

The EA Process

We³ are preparing the EA to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals and to ensure those issues and concerns are analyzed in the EA. This process is referred to as "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues and reasonable alternatives. By this notice, we are requesting public comment on the scope of the issues to be addressed in the EA. All comments received will be considered during the preparation of the EA. To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section on the following page.

By this notice, we are also asking Federal, State, and local agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA. Agencies that would like to request cooperating status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided on the next page.

The EA will present our independent analysis of the issues. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to those entities receiving this notice and any other interested parties identified during our review of Northern Natural's project. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentor, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, reasonable and practicable alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your

comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send an original and two copies of your letter to: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas Branch 1;
- Reference Docket No. CP05-73-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before May 16, 2005.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing of any comments or interventions or protests to this proceeding. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create a free account which can be created on-line.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor." Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must send one electronic copy (using the Commission's eFiling system) or 14 paper copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see Appendix 2).⁴ Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs,

at 1-866-208-FERC or on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to the documents. To register for this service, go to <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>.

Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 9185-009]

Flambeau Hydro, LLC; Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission, Soliciting Additional Study Requests, and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Relicensing and a Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments

April 15, 2005.

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

a. *Type of Application:* Subsequent License.

b. *Project No.:* 9185-009.

c. *Date Filed:* April 1, 2005.

d. *Applicant:* Flambeau Hydro, LLC.

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

f. *Location:* On the Clam River in Burnett County, near Danbury, Wisconsin. The project does not occupy Federal lands.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Scott Klabunde, North American Hydro, Inc., P.O. Box

³ "We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects.

⁴ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

167, Neshkoro, WI 54960; (920) 293-4628, ext. 14.

i. *FERC Contact*: Patrick Murphy, (202) 502-8755 or patrick.murphy@ferc.gov.

j. *Cooperating agencies*: We are asking Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to cooperate with us in the preparation of the environmental document. Agencies who would like to request cooperating status should follow the instructions for filing comments described in item l below.

k. Pursuant to section 4.32(b)(7) of 18 CFR of the Commission's regulations, if any resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person believes that an additional scientific study should be conducted in order to form an adequate factual basis for a complete analysis of the application on its merit, the resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person must file a request for a study with the Commission not later than 60 days from the date of filing of the application, and serve a copy of the request on the applicant.

l. *Deadline for filing additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status*: May 31, 2005.

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.

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.

Additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the "eFiling" link.

m. This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

n. *The existing Clam River Project consists of*: (1) A 46-foot-high buttress type concrete dam concrete with a 54-foot-wide spillway with four sections, three sections equipped with 8-inch-high stoplogs, and one section equipped with a 4-foot-high slide gate; (2) a 898-foot-long and a 223-foot-long earthen dike connecting the left side and the

right side of the concrete dam, respectively; (3) a 360-acre reservoir with a net storage capacity of 3,575 acre-feet with a water surface elevation of 898.9 feet msl; (4) two powerhouses integral to the dam containing three turbine generating units with a total installed capacity of 1,200 kW; (5) a 100-foot-long, 2.4-kilovolt transmission line; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The applicant estimates that the total average annual generation would be 4,903 megawatt-hours.

o. 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 Web site 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* at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via e-mail of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

p. With this notice, we are initiating consultation with the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), as required by section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR 800.4.

q. Procedural schedule and final amendments: The application will be processed according to the following Hydro Licensing Schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

Issue Acceptance or Deficiency Letter: May 2005.

Issue Scoping Document: June 2005.
Notice of application is ready for environmental analysis: September 2005.

Notice of the availability of the EA: March 2006.

Ready for Commission's decision on the application: May 2006.

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.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2586-024]

Alabama Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Notice of Settlement Agreement and Soliciting Comments

April 15, 2005.

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

a. *Type of Application*: Settlement agreement.

b. *Project No.*: 2586-024.

c. *Date Filed*: April 13, 2005.

d. *Applicant*: Alabama Electric Cooperative, Inc.

e. *Name of Project*: Conecuh River Project.

f. *Location*: The Conecuh River Project is located on the Conecuh River in Covington County, Alabama. The project does not affect Federal lands.

g. *Filed Pursuant to*: Rule 602 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.602.

h. Alabama Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AEC) filed a settlement agreement on behalf of itself and 5 other stakeholders. The purpose of the settlement agreement is to resolve, among the signatories, all issues related to AEC's pending Application for a New License for the Conecuh River Project. The settlement agreement provides measures for flows, lake levels, biological monitoring and adaptive management, water quality monitoring, and recreational access and development. Signatories to the settlement include AEC, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama Rivers Alliance, Conecuh/Sepulga Watershed Alliance, Conecuh-Sepulga Clean Water Partnership, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

i. The settlement agreement is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site 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 documents. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item (j).

j. *Applicant Contact*: Mike Noel (Environmental contact) or Scott Wright (Engineering contact); Alabama Electric