issuance of Technical Bulletin 2017-2, Assigning Assets to Component Reporting Entities**

**AGENCY:** Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board.

**ACTION:** Notice.

Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3511(d), the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), as amended, and the FASAB