

**Renewal of rates and services for the Central Valley Project, the
Project/Action California-Oregon Transmission Project, the Pacific Alternating Current
Intertie, and Path 15 Transmission – Rate Order No. WAPA – 156**

Requested By: Charles Faust Mail Code : N6100 Phone: 916-353-4468

Date Submitted: 11/5/2010 Date Required: 12/17/2010

Description of Proposed Action

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) is proposing new and revised formula rates and information for the following: Western power, the Central Valley Project (CVP) transmission, the California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP) transmission, the Pacific Alternating Current Intertie (PACI) transmission, ancillary services, custom product power, and information on Path 15 transmission upgrade. In addition to these existing rates for services, Western also is proposing to implement two new rates and services: Unreserved Use Penalties and Generator Imbalance Services (GI).

Summary of Proposed Action

Western is not proposing any changes to its existing formula rate methodologies. The proposed rates will provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs including interest expense, investments, and aid to irrigation within the allowable time periods. Western prepared a rate brochure that provides detailed information on the proposed formula rates. The rate brochure is available to all interested parties upon request.

The current rates for existing services expire on September 30, 2011. If approved, the proposed rates would become effective on October 1, 2011, and remain in effect through September 30, 2016, or until superseded by another rate schedule. Publication of a Federal Register Notice begins the formal process for the proposed rate adjustments.

Public Outreach

To facilitate openness, transparency, and public participation and input Western held 14 public Informal Rate meetings beginning June 2008 through April 2010 and presented a detailed explanation of the proposed rate changes at a public information forum and also held a public comment forum to solicit oral and written comments.

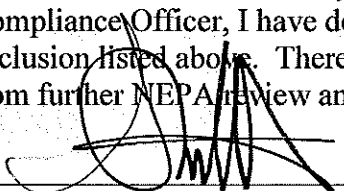
To be completed by Natural Resources Only

Action taken

Note: All Documentation is Attached

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion (CX) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integral Elements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Assessment (EA) | <input type="checkbox"/> NEPA Attachment Sheet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Requirements/Mitigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Determinations: | <input type="checkbox"/> Maps/Figures |

Determination: Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion listed above. Therefore, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.



Stephen C. Tuggle
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date 12/15/10
 Approved

bcc: Charlies Faust	File Code: N6100	Assigned to: David Young	Project #: CX101203	Environmental Specialist- Date: David Young 12-15-2010
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Integral Elements

Proposed Action: New Rates and Services for the Central Valley Project, the California-Oregon Transmission Project, the Pacific Alternating Current Intertie, and Path 15 Transmission – Rate Order No. WAPA – 156

Category of Action:

- **B4.3** – Rate changes for electric power, power transmission, and other products or services provided by a Power Marketing Administration that are based on a change in revenue requirements if operations of generation projects would remain within normal operating limits.

Regulatory Requirements for a Categorical Exclusion Determination: The Department of Energy (DOE), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021.410(b) require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded (see full text in regulation).

1. The proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Appendixes A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:
 - a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders.
 - b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include categorically excluded facilities.
 - c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products preexisting in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or
 - d. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B (4)).
2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal which may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;
3. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(I)), is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Results of Review: In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021), The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level of NEPA review needed. Based on this review, Western has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of action listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA).

The proposed action meets the above regulatory criteria and there are no adverse environmental effects associated with this action.