



# U.S. Department of Energy

## Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Proposed modification to rates for firm power service and sale of surplus products (Rate Order No. WAPA-180).

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration, Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region

Location(s) (City/County/State): Pick Sloan Missouri Basin Program - Eastern Division (PSMBP-ED)

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is proposing to revise rates for PSMBP-ED firm power and firm peaking power service. Current firm power and firm peaking power service rates, under Rate Schedules P-SED-F12 and P-SED-FP12, are in effect through December 31, 2019. WAPA is proposing to replace these existing Rate Schedules with Rate Schedules P-SED-F13 and P-SED-FP13, respectively. The newly proposed Rate Schedules would reduce the drought adder component, increase the base component, and remove the voltage discount, which would lower the overall charges for firm power and firm peaking power service by 19%. Rate Schedules P-SED-F13 and P-SED-FP13 would go into effect on January 1, 2018, and would remain in effect through December 31, 2022, or until superseded.

Additionally, WAPA is proposing a new formula rate schedule, P-SED-M1, to allow for the sale of generation-related products in excess of WAPA's PSMBP-ED firm power obligations at market rates. WAPA is proposing to place Rate Schedule P-SED-M1 into effect for the 5-year period beginning January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2022.

Notice of these proposed modifications was published in the Federal Register on July 3rd, 2017 (Vol 82, No. 126, 30859-30861). Members of the public are invited to review and comment on the proposed rate changes. Comments will be accepted until COB on October 2nd, 2017.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.3 - Electric power marketing rate changes

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (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; (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; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (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 listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This 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 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: **MATTHEW MARSH** Digitally signed by MATTHEW MARSH  
Date: 2017.08.30 10:14:34 -06'00'

Date Determined: 08/30/2017