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David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-7716 Filed 3-28-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 3131-032]

SR Hydropower, Inc., SR Hydropower of Brockway Mills, Inc.; Notice of Dismissing Application To Surrender Project License

March 23, 2000.

On August 16, 1996, John M. Rais filed an application to surrender the project license for the Brockways Mills Project No. 3131 on the Williams River in Windham County, in the Town of Rockingham, Vermont, purportedly on behalf of SR Hydropower of Brockway Mills, Inc., along with a copy of a certificate of dissolution of that corporation, issued by the State of Vermont on July 10, 1996.

On March 15, 1999, the Commission issued an interim order in the surrender proceeding, noting Rais's assertion that SR Hydropower of Brockway Mills, Inc., a Vermont corporation, was incorporated by a statutory merger with SR Hydropower, Inc., a New Hampshire corporation, the licensee of record for this project. However, the Commission noted that it had never approved a transfer of the license to SR Hydropower of Brockway Mills, Inc., or a name change of the licensee. Furthermore, the Commission concluded that, as a consequence of the dissolution of SR Hydropower of Brockway Mills, Inc., into which SR Hydropower, Inc. was merged, neither SR Hydropower, Inc., which remains the licensee of record, nor SR Hydropower of Brockway Mills, Inc., any longer existed. Under these circumstances, the Commission concluded that the surrender of the project license was by implication rather than upon application of the licensee. The Commission stated that, at the request of the Town of Rockingham, it would defer acceptance of the surrender for at least six months, and entertain applications from any proposed transferee to transfer the license to such applicant.¹

On September 20, 1999, Christopher J. Kruger and Eileen J. Kruger filed an application seeking the transfer of the

project license to themselves, and on December 14, 1999, the transfer application was approved by the Chief, Engineering and Compliance Branch of the Office of Hydropower Licensing.² Under these circumstances, the application to surrender filed by John M. Rais has become moot and is accordingly dismissed.

This notice constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission of this rejection notice may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this notice, pursuant to 18 CFR 385.713.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-7673 Filed 3-28-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 1895-007 South Carolina]

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company; Notice of Intent To Conduct Public Scoping Meetings and Site Visit

MARCH 23, 2000. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) received an application from the South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G or Applicant) to relicense the Columbia Hydroelectric Project No. 1895-007. The 10,600-kilowatt (kW) project is located on the Broad River and Congaree River in the City of Columbia and Richland County, South Carolina. The Commission will hold public and agency scoping meetings on April 12 and 13, 2000, for preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the national Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the issuance of a major license for the project.

Scoping Meetings

FERC staff will conduct one agency scoping meeting and one public meeting. The agency scoping meeting will focus on resource agency and non-governmental organization (NGO) concerns, while the public scoping meeting is primarily for public input. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist the staff in identifying the

scope of the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Agency Scoping Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 13, 2000

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, (Rm 335 of the Rembert Dennis Building)

Address: 1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC

Public Scoping Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: South Carolina State Museum (Red Room)

Address: 301 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC

To help focus discussions, we will distribute a Scoping Document outlining the subject areas to be addressed at the meeting to the parties on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of this document will also be available at the scoping meetings.

Site Visit

The Applicant and FERC staff will conduct a project site visit beginning at 1:00 p.m. on April 12, 2000. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend. All participants should meet at the parking lot of the Columbia Hydroelectric Plant off of Gervais Street. All participants are responsible for their own transportation to the site. Anyone with questions about the site visit should contact Christina Massey of SCE&G at 803-217-9198.

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views; (4) determine the relative depth of analysis for issues to be addressed in the EA; and (5) identify resources this project does not effect and, therefore, do not require detailed analysis.

Procedures

Statements made at the meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and will become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project. In addition, written scoping comments may be filed with the Secretary, Federal

¹ 86 FERC ¶ 61,279 (1999)

² 89 FERC ¶ 92,194. On October 28, 1999, Rais, as an agent for SR Hydropower of Brockway Mills, Inc., filed a motion to withdraw the surrender of license, which was rejected by the Secretary of the Commission (notice issued November 12, 1999) on the basis of the Commission's findings in its March 15, 1999 order.

Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, until May 15, 2000. All filings should contain an original and eight copies, and must clearly show at the top of the first page "Columbia Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 1895-007".

