

person whose name appears on the official service list. If no such motions are filed, the restricted service list will be effective at the end of the 15 day period. Otherwise, a further notice will be issued ruling on any motion or motions filed within the 15 day period.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Floodplain/Wetland Involvement at the Supply Creek Crossing for the Granby Pumping Plant-Marys Lake 69-kilovolt Transmission Line, Grand County, CO

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of statement of findings.

SUMMARY: This Floodplain/Wetland Statement of Findings for the Supply Creek Crossing, Granby Pumping Plant-Marys Lake 69-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line was prepared in accordance with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Floodplain/Wetland Review Requirements. Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power marketing agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is the lead Federal agency for a proposal to reroute a 0.8 mile section of the Granby Pumping Plant-Marys Lake 69-kV transmission line. The project is located in Grand County, Colorado, approximately 10 miles north of Granby. Western plans to remove eight wood-pole H-frame structures from the existing right-of-way and relocate them farther to the west, a distance ranging from a few hundred feet to approximately 1,000 feet. All the proposed work will likely occur within a 100-year floodplain of Supply Creek. The existing transmission line and the proposed reroute cross a wetland associated with Supply Creek, and an irrigated meadow. Western has prepared a floodplain/wetland assessment and based on its findings, found no practicable alternative to avoiding the floodplain/wetlands of Supply Creek.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rodney Jones, Environmental Specialist, Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539-3003, telephone (970) 461-7371, e-mail rjones@wapa.gov. For further information on DOE Floodplain/Wetlands Environmental Review

Requirements, contact Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Statement of Findings for the proposal to relocate a 0.8 mile section of the Granby Pumping Plant-Marys Lake 69-kV transmission line was prepared in accordance with DOE's Floodplain/Wetland Review Requirements 10 CFR part 1022. A notice of floodplain/wetland involvement was published in the **Federal Register** on November 23, 2001 (66 FR 226). A 15-day public review period following the publication of this statement of findings has been waived per 10 CFR part 1022.18(c). No comments were received on the notice. There was one request for a copy of the floodplain/wetlands assessment.

The Supply Creek Crossing is located approximately 2 miles to the south-southwest of the town of Grand Lake and 1 mile west of Shadow Mountain Lake in Grand County, Colorado. The project area encompasses portions of the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of section 11 and the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 14, T. 3 N., R. 76 W. The property is privately owned. Current land use is ranching, grazing, and hay production. The Granby Pumping Plant to West Portal portion of the Granby Pumping Plant-Marys Lake 69-kV transmission line was constructed in 1939. Due to the age of this transmission line, Western has routinely tested and replaced deteriorated wood-pole structures on the transmission line as needed. A landowner approached Western and requested that a section of the transmission line on his property be relocated to facilitate ongoing ranching operations. The relocation of the line will also benefit Western's operation and maintenance activities in a number of ways. The relocated line will be in an area that is less wet and more accessible for routine inspections and maintenance. Access to the existing section of transmission line for maintenance is difficult due to hay meadow irrigation and naturally wet conditions. Western plans to remove eight wood-pole H-frame structures from the existing right-of-way and relocate them farther to the west, a distance ranging from a few hundred feet to approximately 1,000 feet. Western is the lead Federal agency for a proposal to reroute a 0.8 mile section of the Granby Pumping Plant-Marys Lake 69-kV transmission line. This action is categorically excluded under DOE's National Environmental Policy

Act Implementing Procedures (10 CFR part 1021).

The reroute for the proposed project was selected because it avoids interfering with the landowner's ranching operations; and it moves the right-of-way into an area with relatively drier conditions than the existing right-of-way. Western could leave the line where it is and continue to replace deteriorating structures as needed. However, this would not solve the conflict with the landowner's planned ranch operations.

The project will require construction activities within a floodplain and a wetland. This includes removing eight existing wood-pole H-frame transmission line structures and installing eight similar structures within a new relocated right-of-way. The structures located at either end of the relocation may be modified, or reconstructed, at their existing location. Most construction activities would take place during the early months of 2002 when the ground is frozen to facilitate access in the extremely wet areas. This action would conform to applicable State or local floodplain protection standards.

