DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2458–273]

Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC; Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Licensing and Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments

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

a. *Type of Application:* New Major License.

b. *Project No.:* 2458–273.

c. *Date Filed:* September 30, 2024.

d. *Applicant:* Great Lakes Hydro American, LLC (GLHA).

e. *Name of Project:* Penobscot Mills Hydroelectric Project (project).

f. *Location:* On the West Branch of the Penobscot River (West Branch) and Millinocket Stream in Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties, Maine.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Michael Scarzello, Licensing Manager, Brookfield Renewable U.S., 399 Big Bay Road, Queensbury, NY 12804; (315) 566–0197; *Michael.scarzello@brookfieldrenewable.com.*

i. *FERC Contact:* Allan Creamer, Project Coordinator; telephone at (202) 502–8365; email at *allan.creamer@ferc.gov.*

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

k. *Project Description:* The Penobscot Mills Project consists of: (1) four hydropower developments (North Twin, Millinocket, Dolby, and East Millinocket; located between river mile 15 and river mile 2 on the West Branch) that include (a) water retaining features (*e.g.,* dam/spillway, flashboards/rubber dam, and dikes), (b) water conduits/canals and penstocks, (c) intake structures equipped with trashracks, (d) four powerhouses, and (e) transmission equipment (*e.g.,* transmission lines); (2) a pool-and-weir fish passage facility at North Twin; and (3) one storage development (Millinocket Lake Storage Development; located on Millinocket Stream). The total rated capacity of the project is 67.9 megawatts. The North Twin impoundment is at the upstream end of the Penobscot Mills Project and receives flow from the Ripogenus Project. Releases from the North Twin Development pass through three other developments (*i.e.,* Millinocket, Dolby, and East Millinocket). The Millinocket Lake Storage Development includes a pumping station through which water can be pumped to Ambajejus Lake (within the North Twin impoundment). Water not pumped to Ambajejus Lake is discharged to Millinocket Stream, which enters the West Branch at Shad Pond, downstream from the Millinocket Development, then passes through the Dolby and East Millinocket Developments. In addition to these developments, the project includes two battery energy sites that operate as a single Battery Energy Storage System to enhance system reliability.

The five developments that compose the Penobscot Mills Project are operated as an integrated system, along with upstream storage projects, including the Ripogenus Project No. 2572, to manage water levels and flows downstream from the project. GLHA operates the North Twin Development as a store-and-release facility, and uses storage in the Millinocket Lake Storage impoundment, as necessary, to maintain North Twin Lake levels. The two storage developments (North Twin and Millinocket Lake Storage) are located upstream of the run-of-release developments (Millinocket, Dolby, and East Millinocket). GLHA releases minimum flows from Millinocket Lake into Millinocket Stream, as well as a continuous minimum flow in the West Branch downstream from the North Twin Development. Additional details regarding the Penobscot Mills Project facilities and operations can be found in Exhibit A (Penobscot Mills Project) and Exhibit B of the license application, and can be access by following the instructions in paragraph l.

GLHA proposes to continue to operate: (1) the North Twin Development for generation and seasonal storage, with target impoundment elevations of 490.42 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29) from May 1 through August 21 and 488.42 feet NGVD 29 from August 22 through October 15, as well as to provide flows necessary to meet the 2,000-cfs flow requirement in the West Branch downstream from Shad Pond; (2) the Millinocket Lake Storage Development to (a) maintain impoundment elevations between 470 feet and 480 feet NGVD 29, and (b) provide a minimum flow of 60 cubic feet per second (cfs), or inflow (seasonally), to Millinocket Stream; and (3) the Millinocket, Dolby, and East Millinocket Developments as run-of-release facilities. GLHA also proposes to continue to operate and maintain the upstream pool-and-weir fish passage structure at North Twin Dam, post lake level (for North Twin and Millinocket Lake Storage) and flow information on Brookfield's existing SafeWaters website, maintain the 200-foot conservation buffer and 100-foot vegetation buffer around the Millinocket Lake Storage, North Twin, Millinocket, and Dolby impoundments, and maintain Umbazooksus Lake as wetland and wildlife habitat. GLHA also proposes to release a year-round 200-cfs minimum flow from Stone Dam; provide American eel passage, conduct eel studies, and develop a fishway operations and maintenance plan; provide seasonal whitewater boating flows of 600 cfs in Millinocket Stream; and develop an updated wildlife management area plan, a recreation plan, a shoreline management plan, and a historic properties management plan.

l. In addition to publishing this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this notice, as well as other documents in the proceeding (*e.g.,* license application) via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (*http://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–2458). For assistance, contact FERC at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov,* (866) 208–3676 (toll free), or (202) 502–8659 (TTY).

