

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
COLORADO RIVER STORAGE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER**

**ADOPTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE CENTRAL
UTAH WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE OLMSTED HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT REPLACEMENT
PROJECT
UTAH COUNTY, UTAH**

AND

**OLMSTED POWER MARKETING
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**AGENCY: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, WESTERN AREA POWER
ADMINISTRATION**

**ACTION: Adoption of Environmental Assessment and Issuance of Finding of No
Significant Impact**

Background: The Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) completed an environmental assessment (EA) on the Olmsted Hydroelectric Power Plant Replacement Project and related actions. The Olmsted Power Plant was acquired in condemnation proceedings by the United States in 1990. Water rights needed for full development of the Central Utah Project (CUP) are associated with the Olmsted Flowline and Olmsted Power Plant. The purpose of the acquisition of the flowline and power plant was to secure the water rights associated with the Olmsted Power Plant. The CUP is a participating project of the Colorado River Storage Project.

The existing Olmsted Power Plant has greatly exceeded its operational life. In order to continue generating power and thus preserve the associated non-consumptive water rights necessary for the CUP, it was proposed that the old power plant be removed and a new generation facility constructed. The DOI and CUWCD developed an EA on the construction of the replacement power plant and related actions. Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) was a cooperating agency on this EA. These DOI/CUWCD actions were found to not have a significant impact on the human

environment. The DOI and CUWCD issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in January 2015.

Adoption: WAPA has reviewed DOI and CUWCD's EA and concludes that the EA adequately describes the replacement of Olmsted Power Plant and related environmental impacts and that the DOI and CUWCD's public involvement process is equivalent to the Department of Energy's (DOE) public process. WAPA hereby adopts the DOI and CUWCD EA as a DOE EA (DOE/EA-2048).

WAPA Action: WAPA proposes to develop an Olmsted Power Marketing Plan and begin marketing power from the replacement Olmsted Power Plant in the summer of 2018 or as soon as the DOI and CUWCD complete construction of the new power plant and the project is commercially operable. The marketing plan for Olmsted power will recognize that the production of power will be incidental to the delivery of water and that power will only be marketed when water is available for power generation. The marketed power will be energy only. No electrical capacity will be marketed. It is expected that annual energy production from the replacement Olmsted Power Plant will average approximately 27,000,000 kilowatthours per year.

WAPA will only sell Olmsted power to eligible entities within the marketing area. This area shall consist of the following counties in Utah: Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Summit, Utah, Weber, and Wasatch. It is proposed that any entities selected by WAPA will receive a proportional share of the energy produced and pay its proportional share of the annual expenses of the power plant. Priority will be given to the CUWCD as the operator of the Olmsted Power Plant. WAPA will also establish a rate methodology for the Olmsted Project.

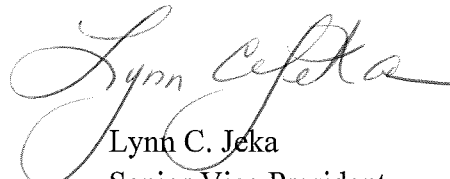
WAPA's action is a power marketing and contracting activity that follows established power marketing regulations. The action has no physical component that could potentially affect environmental resources or the human environment. Actions of this type are typically categorically excluded under DOE's National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) regulations.

For Further Information Contact: Additional information and copies of the EA and both of the related FONSI documents are available to all interested parties and the public from the following contact:

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Determination: Based on the information contained in the adopted EA, DOE/EA-2048, and the description of WAPA's proposed action above, WAPA has determined that its proposed action to prepare an Olmsted Power Marketing Plan and market power from the replacement Olmsted Power Plant does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined by NEPA. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

Issued at Salt Lake City, Utah, on January 13, 2017.



Lynn C. Jeka
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