

and support services identified in response to Questions A2 and A4? If risks exist, discuss whether these risks can be effectively mitigated by a responsible entity.

B5. What are the potential benefits of relying on third-party assessments to ensure the secure use of virtualization and cloud computing services for BES reliability operations and support services?

B6. Discuss any risks associated with relying on third party assessments to ensure the secure use of virtualization and cloud computing services for BES reliability operations and support services and potential solutions to mitigate those risks.

### *C. Potential Impediments to Adopting Virtualization and Cloud Computing Services*

19. As discussed above, during the Commission's 2019 annual Reliability Technical Conference, several commenters alluded to the fact that cloud-based offerings continue to increase as vendors are moving more of their services to the cloud.<sup>11</sup> Commenters further asserted that there is uncertainty on how virtualization and cloud computing services can be leveraged within the existing CIP framework. Similarly, at the March 2019 Commission/DOE Security Investments for Energy Infrastructure Technical Conference, a panelist asserted that there is uncertainty among registered entities on whether the CIP Reliability Standards allow cloud-based technologies "despite the fact that the majority of new products from many vendors are cloud-based."<sup>12</sup>

20. In light of the concerns expressed at these technical conferences, the Commission seeks comment on potential challenges with how the implementation of virtualization and cloud computing technologies will fit into the framework of the CIP Reliability Standards, and possible solutions to those challenges:

C1. Provide comment on the validity of the panelists' concern discussed above and discuss the extent to which the trend toward cloud-based services could affect reliable and secure bulk electric system operations.

C2. Are there any technical challenges in implementing virtualization technology for the BES reliability operating services identified in response to Question A1 that result from the current CIP Reliability Standards? Discuss how the CIP Reliability Standards could be augmented to address these challenges.

C3. Are there any challenges in implementing virtualization technology for the BES reliability operating services identified in response to Question A1 that

result from compliance obligations associated with the CIP Reliability Standards? Discuss how the CIP Reliability Standards could be augmented to address these challenges.

C4. Are there any technical challenges in implementing cloud computing technology for the BES reliability operating services identified in response to Question A2 that result from the current CIP Reliability Standards? Discuss how the CIP Reliability Standards could be augmented to address these challenges.

C5. Are there any challenges in implementing cloud computing technology for the BES reliability operating services identified in response to Question A2 that result from compliance obligations associated with the CIP Reliability Standards? Discuss how the CIP Reliability Standards could be augmented to address these challenges.

### *D. Potential Use of New and Emerging Technologies in the Current CIP Standards Framework*

21. The Commission seeks comment on potential new and emerging technologies beyond virtualization and cloud computing that responsible entities may be interested in adopting for the BES reliability operating services and if the CIP Reliability Standards would allow these technologies to be adopted.

D1. In addition to virtualization and clouding computing, discuss whether the CIP Reliability Standards limit the ability to take full advantage of new and emerging technologies for BES reliability operating services. Explain the types of new technologies, the potential benefits and how the CIP Reliability Standards may limit their use.

### **III. Comment Procedures**

22. The Commission invites interested persons to submit comments on the matters and issues proposed in this notice, including any related matters or alternative proposals that commenters may wish to discuss. Comments are due April 27, 2020, and Reply Comments are due May 27, 2020. Comments must refer to Docket No. RM20-8-000, and must include the commenter's name, the organization they represent, if applicable, and their address.

23. The Commission encourages comments to be filed electronically via the eFiling link on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov>. The Commission accepts most standard word-processing formats. Documents created electronically using word-processing software should be filed in native applications or print-to-PDF format and not in a scanned format. Commenters filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing.

24. Commenters that are not able to file comments electronically must send an original of their comments to:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

25. All comments will be placed in the Commission's public files and may be viewed, printed, or downloaded remotely as described in the Document Availability section below. Commenters on this proposal are not required to serve copies of their comments on other commenters.

### **IV. Document Availability**

26. In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) and in the Commission's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern time) at 888 First Street NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426.

27. From the Commission's Home Page on the internet, this information is available on eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing, printing, and/or downloading. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field.

28. User assistance is available for eLibrary and the Commission's website during normal business hours from the Commission's Online Support at (202) 502-6652 (toll free at 1-866-208-3676) or email at [ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov](mailto:ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov), or the Public Reference Room at (202) 502-8371, TTY (202) 502-8659. Email the Public Reference Room at [public.referenceroom@ferc.gov](mailto:public.referenceroom@ferc.gov).