You may also register online at *https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.aspx* to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

m. 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, environmental justice 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.*

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

Deficiency Letter (if necessary)
October 2024
Additional Information Request
November 2024
Notice of Acceptance March 2025

Issue Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis March 2025

o. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of the notice of ready for environmental analysis.

Dated: October 15, 2024.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024–24379 Filed 10–21–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA–HQ–OAR–2024–0309; FRL–12263–01–OAR]

Planned Change Request for Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Replacement Panels 11 and 12; Reopening of Public Comment Period

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability with request for public comment; reopening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: On July 16, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the Agency) announced for public comment the availability of a Planned Change Request (PCR) recently submitted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to modify the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The proposed change will involve adding two additional waste panels west of the current repository to replace lost disposal capacity resulting from the 2014 radiological incident and resulting ground control issues. A 60-day comment period was provided for the PCR that expired on September 16, 2024. A request for an extension to the comment period was received from several stakeholders, most recently at the Agency's informal public meetings held in New Mexico in late August. EPA is reopening the comment period to seek public input on both DOE's application and on what EPA should consider in its evaluation.

DATES: The public comment period for the notice published July 16, 2024 at 89 FR 57887, has reopened on October 22, 2024. It will remain open until the Agency publishes a future notice in the **Federal Register** that specifies the end of the public comment period.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2024–0309, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov* (our preferred method). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Email: a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov.* Include Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2024–0309 in the subject line of the message.
- *U.S. Postal Service Mail:* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Air and Radiation Docket, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* EPA Docket Center, WJC West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004. The Docket Center's hours of operations are 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday (except Federal Holidays).

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2024–0309. Comments received may be posted without change to *https://www.regulations.gov,* including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on sending comments, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document. A copy of the DOE's 2024 PCR is linked on EPA's WIPP website (*https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-03/24-0168-wipp-pcr-panels-letter-enclosures.pdf*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ray Lee, Radiation Protection Division, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, Mail Code 6608T, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 343–9463; email address: *lee.raymond@epa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2024–0309, at *https://www.regulations.gov* (our preferred method), or the other methods identified in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from the docket. EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.,* on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit *https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets.*

Tips for preparing your comments. When submitting comments, remember to:

- Identify the document by docket number, subject heading, **Federal Register** date, and page number.
- Provide a brief description of yourself and your role or organization.
- Explain why you agree or disagree; suggest alternatives and substitute language for your requested changes.
- Describe any assumptions and provide any technical information and/or data that you used.
- Illustrate your concerns with specific examples and suggest alternatives.
- Explain your views as clearly as possible, avoiding the use of profanity or personal threats.
- Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.

I. Background

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is a transuranic (TRU) radioactive waste disposal system developed by the DOE that is located near Carlsbad in southeastern New Mexico. TRU radioactive waste is emplaced about 650 meters (2,150 feet) underground in an ancient layer of salt that will eventually ''creep,'' encapsulate, and isolate the waste from the surrounding environment. The 1992 WIPP Land Withdrawal Act (Pub. L. 102–579) (LWA) limits radioactive waste disposal in the WIPP to TRU radioactive wastes generated by defense-related activities.[1] The WIPP LWA provides EPA with authority to oversee and regulate the WIPP. The WIPP must meet EPA's generic radioactive waste disposal standards at 40 CFR part 191, subparts B and C. These standards limit releases of radioactive materials from disposal systems for radioactive waste and require implementation of measures to provide confidence for compliance with the radiation release limits. Additionally, the regulations limit radiation doses to members of the public and protect ground water resources by establishing maximum concentrations for radionuclides in ground water.

In 1996, the Agency issued the WIPP Compliance Criteria, which are located at 40 CFR part 194, as mandated by WIPP LWA, section 8(c).[2] DOE submitted the initial WIPP Compliance

[1] TRU waste is defined as waste containing more than 100 nano-curies per gram of alpha-emitting radioactive isotopes, with half-lives greater than twenty years and atomic numbers greater than 92.

[2] 61 FR 5224–5245 (February 9, 1996).