

Dated: February 10, 2022.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 6717–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2322–000]

#### Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC; Notice of Authorization for Continued Project Operation

On January 31, 2020, Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC, licensee for the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project No.2322, filed an Application for a New Major License for Shawmut Hydroelectric Project pursuant to the Federal Power Act (FPA) and the Commission's regulations thereunder. The Shawmut Hydroelectric Project is located on the Kennebec River in Kennebec and Somerset Counties, Maine.

The license for Project No. 2322 was issued for a period ending January 31, 2022.<sup>1</sup> 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. 2322 is issued to Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC, for a period effective February 1, 2022 through January 30, 2023 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 January 30, 2023, 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 Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC, is authorized to continue operation of the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project, until such time as the Commission acts on its application for a new major license.

Dated: February 10, 2022.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP21–113–000]

#### Alliance Pipeline, L.P.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Three Rivers Interconnection Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Schedule for Environmental Review

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Three Rivers Interconnection Project (Project) involving construction and operation of facilities by Alliance Pipeline, L.P. (Alliance) in Grundy County, Illinois. The Commission will use this EIS in its decision-making process to determine whether the Project is in the public convenience and necessity. The schedule for preparation of the EIS is discussed in the *Schedule for Environmental Review* section of this notice.

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 whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. This gathering of public input is referred to as “scoping.” By notice issued on September 20, 2021 in Docket No. CP21–113–000, the Commission opened a scoping period to solicit comments. Commission staff intends to prepare an EIS that will address the concerns raised during the scoping process and comments received in response to this notice.

By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of issues to address in the environmental document, including comments on potential alternatives and impacts, and any relevant information, studies, or analyses of any kind concerning impacts affecting the quality of the human environment. 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 14, 2022. Comments may be submitted in written or oral form. Further details on how to submit comments are provided in the *Public Participation* section of this notice.

As mentioned above, the Commission opened a scoping period which expired on October 19, 2021; however, Commission staff continued to accept comments after the comment period closed. All substantive comments provided will be addressed in the EIS. Therefore, if you submitted comments on this Project to the Commission during the previous scoping period, you do not need to file those comments again.

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 grant, exercise, or

<sup>1</sup> The Commission issued the current license for the Shawmut Project on January 5, 1981, with an effective date of February 1, 1981, and a term of 40 years, expiring on January 31, 2021. *Central Maine Power Company*, 14 FERC ¶ 62,004 (1981). On December 11, 2018, the license term was extended by one year to January 31, 2022. *Brookfield White Pine Hydro, LLC*, 165 FERC ¶ 62,152 (2018).