By direction of the Commission.

Issued: February 20, 2020.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 3273-024]

### **Chittenden Falls Hydropower, Inc.; Notice of Application Ready for Environmental Analysis and Soliciting Comments, Recommendations, Terms and Conditions, and Prescriptions**

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

<sup>11</sup> See June 27, 2019 annual Reliability Technical Conference, Transcript pages 113 and 115-116.

<sup>12</sup> See March 28, 2019, Commission/DOE Security Investments for Energy Infrastructure Technical Conference, Transcript page 128.

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

b. *Project No.*: 3273–024.

c. *Date filed*: May 31, 2019.

d. *Applicant*: Chittenden Falls Hydropower, Inc. (Chittenden Falls Hydro).

e. *Name of Project*: Chittenden Falls Hydropower Project.

f. *Location*: On Kinderhook Creek, near the Town of Stockport, Columbia County, New York. The project does not occupy federal land.

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

h. *Applicant Contact*: Mark Boumansour, Chief Operating Officer, Gravity Renewables, Inc., 1401 Walnut Street, Suite 420, Boulder, CO 80302; (303) 440–3378; [mark@gravityrenewables.com](mailto:mark@gravityrenewables.com) and/or Celeste N. Fay, Regulatory Manager, Gravity Renewables, Inc., 5 Dartmouth Drive, Suite 104, Auburn, NH 03032; (413) 262–9466; [celeste@gravityrenewables.com](mailto:celeste@gravityrenewables.com).

i. *FERC Contact*: Monir Chowdhury at (202) 502–6736 or [monir.chowdhury@ferc.gov](mailto:monir.chowdhury@ferc.gov).

j. *Deadline for filing comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions*: 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208–3676 (toll free), or (202) 502–8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P–3273–024.

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 has been accepted and is ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. *The Chittenden Falls Hydropower Project consists of*: (1) An approximately 4-foot-high, 320-foot-long concrete gravity dam, topped with 2-foot-high wooden flashboards, and having a dam crest elevation of 59.6 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29); (2) a reservoir with a surface area of about 18 acres and a storage capacity of 63 acre-feet at a normal pool elevation of 61.6 feet NGVD29; (3) an 8-foot-wide, 22-foot-long intake structure on the east side of the dam connecting to an 8-foot-wide, 118-foot-long concrete and wooden power canal; (4) a 7.5-foot-diameter, 45-foot-long steel penstock that conveys water from the power canal to a powerhouse on the east side of the dam containing two turbine-generator units with a total rated capacity of 453 kilowatts (kW); (5) an 8-foot-wide, 10-foot-long intake structure on the west side of the dam connecting to a 6-foot-diameter, 62-foot-long steel penstock; (6) a powerhouse on the west side of the dam containing a single turbine-generator unit with a rated capacity of 300 kW; (7) two 480-volt, 40-foot-long generator leads connecting the east powerhouse to a transformer yard and a 2,300-volt, 400-foot-long generator lead connecting the west powerhouse to the transformer yard; and (8) appurtenant facilities.

The Chittenden Falls Project is operated in a run-of-river mode with an estimated average annual generation of 2,300 megawatt-hours between 2012 and 2018. Chittenden Falls Hydro proposes to continue to operate the project in run-of-river mode.

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 website at <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. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title COMMENTS, REPLY COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS, or PRESCRIPTIONS; (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 submitting the filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments,

recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. Each filing must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed on the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34 (b) and 385.2010.

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.

n. *A license applicant must file no later than 60 days following the date of issuance of this notice*: (1) A copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of waiver of water quality certification.

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

Milestone	Target date
Deadline for Filing Comments, Recommendations and Agency Terms and Conditions/Prescriptions.	April 2020.
Deadline for Filing Reply Comments.	June 2020.
Commission issues EA .....	October 2020.
Comments on EA Due .....	November 2020.

Dated: February 21, 2020.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 6717–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER20–840–000]

#### Golden Fields Solar IV, LLC; Supplemental Notice That Section 205 Rate Filing Includes Request for Blanket Section 204 Authorization

This is a supplemental notice in the above-referenced Golden Fields Solar IV, LLC's application for market-based rate authority, with an accompanying rate tariff, noting that such application includes a request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of