

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

## Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 7000-015]

**Newton Falls Holdings, LLC; Notice of Public Scoping and Site Visit for the Newton Falls Hydroelectric Project**

April 8, 2002.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and procedures of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Commission staff intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the environmental impacts of issuing a new license for the constructed and operating Newton Falls Hydroelectric Project, No. 7000-015, located on the Oswegatchie River in St. Lawrence County, New York. The subject project does not include federal land.

The EA will consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental effects, if any, of the licensee's proposed actions and reasonable alternatives. Preparation of staff's EA will be supported by a scoping process to ensure identification and analysis of all pertinent issues.

At this time, the Commission staff does not anticipate holding formal public or agency scoping meetings. Rather, the Commission staff will issue a Scoping Document: (1) outlining staff's preliminary evaluation of subject areas to be addressed in the EA; and (2) requesting concerned resource agencies, Native American tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to provide staff with information on project area environmental resources and recreational access needs, and to recommend site-specific issues and concerns that should be evaluated in the EA.

Before issuing the scoping document, Commission staff will hold a site visit of the Newton Falls Hydroelectric Project with representatives of the current licensee and Reliant Energy, the proposed new owner of the project. The site visit will take place: (1) on Monday, May 6, 2002, from 3 p.m. to about 6 p.m.; and (2) on Tuesday, May 7, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 11:30 A.M. The purpose of the site visit is to enable Commission staff responsible for preparing the environmental assessment to view the area's existing resources and the project's constructed facilities.

Officials of state and federal resource agencies and representatives of concerned non-governmental

organizations are invited to participate at the site visit. Persons planning to attend should notify Mr. Tom Skutnik of Reliant Energy by telephone at (315) 413-2789 or by E-mail at: [tskutnik@reliant.com](mailto:tskutnik@reliant.com). All participants will meet at the Newton Falls mill parking area located off County Road 60 in Newton Falls, New York.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please telephone the Commission's Environmental Coordinator for the Newton Falls Project at (202) 219-2780 or contact him by E-mail at [james.haimes@ferc.gov](mailto:james.haimes@ferc.gov).

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

## Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Motions To Intervene and Protest**

April 9, 2002.

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.*: 233-081.
- c. *Date filed*: October 19, 2001.
- d. *Applicant*: Pacific Gas and Electric Company.
- e. *Name of Project*: Pit 3, 4, 5 Project.
- f. *Location*: On the Pit River, in Shasta County, near the community of Burney and the Intermountain towns of Fall River Mills and McArthur, California. The project includes 746 acres of lands of the United States, which are administered by the Forest Supervisor of the Shasta Trinity National Forest and the Forest Supervisor of the Lassen National Forest.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to*: Federal Power Act, 16 USC §§ 791(a)-825(r).
- h. *Applicant Contact*: Mr. Randal Livingston, Lead Director, Hydro Generation Department, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, P.O. Box 770000, N11C, San Francisco, CA 94177, (415) 973-6950.

i. *Commission Contact*: Any questions concerning this notice should be addressed to John Mudre, e-mail address [john.mudre@ferc.fed.us](mailto:john.mudre@ferc.fed.us), or telephone (202) 219-1208.

j. *Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protest*: 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. Please include the project number (Project No. 233-081) on any comments or motions filed.

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 whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervener 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.

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.

k. This application has been accepted, but is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. The existing project consists of the following existing facilities: three hydraulically-connected developments, with a total of four dams, four reservoirs, three powerhouses, associated tunnels, surge chambers, and penstocks. The powerhouses contain nine generating units with a combined operating capacity of about 325 MW. No new construction is proposed.

The Pit 3 development consists of: (1) The 1,293-acre Lake Britton, with a gross storage capacity of 41,877 acre feet; (2) the Pit 3 Dam, with a crest length of 494 feet and a maximum height of 130 feet; (3) a concrete tunnel in two sections, 19 feet in diameter with a total length of about 21,000 feet; (4) a surge tank; (5) three penstocks about 10 feet in diameter and 600 feet in length; (6) a 47-foot by 194-foot reinforced concrete multilevel powerhouse; (7) three generating units, driven by three vertical Francis turbines, with a combined normal operating capacity of 70 MW; and (8) appurtenant facilities.

The Pit 4 development consists of: (1) The 105-acre Pit 4 Reservoir, with a gross storage capacity of 1,970 acre feet; (2) the Pit 4 Dam, consisting of a gravity type overflow section 203 feet in length with a maximum height of 108 feet and a slab-and-buttress type section 212 feet in length with a maximum height of 78 feet; (3) a 19-foot-diameter pressure tunnel with a total length of about 21,500 feet; (4) two 12-foot-diameter penstocks about 800 feet in length; (5) a four-level 58-foot by 155-foot