

the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for a new license for the Pioneer Hydroelectric Project, and has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA). The project is located on the Ogden River near the City of Ogden, Weber County, Utah. The water to operate the project comes from the Pineview dam, via the Ogden Canyon Conduit. The dam is owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). However, a portion of the 5.5-mile-long flowline is located within the Cache National Forest, administered by the U.S. Forest Service (FS).

On February 17, 2000, the Commission staff issued a draft environmental assessment (DEA) for the project and requested that comments be filed with the Commission within 30 days. Comments on the DEA were filed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and PacifiCorp and are addressed in the FEA.

The FEA contains the staff's analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the project and concludes that licensing the project, with appropriate environmental protective measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the FEA are available for review in the Public Reference Room, Room 2A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Availability of Draft License Application and Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment

April 12, 2000.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and is available for public inspection:

- a. *Type of Application:* Major New License.
- b. *Project No.:* P-271.
- c. *Date filed:* April 4, 2000.
- d. *Applicant:* Entergy Arkansas, Inc.

e. *Name of Project:* Carpenter-Rommel Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* Located on the Ouachita River in Garland and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas, and immediately downstream from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Blakely Mountain Dam. The Carpenter-Rommel Hydroelectric Project includes the Carpenter development at river mile 461 and the Remmel development at river mile 450.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act 16 U.S.A. §§ 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. W. Henry Jones, Entergy Hydro Operations, P.O. Box 218, Jones Mills, AR 72105, (501) 844-2148 or email:

wjones7@Entergy.com.

Mr. Gary Liimatainen, Kleinschmidt Associates, 75 Main Street, P.O. Box 576, Pittsfield, ME 04967, (207) 487-3328 or e-mail: Gary@Kassociates.com.

i. *FERC Contact:* Ed Lee at (202) 219-2809 or E-mail address at Ed.Lee.ferc.fed.us.

j. *Status of Project:* With this notice the Commission is soliciting (1) Preliminary terms, conditions, and recommendations on the Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA), and (2) comments on the Draft License Application. Entergy Arkansas, Inc. is not claiming preference under Section 7(a) of the Federal Power Act § 16.

k. *Comment Date:* July 17, 2000.

All comments on the Preliminary DEA and Draft License Application should be sent to the addresses noted above in Item (h), with one copy filed with FERC at the following address: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All comments must include the project name and number and bear the heading "Preliminary Comments", "Preliminary Recommendations", "Preliminary Terms and Conditions", or "Preliminary Prescriptions".

l. *Available Locations of Application:* A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, located at 888 First Street, N.W., Room 2-A, Washington, D.C. 20426, or by calling (202) 219-1271. A copy of the application may also be viewed or printed by accessing the Commission's website on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> or call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

Entergy Arkansas, Inc. has mailed a copy of the Preliminary DEA and Draft License Application to interested entities and parties. Copies of these documents are available for review at Entergy's Public Information File, the Garland and Hot Spring County Public

Libraries in Arkansas, or by calling (501) 844-2148 or by e-mailing wjones7@Entergy.com.

m. *With this notice, we are initiating consultation with the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, as required by § 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR 800.4.*

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-9631 Filed 4-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Big Sandy Project, Arizona

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Intent

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332, Western Area Power Administration (Western), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Kingman Field Office, intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the proposal by Caithness Big Sandy, LLC (Caithness), an energy development and operating company, to construct a 720 megawatt (MW) electric generating facility, including a 16-inch, high-pressure natural gas supply pipeline, permanent access road, and water supply wells and pipeline system. Caithness proposes to interconnect the generating facility with the existing Mead-Phoenix Project 500-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line near Wikieup, Arizona. The generating facility would be constructed on private land in Mohave County, Arizona. The natural gas supply pipeline and access road would be constructed on private and public lands. The Federal public lands are administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM. Per 40 CFR part 1501.5(b), Western and BLM will serve as joint lead agencies to prepare the EIS.

This notice announces Western's and BLM's intention to prepare an EIS and hold a public scoping meeting for the proposed project. The scoping process will include notifying the general public and Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies of the proposed action. The purpose of scoping is to identify public and agency issues, and alternatives to be considered in the EIS.