

m. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" 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 or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

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

n. *Scoping Process*: The Commission intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the projects in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS will consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action.

Scoping Meetings

FERC staff will conduct one evening meeting and one daytime scoping meeting. The evening scoping meeting is primarily for public input, while the daytime scoping meeting will focus on resource agency and non-governmental organization (NGO) concerns. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist the staff in identifying the scope of the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EIS. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Evening Scoping Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2003.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Stanislaus National Forest Office Building.

Address: 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, California.

Daytime Scoping Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 19, 2003.

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Stanislaus National Forest Office Building.

Address: 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, California.

Copies of the Scoping Document (SD1) outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the EIS are being distributed to the parties on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of the SD1 will be available at the scoping

meeting or may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link (*see* item m above).

Site Visit

Due to the logistics involved in traveling to some project locations, there is a need to know the number of attendees in advance. All individuals planning to attend need to call Susan O'Brien, FERC Team Leader, at (202) 502-8449, no later than Thursday, June 12, 2003.

FERC staff and the Applicants and will conduct a 2-day project site visit on June 17 and June 18, 2003, beginning at 7 a.m. each morning. Additionally, on Friday, June 20, 2003, some participants will hike up to Relief Reservoir. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend any or all three days of the site visit. All participants should meet each morning at the Best Western Sonora Oaks Hotel main entrance, 19551 Hess Ave, Sonora, CA. All participants need to bring their own lunch and are responsible for their own transportation, although we will try to carpool. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are needed to get to some locations.

Tentative schedule for site visit (times given are in Pacific Daylight Savings):

Tuesday June 17

7 am: Site Visit Group departs from Best Western Hotel in Sonora, CA
Morning: Pinecrest Lake, Donnell's Reservoir, Donnell's Dam
Afternoon: Hells Half Acre, Beardsley day use site, Beardsley Reservoir and Afterbay, Sand Bar diversion and Stanislaus Tunnel intake, Philadelphia Forebay, and Philadelphia Diversion

Wednesday, June 18

7 a.m.: Site Visit Group departs from Best Western Hotel in Sonora, CA
Morning: Stanislaus Power House via Columbia stopping at old Afterbay, continue to Power House. Split into 2 groups. Group 1: Stanislaus Power House, Tulloch via Angels Camp & Highway 4 stopping at Tulloch Resort Group 2: Stanislaus Forebay
Afternoon:-Group 1: Drive through of Conner Estates and Peninsula Estates then on to O'Byrne's Ferry Bridge, Tulloch Dam All: groups rejoin at Goodwin and Tulloch Reservoir, drive through of South Shore Marina and stop for view at Goodwin
5 p.m.: Return to Sonora for preparation of evening meeting.

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will:
(1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the

EIS; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EIS, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views; (4) determine the resource issues to be addressed in the EIS; and (5) identify those issues that require a detailed analysis, as well as those issues that do not require a detailed analysis.

Procedures

The meetings are recorded by a stenographer and become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meeting and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the EIS.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-13293 Filed 5-28-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Motions To Intervene and Protests

May 21, 2003.

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

a. *Type of Application*: Application for new license.

b. *Project No.*: 2174-012.

c. *Date filed*: March 27, 2003.

d. *Applicant*: Southern California Edison.

e. *Name of Project*: Portal Project.

f. *Location*: On Rancheria Creek in Fresno County, near Big Creek, California. The project affects federal lands in the Sierra National Forest, covering a total of 77.67 acres.

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

h. *Applicant Contact*: R. W. Krieger, Vice President, Power Production, Southern California Edison Company, 300 N. Lone Hill Ave., San Dimas, California 91773, (909) 394-8667.

i. *FERC Contact*: Jim Fargo at (202) 219-2848; e-mail james.fargo@ferc.gov.

j. *Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests:* 60 days from the issuance date of this notice.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments, motions to intervene and protests may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the "e-Filing" link.

The Commission's rules of practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. *The existing Portal Project consists of:* (1) A 795-foot-long compacted earth and rock-fill dam; (2) Portal Forebay, with a 325 acre-foot useable storage capacity at elevation 7,185 feet; (3) an open channel spillway at the left abutment of the dam, discharging into Camp 61 Creek; (4) an outlet channel consisting of (a) the Adit 2 tunnel and shaft between Portal Forebay and Ward Tunnel, (b) Ward Tunnel for a distance of about 32,000 feet from Adit 2 to the base of the surge chamber on the tunnel, (c) a rock trap immediately downstream of the surge chamber, and (d) a 1,180-foot-long penstock from the rock trap to where it bifurcates just upstream of the Portal Powerhouse; (5) a 10.8-MW turbine located in the concrete powerhouse; and (6) a 2.5-mile-long 480 kV transmission line.

m. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" 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 or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

n. Anyone may submit a protest or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, 385.211, and 385.214. In determining

the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any protests or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular application.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST" or "MOTION TO INTERVENE;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7504-7]

Solicitation of Public Comment Into the Development of a Joint U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and American Chemistry Council (ACC) Request for Applications on "Environmental Statistics Research: Novel Analyses of Human Exposure Related Data;" Announcement of Memorandum of Understanding Between EPA and ACC on the Procedure for the Joint Solicitation of Research Proposals

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and the American Chemistry Council's (ACC) Long-Range Research Initiative (LRI) are interested in issuing joint solicitations for research proposals. A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed that sets forth a public process for bringing together government and industry to engage the best scientists in the research community to assist in improving the quantity and quality of data for use in human health and

ecological risk assessment. Discussions have led ORD and ACC to agree to pursue, as a first area of collaboration, a joint request for applications (RFA) in the area of "Environmental Statistics Research: Novel Analyses of Human Exposure Related Data." The purpose of this notice is to solicit specific input into the development of a joint RFA on novel approaches for analysis of human exposure data, and announce a Memorandum of Understanding on the procedures for the public process of issuing joint RFAs.

DATES: Public comment on the draft RFA must be received on or before June 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Public comment may be submitted via overnight mail, in person or electronically.

1. By overnight mail, in person, or by courier. You may submit written comments to: Elaine Z. Francis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 51141, Washington, DC 20004

2. Electronically. You may submit written comments electronically by e-mail to: francis.elaine@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elaine Z. Francis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 51141, Washington, DC 20004; Telephone: 202-564-6789; Fax: 202-565-2444; E-mail: francis.elaine@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On May 7, 2002, a **Federal Register** notice was published (67 FR 30680) on the availability of a draft document on procedures for the joint solicitation of research proposals by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development and the American Chemistry Council's Long-Range Initiative, the announcement of a public meeting to discuss the draft document, and solicitation of written public comments. The notice also solicited initial input toward the development of an RFA on novel analyses of human exposure related data, both at the public meeting and through the written comment period. The public meeting was held on May 23, 2002, and the public comment period closed on June 12, 2002.

The public process for the joint solicitation of RFAs was finalized into a Memorandum of Understanding between ORD and ACC. Consistent with the finalized procedures, this notice solicits public comment on the draft RFA. The draft RFA on novel analyses of human exposure related data and the MOU may be obtained electronically through: (1) The EPA Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/partners/acc>, (2)