

believed to be confidential deleted. Submit these documents via email. DOE will make its own determination about the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination.

Comments must be provided by the date provided in the **DATES** section of this notice to ensure consideration in preparation of the draft SEIS. DOE will consider late comments to the extent practicable.

Please be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available. It is DOE's policy that all comments may be included in the public docket, without change and as received, including any personal information provided in the comments (except information deemed to be exempt from public disclosure). If you wish for DOE to withhold your name and/or other personally identifiable information, please state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. You may also submit comments anonymously.

#### Cooperating Agencies

Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise, such as Indigenous Knowledge, are invited to participate in the preparation of the SEIS as cooperating agencies, as defined at 40 CFR 1501.8. Native American Tribes are invited to participate as consulting governments. For the 2018 SSFL Area IV EIS, there were three cooperating agencies: NASA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (a federally recognized Native American Tribe with historical ties to the SSFL land). The EPA and DTSC were also invited to be cooperating agencies but declined. DOE is inviting these same agencies to participate in this SEIS as well.

#### SEIS Process and Schedule

DOE will consider all comments received during the public scoping period in preparing the draft SEIS. DOE anticipates issuing a draft SEIS in the winter of 2025–2026. The EPA will publish a notice of availability of the draft SEIS in the **Federal Register**, which will begin a minimum 45-day public comment period. DOE will hold at least one public hearing, no sooner than 30 days after the EPA notice of availability is published. DOE will consider comments submitted during the comment period on the draft SEIS when preparing the final SEIS. DOE anticipates issuing a final SEIS in the summer of 2026. EPA will issue a notice of availability of the final SEIS in the

**Federal Register**. DOE anticipates issuing a record of decision in the fall of 2026 but will do so no sooner than 30 days from the EPA notice of availability of the final SEIS in the **Federal Register**.

#### Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on December 17, 2024, by Candice Trummell, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy.

This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 19, 2024.

**Jennifer Hartzell**,

*Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,  
U.S. Department of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2024–30795 Filed 12–26–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 6689–000]

#### Briar Hydro Associates; Notice of Authorization for Continued Project Operation

The license for the Penacook Upper Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 6689 was issued for a period ending November 30, 2024.

Section 15(a)(1) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. 808(a)(1), requires the Commission, at the expiration of a license term, to issue from year-to-year an annual license to the then licensee(s) under the terms and conditions of the prior license until a new license is issued, or the project is otherwise disposed of as provided in section 15 or any other applicable section of the FPA. If the project's prior license waived the applicability of section 15 of the FPA, then, based on section 9(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 558(c), and as set forth at 18 CFR 16.21(a), if the licensee of such project has filed an application for a subsequent license, the

licensee may continue to operate the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license after the minor or minor part license expires, until the Commission acts on its application. If the licensee of such a project has not filed an application for a subsequent license, then it may be required, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.21(b), to continue project operations until the Commission issues someone else a license for the project or otherwise orders disposition of the project.

If the project is subject to section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that an annual license for Project No. 6689 is issued to Briar Hydro Associates for a period effective December 1, 2024, through November 30, 2025, or until the issuance of a new license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first.

If issuance of a new license (or other disposition) does not take place on or before November 30, 2025, notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.18(c), an annual license under section 15(a)(1) of the FPA is renewed automatically without further order or notice by the Commission, unless the Commission orders otherwise.

If the project is not subject to section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that Briar Hydro Associates is authorized to continue operation of the Penacook Upper Falls Hydroelectric Project under the terms and conditions of the prior license until the issuance of a subsequent license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first.

Dated: December 19, 2024.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese**,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2024–31045 Filed 12–26–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 3342–000]

#### Briar Hydro Associates; Notice of Authorization for Continued Project Operation

The license for the Penacook Lower Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 3342 was issued for a period ending November 30, 2024.

