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As explained in the Establishing Order, the Commission will issue agendas for each meeting of the Task Force, after consulting with all Task Force members and considering suggestions from state commissions.⁴ The Establishing Order set forth a broad array of transmission-related topics that the Task Force has the authority to examine and will focus on topics related to planning and paying for transmission, including transmission to facilitate generator interconnection, that provides benefits from a federal and state perspective.⁵ All interested persons, including all state commissions, are hereby invited to file comments in this docket on agenda topics for the next public meeting of the Task Force by January 8, 2024. The Task Force members will consider the suggested agenda topics in developing the agenda for the next public meeting. The Commission will issue the agenda no later than February 14, 2024, for the public meeting to be held on February 28, 2024.

Comments may be filed electronically via the internet.⁶ Instructions are available on the Commission's website, <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, 202-502-8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

More information about the Task Force, including frequently asked questions, is available here: <https://www.ferc.gov/TFSOET>. For more information about this meeting, please contact: Cameron Schilling, 202-502-8202, Cameron.Schilling@ferc.gov; or Sarah Fitzpatrick, 202-898-2205, sfitzpatrick@naruc.org. For information

related to logistics, please contact Rob Thormeyer, 202-502-8694, robert.thormeyer@ferc.gov.

Dated: December 14, 2023.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2023-27991 Filed 12-19-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2466-037]

Appalachian Power Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment

On February 28, 2022, Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian) filed an application for a new major license for the 2.4-megawatt Niagara Hydroelectric Project (Niagara Project; FERC No. 2466). The Niagara Project is located on the Roanoke River, in Roanoke County, Virginia. The project is adjacent to and partially within the Blue Ridge Parkway.

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, on February 7, 2023, Commission staff issued a notice that the project was ready for environmental analysis (REA Notice). Based on the information in the record, including comments filed on the REA Notice, staff does not anticipate that licensing the project would constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. On April 26, 2023, the Commission issued a notice indicating that staff intended to prepare a draft and final Environmental Assessment (EA). However, upon further review, staff intends to prepare a single EA on the application to relicense the Niagara Project.

The EA will be issued and circulated for review by all interested parties. All comments filed on the EA will be analyzed by staff and considered in the Commission's final licensing decision.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

By this notice, Commission staff is updating the procedural schedule for completing the EA. The revised schedule is shown below. Further revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

Milestone	Target date
Commission issues EA	April 2024. ¹
Comments on EA	May 2024.

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to Laurie Bauer at (202) 502-6519 or laurie.bauer@ferc.gov.

Dated: December 14, 2023.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2023-27984 Filed 12-19-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 15302-001]

LinkPast Solutions, Inc.; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications

On June 26, 2023, LinkPast Solutions, Inc., filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of hydropower on the Black River in Jefferson County, New York. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed Sewalls Island Hydro Project would be located on the North Channel of the Black River at Sewalls Island in Watertown, New York. The proposed project would operate with flows below the minimum and above the maximum hydraulic capacities of Erie Boulevard Hydropower, L.P.'s Sewalls Development of the Black River Hydroelectric Project No. P-2569 (Sewalls Development). The Sewalls

¹ The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations under 40 CFR 1501.10(b)(1) (2022) require that EAs be completed within 1 year of the federal action agency's decision to prepare an EA. See National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, as amended by section 107(g)(1)(B)(iii) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, Public Law 118-5, 4336a, 137 Stat. 42.

⁴ Establishing Order, 175 FERC ¶ 61,224 at PP 4, 7.

⁵ *Id.* P. 6.

⁶ See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) (2022).

Development consists of two dams—a 90-foot-long, 18.5-foot-high concrete gravity dam on the North Channel of Sewalls Island (North Channel dam) and a 243-foot-long, 15.5-foot-high concrete gravity dam on the South Channel of Sewalls Island. A 4-acre reservoir with a storage capacity of 48-acre-feet at an elevation of 466.45 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 was created by the dams.

The proposed project would consist of the following: (1) two new powerhouses—a 70-foot-long by 30-foot-wide reinforced concrete powerhouse at the North Channel dam (powerhouse #1) and a 60-foot-long, 40-foot-wide reinforced concrete powerhouse downstream on the North Channel at the lower end of Sewalls Island (powerhouse #2); (2) a new 70-foot-long, 25-foot-wide integral intake structure at the North Channel dam for use by both powerhouses; (3) a new 12.5-foot-diameter, 1,250-foot-long steel and concrete penstock for conveying water to powerhouse #2 that would involve the demolition of the existing 80-foot-long, 16-foot-high Black Clawson Dam on the western tip of the island in the North Channel; (4) an axial flow vertical turbine-generator unit with an installed capacity of 3,600 kilowatts (kW) and a micro turbine-generator unit with an installed capacity of 15.7 kW housed in powerhouse #1; (5) one or more axial flow vertical turbine-generator unit(s) with a total installed capacity of 5,500 kW housed in powerhouse #2; (6) a new approximately 120-foot-long access road for powerhouse #1 and a new approximately 320-foot-long access road for powerhouse #2; (7) a new 1,900-foot-long, 23-kilovolt (kV) transmission line connecting the powerhouses to the existing switchyard of the Black River Project's Sewalls Development (option 1) or a new 4,270-foot-long, 23-kV transmission line connecting the powerhouses to a switchyard adjacent to the New York Airbrake Manufacturing plant; and (8) appurtenant facilities. The proposed project would have an average annual generation of approximately 2,245 megawatt-hours.

Applicant Contact: Brian McArthur, LinkPast Solutions, Inc., P.O. Box 5474, Clark, NJ 07066; phone: (848) 628-4414.

FERC Contact: Monir Chowdhury; phone: (202) 502-6736.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FEROnline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FEROnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of the Commission's website at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search>. Enter the docket number (P-15302) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: December 14, 2023.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2023-27979 Filed 12-19-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL24-22-000]

Madison Fields Solar Project, LLC; Notice of Institution of Section 206 Proceeding and Refund Effective Date

On December 13, 2023, the Commission issued an order in Docket No. EL24-22-000, pursuant to section 206 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. 824e, instituting an investigation to determine whether Madison Fields Solar Project, LLC's Rate Schedule is unjust, unreasonable, unduly discriminatory or preferential, or otherwise unlawful. *Madison Fields Solar Project, LLC*, 185 FERC ¶ 61,183 (2023).

The refund effective date in Docket No. EL24-22-000 established pursuant to section 206(b) of the FPA, will be the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, or the date Madison Fields' Rate Schedule becomes effective, whichever is later, provided, however, if the Rate Schedule does not become effective until after 5 months from the date of publication of the notice, the refund effective date shall be 5 months from the date of publication of the notice.

Any interested person desiring to be heard in Docket No. EL24-22-000, must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate, with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in accordance with Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.214 (2022), within 21 days of the date of issuance of the order.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field. User assistance is available for eLibrary and the FERC's website during normal business hours from FERC Online Support at 202-502-6652 (toll free at 1-866-208-3676) or email at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or the Public Reference Room at (202) 502-8371, TTY (202) 502-8659. Email the Public Reference Room at public.reference.room@ferc.gov.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings of comments, protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFile" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

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