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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.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:Cameron.Schilling@ferc.gov); or Sarah Fitzpatrick, 202-898-2205, [sfitzpatrick@naruc.org](mailto:sfitzpatrick@naruc.org). For information

related to logistics, please contact Rob Thormeyer, 202-502-8694, [robert.thormeyer@ferc.gov](mailto:robert.thormeyer@ferc.gov).

Dated: December 14, 2023.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
Deputy Secretary.

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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](mailto: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. <sup>1</sup> |
| 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](mailto:laurie.bauer@ferc.gov).

Dated: December 14, 2023.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
Deputy Secretary.

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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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Establishing Order, 175 FERC ¶ 61,224 at PP 4, 7.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* P. 6.

<sup>6</sup> See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) (2022).