Western prepared a floodplain/wetlands assessment describing the effects, alternatives, and measures designed to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain. There is no practicable alternative to locating structures within the floodplain and wetlands of Supply Creek. Environmental impacts associated with the proposed project are expected to be minimal. Habitat within the southern two-thirds of the project area is native and tame pasture grasses with wet meadows. Supply Creek crosses under the line in the northern third of the property. The habitat in this area is an open-canopy, willow/shrub. The open meadow and creek areas are either grazed or mowed at least annually. There are several ranch buildings east of the existing line, as well as a large developed residential area. Relocation of the line within the same meadow and wetland area will have minimal impact. Since construction activities are scheduled to commence during the winter, minimal impact to Supply Creek and its aquatic habitat, vegetation, and soils would result.

The project would not affect existing flood characteristics. No watercourses or drainage patterns will be affected by the project. No construction will occur within Supply Creek. Flood storage volume will not be affected. No change in flood stage characteristics would occur.

A small increased risk of pollution would result from having construction equipment working in the floodplain. This includes the risk of accidental oil or fuel spills from malfunctioning equipment. Given the size of equipment involved and the amount of potential spill material, this risk is considered very low. If a spill were to occur it would be minor and could be readily contained and cleaned up.

Steps will be taken to minimize harm to the 100-year floodplain of Supply Creek, and include restricting vehicular traffic to necessary construction equipment, refueling equipment, if necessary, outside the floodplain or the surrounding wet meadow, and preventing vehicles with leaks and seeps from entering the floodplain. Due to the need to complete the work before the ground thaws and maintain project effectiveness, the 15-day public review period following the publication of this statement of findings has been waived per 10 CFR part 1022.18(c).

Dated: February 20, 2002.

Michael S. HacsKaylo,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-4618 Filed 2-26-02; 8:45 am]

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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) firm power base charge and rates. The current base charge and rates expire September 30, 2002. The current base charge is not sufficient to pay all annual costs including operation, maintenance, replacement, and interest expenses, and to repay investment obligations within the required period. The proposed base charge will provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs, including operation, maintenance, replacement,

and interest expenses, 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 2002. The proposed base charge and rates are scheduled to become effective on October 1, 2002, the beginning of Federal fiscal year (FY) 2003, and will remain in effect through September 30, 2003. 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 28, 2002. Western representatives will explain the proposed base charge and rates at a public information forum on April 4, 2002, beginning at 10 a.m. MST, Phoenix, AZ. Interested parties can provide oral and written comments at a public comment forum on April 25, 2002, beginning at 10 a.m. MST, at the same location.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Desert Southwest Customer Service Regional Office 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. If you are interested in sending comments, address them 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. Comments must be received by Western by the end of the consultation and comment period to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Maher A. Nasir, Rates Team Lead, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, telephone (602) 352-2768, e-mail: nasir@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Base Charge and Rates for BCP Firm Power

The proposed base charge and rates for BCP firm power 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 services, miscellaneous leases, late fees, and the prior year carryover to determine the annual revenue requirement. The projected annual revenue requirement is the base charge for firm power service and is divided equally between capacity dollars and energy dollars. 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-F6 for BCP firm power service on August 29, 2001, (Rate Order No. WAPA-94, October 13, 2000). The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) confirmed and approved the rate formula on a final basis in Docket No. EF00-5092-000 issued July 31, 2001. Rate Schedule BCP-F6 became effective on October 1, 2000, for the period ending September 30, 2005. Under Rate Schedule BCP-F6, for FY 2002, the base charge is \$48,039,988, the forecasted energy rate is 5.33 mills per kilowatt-hour (mills/kWh) and the forecasted capacity rate is \$0.99 per kilowatt-month (kWmonth). The composite rate is 10.32 mills/kWh.

The FY 2003 proposed base charge is \$58,993,730, the forecasted energy rate is 6.22 mills/kWh, and the forecasted capacity rate is \$1.26/kWmonth. The proposed composite rate is 12.44 mills/kWh. This is approximately a 21 percent increase from the current composite rate. The proposed base charge and rates are based on the FY 2003 operating plan for Western and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and also account for the restrictions in operations at the Hoover Dam following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack in the United States. The following table compares the current and proposed base charge and rates.

COMPARISON OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED BASE CHARGE AND RATES

Current Oct. 1, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2002	Proposed Oct. 1, 2002 through Sept. 30, 2003	Percent change increase	
Total Composite (mills/kWh)	10.32	12.44	21
Base Charge (\$)	48,039,988	58,993,730	23
Energy Rate (mills/kWh)	5.33	6.22	17
Capacity Rate (\$/kWmonth)	0.99	1.26	27