

landowners, local 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.

Dated: February 4, 2025.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 14634-008]

New England Hydropower Company, LLC; Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Soliciting Additional Study Requests and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Licensing

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* Original Minor License.

b. *Project No.:* 14634-008.

c. *Date Filed:* January 21, 2025.

d. *Applicant:* New England Hydropower Company, LLC (NEHC).

e. *Name of Project:* Ashton Dam Hydroelectric Project (project).

f. *Location:* On the Blackstone River in Providence County, Rhode Island.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Michael Kerr, New England Hydropower Company, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 451C, Beverly, MA 01915; Phone at (978) 360-2547, or email at michael@nehydropower.com; or Carol Wasserman, New England Hydropower Company, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 451C, Beverly, MA 01915; Phone at (339) 293-3157, or email carol@nehydropower.com.

i. *FERC Contact:* John Baummer at (202) 502-6837, or john.baummer@ferc.gov.

j. *Cooperating Agencies:* Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues that wish to cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document should follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item l below. Cooperating

agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document cannot also intervene. See, 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).

k. Pursuant to section 4.32(b)(7) of 18 CFR of the Commission's regulations, if any resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person believes that an additional scientific study should be conducted in order to form an adequate factual basis for a complete analysis of the application on its merit, the resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person must file a request for a study with the Commission not later than 60 days from the date of filing of the application, and serve a copy of the request on the applicant.

l. *Deadline for filing additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status:* March 22, 2025.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@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: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: Ashton Dam Hydroelectric Project (P-14634-008).

m. The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

n. *The proposed Ashton Dam Hydroelectric Project would consist of:*

(1) an existing stone masonry gravity dam that includes: (a) a western abutment section; (b) a 203-foot-long western spillway section with a crest elevation of 73.6 feet North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88); (c) an 18-foot-long stone masonry pier that includes two 4-foot-wide, 8-foot-high existing openings that would be modified to close the openings; (d) an existing 54-foot-long eastern spillway section that would be replaced with a new 54-foot-long concrete section that includes: (i) two new 19.8-foot-wide, horizontal steel trashracks sloped at 8 degrees to inflow with 0.5-inch clear bar spacing; (ii) two new 19.7-foot-wide,

60.8-foot-long concrete penstocks, and (iii) four new hinged, adjustable Obermeyer metal crest gates installed on top of the new concrete structure with a crest elevation of 73.6 feet NAVD 88; and (e) an eastern abutment section; (2) an existing impoundment with a surface area of 35 acres at an elevation of 73.6 feet NAVD 88; (3) four new submersible StreamDiver Kaplan turbine-generator units (three 224-kilowatt [kW] and one 121-kW generators) located in the openings of the new concrete structure, with a total installed capacity of 793 kW; (4) a new 15.4-foot-long, 8.6-foot-high draft tube and a new 16.9-foot-long, 6.7-foot-high draft tube; (5) a new 60-foot-long, 41-foot-wide concrete tailrace and an approximately 30- to 45-foot-long, 44.3-foot-wide concrete apron; (6) a new 35-foot-long, 16-foot-wide control building located on the eastern shoreline of the Blackstone River; (7) a new 1,000 kilo-volt-amperes step-up transformer located on a new 6-foot-long, 5.3-foot-wide concrete pad; (8) a new 1,410-foot-long transmission line consisting of an 820-foot-long underground segment and a 590-foot-long overhead segment connecting the project to the distribution system owned by the Rhode Island Energy; (9) a new access road and parking area; and (10) appurtenant facilities.

In addition to the new facilities listed above, NEHC proposes to: (1) operate the project in a run-of-river mode with an estimated annual energy production of approximately 3,100 megawatt-hours; (2) release a continuous minimum flow of 100 cubic feet per second or inflow whichever is less, over the western spillway; (3) install a downstream fish passage facility between the crest gates on top of the new concrete structure; (4) install an upstream eel passage facility at the project dam; (5) develop an erosion control plan; (6) implement Best Management Practices to control erosion and sedimentation during construction; (7) develop a contaminated sediment management and disposal plan; (8) monitor water quality post construction; (9) restore and improve an existing canoe portage upstream and downstream of the dam; (10) develop an invasive species management plan; (11) develop an historic properties management plan; (12) install interpretive historic signage for educational purposes at the project; and (13) develop a project operation and maintenance plan.

o. Copies of the application may be viewed on the Commission's website at <https://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 (P-14634). For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call tollfree, (866) 208-3676 or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

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, 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.

p. *Procedural Schedule*: The application will be processed according to the following preliminary schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

Milestone—Target Date

Issue Deficiency Letter (if necessary)—
March 2025

Request Additional Information—March
2025

Issue Acceptance Letter—July 2025

Issue Scoping Document 1 for
comments—July 2025

Request Additional Information (if
necessary)—August 2025

Issue Scoping Document 2—October
2025

Issue Notice of Ready for Environmental
Analysis—October 2025

Dated: February 4, 2025.

Debbie Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP25-29-000]

Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Eastern Gas Transmission and Storage Proposed Capital Area Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental document, that will discuss the environmental impacts of

the Capital Area Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Eastern Gas Transmission and Storage (EGTS), in Clinton, Centre and Franklin Counties, Pennsylvania, and Loudoun County, Virginia. The Commission will use this environmental document in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies regarding the project. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, the Commission takes into account concerns the public may have about proposals and the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. This gathering of public input is referred to as "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the environmental document on the important environmental issues. Additional information about the Commission's NEPA process is described below in the *NEPA Process and Environmental Document* section of this notice.

By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of issues to address in the environmental document. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on March 6, 2025. Comments may be submitted in written form. Further details on how to submit comments are provided in the *Public Participation* section of this notice.

Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the environmental document. Commission staff will consider all written comments during the preparation of the environment document.

If you submitted comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on December 23, 2024, you would need to file those comments in Docket No. CP25-29-000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and

local government representatives should notify their constituents of this proposed project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable easement agreement. You are not required to enter into an agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, the Natural Gas Act conveys the right of eminent domain to the company. Therefore, if you and the company do not reach an easement agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in court. In such instances, compensation would be determined by a judge in accordance with state law. The Commission does not subsequently grant, exercise, or oversee the exercise of that eminent domain authority. The courts have exclusive authority to handle eminent domain cases; the Commission has no jurisdiction over these matters.

EGTS provided landowners with a fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" which addresses typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. This fact sheet along with other landowner topics of interest are available for viewing on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) under the Natural Gas, Landowner Topics link.

Public Participation

There are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208-3676 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to FERC Online. Using eComment is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically by using the eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to FERC Online. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New