

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.

Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time; therefore, the Commission is not now requesting comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions.

When the application is ready for environmental analysis, the Commission will notify all persons on the service list and affected resource agencies and Indian tribes. If any person wishes to be placed on the service list a motion to intervene must be filed by the specified deadline date herein for such motions. All resource agencies and Indian tribes that have official responsibilities that may be affected by the issues addressed in this proceeding, and persons on the service list will be able to file comments, terms and conditions, and prescriptions within 60 days of the date the Commission issues a notification letter that the application is ready for an environmental analysis. All reply comments must be filed with the Commission within 105 days from the date of that letter.

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. Any of these documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies required by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. An additional copy must be sent to Director, Division of Project Review, Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, at the above address. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each

representative of the applicant specified in the particular application.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application Accepted for Filing, Notice Soliciting Motions To Intervene and Protests, and Notice Soliciting Comments, Final Terms and Conditions, Recommendations and Prescriptions

March 15, 2000.

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.:* 2016-044.

c. *Date filed:* December 27, 1999.

d. *Applicant:* City of Tacoma.

e. *Name of Project:* Cowlitz River Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On the Cowlitz River, in Lewis County, Washington. About 5 acres are included within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and about 59 acres are on lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Toby Freeman, Tacoma Power, 3628 South 35th Street, Tacoma, WA 98411; (253) 502-8862.

i. *FERC Contact:* David Turner (202) 219-2844, Email: david.turner@ferc.fed.us.

j. *Deadline for filing interventions, protests, comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions:* 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, DC 20426.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors 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 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. *Brief Project Description:* The 462-megawatt (MW) project consists of the following: (1) 606-foot-high, 1,300-foot-long Mossyrock Dam and powerhouse containing two generating units with a combined capacity of 300 MW; (2) 11,830-acre Riffe Lake at maximum operating pool elevation of 778.5 feet; (3) 250-foot-high, 850-foot-long Mayfield Dam and powerhouse containing four generating units with a combined capacity of 162 MW; (4) 2,250-acre Mayfield Lake at maximum operating pool elevation of 425 feet; (5) 17.9 miles of 230-kilovolt transmission line; (6) Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery; (7) a 400-foot-long, 28-foot-high zoned earthen embankment that connects to a 320-foot-long, 12-foot-high concrete fish barrier at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery, known as Barrier Dam; (8) Cowlitz Trout Hatchery; (9) Mossyrock Park; (10) Taidnapam Park; and other associated facilities.

l. *Locations of the application:* A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The application may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call (202) 208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

m. *Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene*—Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedures, 18 CFR 385.210, 385.211, 385.214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments 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 comments, protest, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

n. *Filing and Service of Response Documents*—The Commission is requesting final comments on the applicant's application and draft environmental assessment, final reply comments, final recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions.

The Commission directs, pursuant to Section 4.34(b) of the regulations (see Order No. 533 issued May 8, 1991, 56 FR 23108, May 20, 1991) that all comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions concerning the application be filed with the Commission within 60 days from

the issuance date of this notice. All reply comments must be filed with the Commission within 105 days from the date of this notice.

Anyone may obtain an extension of time for these deadlines from the Commission only upon a showing of good cause or extraordinary circumstances in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2008.

All filings must: (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST," "MOTION TO INTERVENE," "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 protesting or intervening; (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. Any of these documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies required by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application.

A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,
Acting Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6562-8]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Continuing Collection; Comment Request; Quality Assurance Specification and Requirements

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Quality Assurance Specification and Requirements, ICR Number 0866, OMB No. 2080-0033, current expiration date 08/31/2000. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 22, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Quality Staff (2811R), U.S. EPA, Washington, DC 20460. Comments will be accepted electronically at quality@epa.gov. The ICR may be obtained without charge by contacting the person listed below or by electronically downloading it from the following Internet site: <http://es.epa.gov/ncerqa/qa/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Wentworth, Director, Quality Staff; 202-564-6830, Facsimile Number 202-565-2441; quality@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which apply for Federal financial assistance from EPA for proposed projects that involve environmentally-related measurements or data generation.

Title: ICR Number 0866, Quality Assurance Specification and Requirements, OMB Control No. 2080-0033, expiring 8/31/2000.

Abstract: This ICR covers the quality assurance (QA) paperwork burden that appears at 40 CFR 30.54, 40 CFR 31.45, and 40 CFR 35.260 and 35.6055. (These references may also be obtained at the Internet site listed above.) These are subsections from 40 CFR part 30—Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations, 40 CFR part 31—Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, and 40 CFR part 35—State and Local Assistance. The information collection activity involves the development and implementation of quality assurance practices consisting of policies, procedures, specifications, standards, and documentation sufficient to produce data of quality adequate to meet project objectives and to minimize loss of data due to out-of-control conditions or malfunctions. Specifically, this refers to the preparation of QA management and project plans. The quality system of the

recipient of 40 CFR part 30 assistance must comply with the requirements of ANSI/ASQC E4, "Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs." A clarifying statement for all organizations receiving EPA financial assistance under 40 CFR part 31 and 40 CFR part 35 has been issued by the Office of Grants and Debarment. This clarifying statement defines Agency-wide criteria for meeting the requirements under the applicable CFRs and is consistent with Agency policy since 1988. It cites the ANSI/ASQC E4 as a national consensus standard that applies to all recipients. (This statement is also accessible through the Internet site listed above.) All QA submissions are reviewed and approved by an EPA certified project officer and/or a designated quality assurance officer.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The currently approved ICR estimated the burden for annual reporting and recordkeeping to be 85 hours each for 567 state and local respondents applying for assistance, and 70 hours each for 708 principal investigators who solicit assistance. The Agency burden for review of QA plans and preparation assistance to respondents was estimated at 17 hours each for the estimated 1,275 awards. This estimate included the time needed to review instructions, search existing data sources, gather and maintain the