

Comment date: November 30, 2000, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraphs:

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-29851 Filed 11-21-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2016-044 Washington]

City of Tacoma; Notice of Intent To Prepare Environmental Impact Statement

November 16, 2000.

On December 27, 1999, the City of Tacoma (Tacoma) filed an application for a new license for the continued operation of the 462-megawatt Cowlitz River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2016-044). On September 11, 2000, Tacoma filed an Offer of Settlement for the new license. The project is located on the Cowlitz River in Lewis County, Washington. About 5 acres are included within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and about 59 acres are located on lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Commission's regulations for using the alternative licensing process,¹ Tacoma held public scoping meetings for the Cowlitz River Hydroelectric Project on May 5, 6, and 7, 1998, in

Lacey, Chehalis, and Mossyrock, Washington, respectively.² Commission staff, state, federal and local agencies, tribes, and the public participated in the meetings. These scoping meetings and an open and extensive collaborative relicensing process were used to define the issues and alternatives addressed in Tacoma's Environmental Assessment and Offer of Settlement. In addition, the Commission solicited comments on the license application and the Offer of Settlement by notice of March 15, 2000, and September 19, 2000, respectively.³ Following the public scoping process, the Commission staff determined that licensing the Cowlitz Project could constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the staff intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the project in accordance with the NEPA. The staff's EIS will objectively consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts of the projects and reasonable alternatives, and will include economic and engineering analyses.

A draft EIS will be issued and circulated for review by all interested parties. All comments filed on the draft EIS will be analyzed by the staff and considered in the final EIS. The staff's conclusions and recommendations will then be presented for the consideration of the Commission in reaching its final licensing decision.

This notice informs all interested individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns, that: (1) the Commission staff has decided to prepare an EIS; and (2) the scoping conducted on the Cowlitz River Hydroelectrical Project by Tacoma and comments filed with the Commission on the application and the Offer of Settlement still apply and will be taken into account in the EIS.

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to David Turner at (202) 219-2844.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-29855 Filed 11-21-00; 8:45 am]

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² 63 FR 19,274 (April 17, 1998).

³ At the request of the parties to the settlement, the deadline for filing comments on the application was extended twice by notices of March 10, 2000, and July 12, 2000.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Motions to Intervene, Protests, and Comments

November 16, 2000.

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

a. *Type of Application:* Preliminary Permit.

b. *Project No.:* 11863-000

c. *Dated filed:* October 31, 2000.

d. *Applicant:* The Marseilles Land & Water Company.

e. *Name of Project:* Marseilles Project.

f. *Location:* On Illinois River, in LaSalle County, Illinois. Uses U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Marseilles Dam.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 USC 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Lee Mueller, The Marseilles Land & Water Company, 229 S. Main Street, Marseilles, IL 61341, (815) 795-2722.

i. *FERC Contact:* Robert Bell, (202) 219-2806.

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

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426. Comments 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 at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi.doorbell.htm>.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all interveners filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person in the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merit 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. *Description of Project:* The proposed project would utilize the existing Corp of Engineers Marseilles Dam and Reservoir and would consist of: (1) the two existing intake canals; (2) two existing head races; (3) a proposed powerhouse containing three generating units with a total installed capacity of 8.4 MW; (4) a proposed 400-foot-long, 4.16 kV transmission line; and (5) appurtenant facilities

¹ 81 FERC ¶11,103 (1997).