Section 15(a)(1) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. 808(a)(1), requires the Commission, at the expiration of a license term, to issue from year-to-year an annual license to the then licensee(s) under the terms and conditions of the prior license until a

new license is issued, or the project is otherwise disposed of as provided in section 15 or any other applicable section of the FPA. If the project's prior license waived the applicability of section 15 of the FPA, then, based on section 9(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 558(c), and as set forth at 18 CFR 16.21(a), if the licensee of such project has filed an application for a subsequent license, the licensee may continue to operate the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license after the minor or minor part license expires, until the Commission acts on its application. If the licensee of such a project has not filed an application for a subsequent license, then it may be required, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.21(b), to continue project operations until the Commission issues someone else a license for the project or otherwise orders disposition of the project.

If the project is subject to section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that an annual license for Project No. 3342 is issued to Briar Hydro Associates for a period effective December 1, 2024, through November 30, 2025, or until the issuance of a new license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first.

If issuance of a new license (or other disposition) does not take place on or before November 30, 2025, notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.18(c), an annual license under section 15(a)(1) of the FPA is renewed automatically without further order or notice by the Commission, unless the Commission orders otherwise.

If the project is not subject to section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that Briar Hydro Associates is authorized to continue operation of the Penacook Lower Falls Hydroelectric Project under the terms and conditions of the prior license until the issuance of a subsequent license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first.

Dated: December 19, 2024.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2024-31047 Filed 12-26-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 15267-001]

#### Allegheny Hydro Group Lock and Dam 4, Inc.; Notice of Intent To File License Application, Filing of Pre-Application Document, and Approving Use of the Traditional Licensing Process

a. *Type of Filing:* Notice of Intent to File License Application and Request to Use the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP).

b. *Project No.:* 15267-001.

c. *Date Filed:* October 30, 2024.

d. *Submitted By:* Allegheny Hydro Group Lock and Dam 4, Inc.<sup>1</sup> (Allegheny Hydro).

e. *Name of Project:* Allegheny Lock and Dam 4 Hydropower Project.

f. *Location:* The project would be located on the Allegheny River, at the existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Allegheny Lock and Dam 4, in Harrison Township, Allegheny County, and in the City of Lower Burrell, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. The project would partially occupy federal land administered by the Corps.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* 18 CFR 5.3 of the Commission's regulations.

h. *Potential Applicant Contact:* Jeremy King, CEO; Current Hydro LLC; 3120 Southwest Freeway; Suite 101, PMB 50808; Houston, TX 77098, . Email: [jeremy@currenthydro.com](mailto:jeremy@currenthydro.com); Phone: (706) 835-8516.

i. *FERC Contact:* Silvia Pineda-Munoz at (202) 502-8388; or email at [silvia.pineda-munoz@ferc.gov](mailto:silvia.pineda-munoz@ferc.gov).

j. Allegheny Hydro filed its request to use the Traditional Licensing Process on October 30, 2024, and provided public notice of its request on November 3, 2024, and November 4, 2024. In a letter dated December 18, 2024, the Director of the Division of Hydropower Licensing approved Allegheny Hydro's request to use the Traditional Licensing Process.

k. With this notice, we are initiating informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 CFR part 402; and NOAA Fisheries under section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.920. We are also initiating consultation with the

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer, as required by section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the implementing regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at 36 CFR 800.2.

l. With this notice, we are designating Allegheny Hydro as the Commission's non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and consultation pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

m. Allegheny Hydro filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD; including a proposed process plan and schedule) with the Commission, pursuant to 18 CFR 5.6 of the Commission's regulations.

n. A copy of the PAD may be viewed on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the docket number field, to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). You may register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/> [ferconline.aspx](https://ferconline.ferc.gov/ferconline.aspx) to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

o. The applicant states its unequivocal intent to submit an application for an original license for Project No. 15267.

p. 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).

Dated: December 18, 2024.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2024-30867 Filed 12-26-24; 8:45 am]

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<sup>1</sup> Allegheny Hydro Group Lock and Dam 4, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Current Hydro LLC, which acts as agent for the applicant.