2017 Boulder Canyon Project Remarketing Effort

This letter was sent to the Chairperson/President of the following tribes: Ak-Chin Indian Community, Cocopah Indian Reservation, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Fort Mohave Indian Reservation, Gila River Indian Community, Havasupai Indian Reservation, Hopi Indian Reservation, Kaibab Paiute Indian Reservation, Navajo Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Juan Southern Paiute, Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona, Tonto Apache Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation of Camp Verde, Yavapai-Prescott Tribe

Western Area Power Administration (Western) is responsible for the marketing and transmission of Federal hydropower generated at numerous dams in the western United States. This power is sold through project-specific marketing programs to customers such as tribal organizations, rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities, and state and Federal agencies. The “___” Tribe has been identified as located within Western’s Desert Southwest Region (DSW) based in Phoenix, Arizona. Additional information about Western can be found on our website at www.wapa.gov/dsw/dsw.htm.

Hydropower from Western can be an economic benefit to tribes, as well as to other customers, since it is generally less expensive than other forms of electricity. Even if a tribe does not operate an electric utility, it may still be eligible to apply for and receive the benefits of an allocation of Federal hydropower. For example, Western currently has 87 tribes among its firm power customers receiving the benefits of more than 1 million mega-watt hours of renewable, cost-based Federal hydropower. This power is received either directly as electricity or through a benefit-credit arrangement with a third-party utility.
Through a Federal Register Notice (FRN) published in the Federal Register on November 20, 2009 (Volume 74, No. 223), Western initiated a public process to market the electrical capacity and energy from the Boulder Canyon Project (BCP), otherwise known as Hoover Dam, after the current contracts expire on September 30, 2017. While this process has been initiated, it is not anticipated to be complete until the summer of 2013. Western has not yet requested that interested parties submit their applications for allocations; however, we are aware that some tribes are interested in participating in dialogue regarding a potential BCP allocation. Due to this expressed interest in potentially receiving a future BCP allocation, Western extended the public comment period through September 30, 2010, so that the “___” Tribe, among others, is afforded an opportunity to participate in the public process.

Western finds great value in working with customer groups such as the Arizona Tribal Energy Association (ATEA) and the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) which help to efficiently identify and foster tribal initiatives. In addition, Western would welcome collaborative efforts with your tribe either directly, or in conjunction with ATEA or ITCA, or through other open forums, to ensure your tribe is afforded access and input into Western’s public process. Tribes can contact representatives of ATEA or ITCA as shown on Attachment A and/or Western as stated below.

For further information regarding this effort, please contact Mr. Mike Simonton, DSW Project Manager for Federal Power Programs, at 602-605-2675 or email at Simonton@wapa.gov.

Sincerely,

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