

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]

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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 Penacock 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 Penacock 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]

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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 Penacock 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