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental concerns related to the Columbia Hydroelectric Project are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist the staff in defining the issues to be addressed in the EA. For further information, please contact Charles Hall at 202-219-2853, or e-mail charles.hall@ferc.fed.us.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-7672 Filed 3-28-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Loveland Area Projects-Rate Order No. WAPA-89

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed extension of firm electric service rate.

SUMMARY: This action is a proposal to extend the existing Loveland Area Projects (LAP) firm electric service rate, Rate Order No. WAPA-51, through September 30, 2003. The existing firm electric service rate will expire January 31, 2001. This notice of proposed extension of the rate is issued pursuant to 10 CFR part 903.23(a)(1). In accordance with 10 CFR part 903.23(a)(2), Western will not have a consultation and comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Daniel T. Payton, Rates Manager, Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539-3003, (970) 490-7442, or e-mail dpayton@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, published November 10, 1993 (58 FR 59716), the Secretary of Energy delegated (1) the authority to develop long-term power and transmission rates on a non-exclusive basis to the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (Western); (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, to remand, or to disapprove such rates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In Delegation Order No. 0204-172, effective

November 24, 1999, the Secretary of Energy delegated the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary.

Pursuant to Delegation Order No. 0204-108 and existing Department of Energy procedures for public participation in firm electric service rate adjustments at 10 CFR part 903, Western's LAP firm electric service rate was submitted to FERC for confirmation and approval on January 10, 1994. On July 14, 1994, in Docket No. EF94-5181-000 at 68 FERC ¶ 62,040, FERC issued an order confirming, approving, and placing into effect on a final basis the firm electric service rate for LAP. LAP consists of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project and the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, Western Division. The rate set forth in Rate Order No. WAPA-51 was approved for a 5-year period beginning February 1, 1994, and ending January 31, 1999. On October 16, 1998, upon signing Rate Order No. WAPA-82, the Deputy Secretary extended the existing rate for a 2-year period beginning February 1, 1999, and ending January 31, 2001.

On January 31, 2001, the LAP firm electric service rate expires. This makes it necessary to extend the current rate pursuant to 10 CFR part 903. Upon its approval, Rate Order No. WAPA-51, previously extended under Rate Order No. WAPA-82, will be extended under Rate Order No. WAPA-89.

Western proposes to extend the existing rate of \$2.85/kilowattmonth for capacity and 10.85 mills/kilowatt hour for energy which is sufficient to recover project expenses (including interest) and capital requirements through September 30, 2003. Increased revenue from good hydrologic conditions and lower operation and maintenance expenses over the cost evaluation period have made this possible. For the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, the ratesetting study projected the deficit to peak at \$178 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 1994 and to be repaid in FY 2002. The deficit actually peaked at \$171 million in FY 1993 and was totally repaid in FY 1997. The total annual revenue requirement of \$44.3 million from firm power sales is sufficient to cover the expenses and capital requirements through September 30, 2003.

All documents made or kept by Western for developing this notice for proposed extension of the firm electric service rate will be made available for inspection and copying at the Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region, located at 5555 East Crossroads Boulevard, Loveland, Colorado.

Thirty days after publication of this notice, Rate Order No. WAPA-89 will be submitted to the Deputy Secretary for approval through September 30, 2003.

Dated: March 17, 2000.

Michael S. HacsKaylo,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program—Eastern Division—Order No. WAPA-90

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed extension of firm power service and firm peaking power service rates.

SUMMARY: This action is a proposal to extend the existing Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program-Eastern Division (P-SMBP-ED) firm power service and firm peaking power service rates, Rate Order No. WAPA-60, through September 30, 2003. The existing firm power service and firm peaking power service rates will expire January 31, 2001. This notice of proposed extension of rates is issued pursuant to 10 CFR part 903.23(a)(1). In accordance with 10 CFR part 903.23(a)(2), Western will not have a consultation and comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert F. Riehl, Rates Manager, Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800, (406) 247-7388, or e-mail riehl@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, published November 10, 1993 (58 FR 59716), the Secretary of Energy delegated (1) the authority to develop long-term power and transmission rates on a non-exclusive basis to the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration (Western); and (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, to remand, or to disapprove such rates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In Delegation Order No. 0204-172, effective November 24, 1999, the Secretary of Energy delegated the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary.

Pursuant to Delegation Order No. 0204-108 and existing Department of Energy procedures for public