

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2145-000 WS]

Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County; Notice of Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County's Request To Use Alternative Procedures in Filing a License Application

August 13, 1999.

On July 16, 1999, the existing licensee, Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (Chelan PUD), filed a request to use the Commission's alternative procedures in submitting an application for a new license for the existing Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project No. 2145. The 1,236.6-megawatt project is located on the Columbia River, about 7 miles upstream from the City of Wenatchee, Washington. Chelan PUD has demonstrated that it has made an effort to contact resource agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and others affected by the proposal, and that a consensus likely exists that the use of the alternative procedures is appropriate in this case. Chelan PUD has also submitted a communications protocol that was developed in consultation with interested entities.

The purpose of this notice is to invite comments on Chelan PUD's request to use the alternative procedures, pursuant to Section 4.34(i) of the Commission's regulations.¹ Additional notices seeking comments on the specific project proposal, interventions and protests, and recommended terms and conditions will be issued at a later date.

The alternative procedure being requested here combines the pre-filing consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing the applicant to complete and file an Environmental Assessment (EA) in lieu of Exhibit E of the license application. This differs from the traditional process, in which the applicant consults with agencies, Indian tribes, and NGOs during preparation of the application for the license and before filing it, but the Commission staff performs the environmental review after the application is filed. The alternative procedures are intended to improve the licensing process by combining the pre-filing consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater

participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants.

Alternative Licensing Process and Rocky Reach Schedule

Chelan PUD has submitted a proposed schedule for the process that leads to the filing of a new license application by June, 2004. Study plans would be developed this summer through the end of the year for field work that would start in April, 2000. National Environmental Policy Act scoping would be conducted during early to mid 2000. Field-work would be conducted through summer 2002 (if needed), with a draft application and draft APEA to be issued for comment in the spring of 2003.

Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on Chelan PUD's proposal to use the alternative procedures to file an application for the Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project.

Filing Requirements

The comments must be filed by providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, Dockets—Room 1A, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All comment filings must bear the heading "Comments on the Alternative Procedures," and include the project name and number (Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project No. 2145).

For further information on this process, please contact Vince Yearick of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at 202-219-3073 or E-mail vince.yearick@ferc.fed.us.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,*Acting Secretary.*

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. NJ97-8-005]

South Carolina Public Service Authority; Notice of Filing

August 13, 1999.

Take notice that on July 28, 1999, South Carolina Public Service Authority

filed revised standards of conduct in response to the Commission's July 1, 1999 Order on Standards of Conduct. 88 FERC ¶ 61,013 (1999).

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest the filings should file, in each particular proceeding and referencing the appropriate docket number, a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 or 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 or 385.214). All such motions to intervene or protest should be filed on or before August 27, 1999. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party to each proceeding must file a motion to intervene in each proceeding. Copies of these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. These filings may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,*Acting Secretary.*

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2077-016]

USGen New England, Inc.; Notice Establishing Procedures for Relicensing and a Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments

August 13, 1999.

The license for the Fifteen Mile Falls Project No. 2077, located on the Connecticut River in Grafton County, New Hampshire, and Caledonia County, Vermont, will expire on July 31, 2001. On July 29, 1999, an application for new license was filed. The following is an approximately schedule and procedures that will be followed in processing the application:

¹ Order No. 596, Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects, 81 FERC ¶ 61,103 (1997).