

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

**Colorado River Storage Project Management Center (CRSP)**

**Western Area Power Administration**

**A. Brief Description of Proposal:** Western Area Power Administration’s (Western) CRSP serves customers in Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Texas. The Salt Lake City Area Integrated Projects (SLCA/IP) consists of the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP), the Collbran and the Rio Grand projects. The SLCA/IP firm power rate, the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) Transmission and Ancillary Service Rate (Rate Schedules SLIP-F9, SP-PTP7, SPNW3, SP-NFT6, SP-SD3, SP-RS3, SP-E13 and SP-SSR3) will expire September 30, 2015.

Western proposes to change these rates (under rate schedules SLIP-F10, SP-PTP8, SP-NW4, SP-NFT17, SP-RS4, SP-E14, SP-FR4, SP-SSR4 and SP-UUI) and place them into effect on an interim basis on October 1, 2015, and proposes that these rate remain in effect until September 30, 2020 (or until they are superseded).

These proposed rates are intended to provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs, including operation, maintenance, replacements, interest expenses and required repayment of investment within the period allowed.

These proposed rates are described and compared to existing rates in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 Comparison of Existing and Proposed Rates**

<b>Rate Schedule</b>	<b>Existing Rate Under Rate Schedule SLIP-F9 (Effective October 1, 2008)</b>	<b>Proposed Rate Under Rate Schedule SLIP-F10 (Effective October 1, 2015)</b>	<b>Percent Change (%)</b>
<b>Base Rate: Firm Energy (mills/kWh)</b>	<b>12.19</b>	<b>12.38</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Firm Capacity \$/kW/mo</b>	<b>5.18</b>	<b>5.26</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Composite Rate (mills/kWh)</b>	<b>29.62</b>	<b>29.93</b>	<b>1.0</b>

Cost Recovery Charge (CRC): Western proposes to continue its CRC to assist in adequately recovering expenses in times of financial hardship. Some minor changes are proposed in the formula for triggering and calculating the CRC.

Transmission Rate – Proposed Formula (SP-PTP8): Western proposes to change the method used to calculate the Annual Transmission Costs to recover transmission expenses and investments on a current basis rather than a historic basis.

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Rate for Regulation and Frequency Response Service Proposed Rate (SP-FR4): Western proposes to use a formula-based rate rather than the SLCA/IP rate.

Rate for Unreserved Use of Transmission Service Proposed Rate (SP-UUI): Western is proposing to migrate from an Unauthorized Use Charge to an Unreserved Use of Transmission Service Rate.

Rates for Network Integration Transmission, Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission, Scheduling-System Control and Dispatch, Reactive Supply and Voltage Control, Energy Imbalance, and Spinning And Supplemental Reserves (SP-NW4, SP-NF17, DP-DF4, SP-RS4, SP-E14, SP-SSR4): Western is not proposing any formula changes to the these rates.

**A full description of this project/action and additional information can be found electronically at:** <http://www.wapa.gov/crsp/ratescrsp/WAPA-169.htm>

In consideration of 10 CFR Part 1021 Subpart D, B.4.3, this Rate Process will not affect the generation projects and operations will remain within normal operating limits.

**B. Number and Title of the Categorical Exclusion Being Applied:** (See text in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.)

**B4.3. Electric Power Marketing Rate Changes.**

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 the operations of generation projects would remain within normal limits.

**C. Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b):** (See full text in regulation and attached checklist.)

(1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D.

For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements. To fit within a class, the proposal must not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders;
- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities;
- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases;
- Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. An environmentally sensitive resource is typically a resource that has been identified as needing protection through Executive Order, statute, or regulation by Federal, State, or local government, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. An action may be categorically excluded if, although sensitive resources are present, the action would not have the potential to cause

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significant impacts on those resources (such as construction of a building with its foundation well above a sole-source aquifer or upland surface soil removal on a site that has wetlands). Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to, those listed in paragraph B. (4) (see Attachment A).

- (2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- (3) The proposal is not “connected” to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

**D. Special Stipulations Pertaining to the Proposal:**

If the scope of this proposal changes, the CRSP MC NEPA compliance officer must be contacted for additional environmental review.

- E. Determination:** Based on my review of information provided to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, I determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is categorically excluded from requirements for an EA or an EIS.

**S. Clayton Palmer**

**February 25, 2015**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Electronically Signed

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

S. Clayton Palmer  
NEPA Compliance Officer  
CRSP MC  
Western Area Power Administration

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**ATTACHMENT A**

**Conditions That Are Integral Elements of the Classes  
of Actions in Appendix B That Apply to This Proposal**

Checklist for Categorical Exclusion Determination, revised Nov. 2011

<b>Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)</b>	Disagree	Agree	Unknown
(b)(1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix B to subpart D.		X	
(b)(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; and unresolved conflicts concerning alternate uses of available resources.		X	
(b)(3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Segmentation can occur when a proposal is broken down into small parts in order to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. The scope of a proposal must include the consideration of connected and cumulative actions, that is, the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or § 1021.211 of this part concerning limitations on actions during EIS preparation.		X	
<b>B. Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B.</b>	NO	YES	Unknown
(1) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.	X		
(2) Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities.	X		
(3) Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.	X		
(4) Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. An environmentally sensitive resource is typically a resource that has been identified as needing protection through Executive Order, statute, or regulation by Federal, state, or local government,	X		

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<p>or a federally recognized Indian tribe. An action may be categorically excluded if, although sensitive resources are present, the action would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on those resources (such as construction of a building with its foundation well above a sole-source aquifer or upland surface soil removal on a site that has wetlands). Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to:</p>			
<p>(i) Property (such as sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by a Federal, state, or local government, or property determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;</p>	X		
<p>(ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat) or Federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat (Endangered Species Act); state-listed or state-proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; Federally-protected marine mammals and Essential Fish Habitat (Marine Mammal Protection Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act); and otherwise Federally-protected species (such as under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act);</p>	X		
<p>(iii) Floodplains and wetlands (as defined in 10 CFR 1022.4, —Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements: “Definitions,” or its successor);</p>	X		
<p>(iv) Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national monuments, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges, scenic areas (such as National Scenic and Historic Trails or National Scenic Areas), and marine sanctuaries;</p>	X		
<p>(v) Prime or unique farmland, or other farmland of statewide or local importance, as defined at 7 CFR 658.2(a), —Farmland Protection Policy Act: Definitions, or its successor;</p>	X		
<p>(vi) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and</p>	X		
<p>(vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests; or</p>	X		

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<p>(5) Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.</p>	<p>X</p>		
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