

SUMMARY: The Office of Fossil Energy of the Department of Energy gives notice that it issued DOE/FE Order No. 1373 on April 7, 1997, granting Husky Gas Marketing Inc. long-term authorization to import up to 21,881 Mcf per day of natural gas from Canada. The term extends from the date of authorization until August 1, 2003. This gas will be sold to San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E). SDG&E is a public utility which provides electric, gas, and steam service to customers in San Diego and Orange counties, California. The natural gas will be imported near Eastport, Idaho, under a supply arrangement with Husky Oil Operations Ltd.

This order is available for inspection and copying in the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import and Export Activities, Fossil Energy, Room 3E-042, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-0350, (202) 586-9478. The docket room is open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued in Washington, D.C., April 13, 1998.

John W. Glynn,

Manager, Natural Gas Regulation, Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import and Export Activities, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 98-10238 Filed 4-16-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2016, WA]

City of Tacoma, Washington; Notice of Scoping Meeting Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment and a Site Visit

April 13, 1998.

The Commission's regulations allow applicants to prepare their own Environmental Assessment (EA) for hydropower projects and file it with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) along with their license application as part of the applicant-prepared EA (APEA) process.¹ On February 24, 1998, the Commission approved the use of the APEA process in the preparation of license application for Tacoma Public Utilities' (Tacoma) Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project, No. 2016.

Tacoma will hold three public meetings, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of

1969, to identify the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. At the scoping meetings, Tacoma will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) outline any resources they believe would not require a detailed analysis; (3) identify reasonable alternatives to be addressed in the EA; (4) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantitative data, on the resources at issue; and (5) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

Although Tacoma's intent is to prepare an EA, there is the possibility that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required. Nevertheless, this meeting will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether an EA or EIS is issued by the Commission.

Scoping Meetings

The times and locations of the scoping meeting are:

Agency Scoping Meeting

May 5, 1998—1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, US Fish and Wildlife Service Office, 510 Desmond Drive, Sawyer Hall, Lacey, WA

Public Scoping Meetings

May 6, 1998—7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Lewis County, Courthouse Annex, 345 W. Main St., Room 1, Chehalis, WA

May 7, 1998—7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Mossyrock High School Gymnasium, Mossyrock, WA

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited and encouraged to attend any or all of the meetings to assist in identifying and clarifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

To help focus discussions, Tacoma prepared and distributed a scoping document on April 3, 1998. Copies of the Scoping Document can be obtained by calling Joan Nichol, Harza Engineering Company, at (425) 602-4000. Copies of the document will also be available at the scoping meetings.

Site Visit

Tacoma has also scheduled a site visit to the Cowlitz River Project on Thursday, May 7, 1998, if sufficient interest exists. Those wishing to attend the site visit must notify Toby Freeman, Tacoma City Light at (253) 502-8862 by April 24, 1998. Also contact Toby for information on the meeting time and place.

Meeting Procedures

The meetings will be conducted according to the procedures used at Commission scoping meetings. Because this meeting will be a NEPA scoping meeting under the APEA process, the Commission does not intend to conduct a NEPA scoping meeting after the application and draft EA are filed with the Commission. Instead, Commission staff will attend the meetings on May 5, 6, and 7, 1998.

All the scoping meetings will be recorded by a stenographer or tape recorder, and will become part of the formal record of the proceedings for this project.

Those who choose not to speak during the scoping meetings may instead submit written comments on the project. Written comments should be mailed to: Joan Nichol, Harza Engineering Company, 2353 130th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, WA 98005, by June 8, 1998. All correspondence should show the following caption on the first page: Scoping Comments, Cowlitz River Hydroelectric Project (2016).

For further information please contact Joan Nichol at (425) 602-4000 or David Turner of the Commission at (202) 219-2844.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-10192 Filed 4-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application Filed With the Commission and Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

April 13, 1998.

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

a. *Type of Application:* Proposal To Amend Minimum Flow Releases.

b. *Project No:* 77-110.

c. *Date Filed:* March 31, 1998.

d. *Licensee:* Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

e. *Name of Project:* Potter Valley Project.

f. *Location:* Eel River and East Fork Russian River, in Lake and Mendocino Counties, California.

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

h. *Licensee Contact:* Mr. Terry Morford, Manager—Hydro Generation, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, P.O.

¹ 81 FERC ¶ 61,103 (1997).

box 770000, Mail Code N11C, San Francisco, CA 94177, (415) 973-4603.

i. *FERC Contact:* Dr. John M. Mudre, (202) 219-1208.

j. *Comment Date:* June 8, 1998.

k. *Description:* Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), licensee for the Potter Valley Project (FERC No. 77) has filed the final report on its 10-year study of the effects of its article 38 minimum flow schedule on salmonids, and its associated proposal for changes to the required minimum flows at the project. The flow proposal represents the culmination of negotiations among technical staff of PG&E, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Under these "Joint Recommendations" (JR), flows to the Eel River would be adjusted up to three times per day in response to changes in streamflow in the downstream Tomki Creek. The quantity of flow released would be proportional to Tomki Creek flow and would range, in normal years, from 5 to 200 cfs. During dry years, "water conservancy" measures would be implemented that could reduce releases by up to one half, but flow would never be less than 5 cfs. The JR also reserve a block of 5,000 acre-feet of water annually to maintain pre-specified flows during protracted droughts when the release schedule prescribes flow reductions in response to natural conditions.

Because the project serves as an inter-basin transfer, increased minimum flow releases to the Eel River would result in decreases in diversions to the East Fork Russian River. Under the JR, diversions to the East Fork Russian River would decrease from an estimated 8 percent in the wettest years to 25 percent in the driest years. From a volumetric perspective, the annual reduction in diversions would range from an estimated 13,000 to 18,000 acre feet.

The JR also contain non-flow provisions for protecting and enhancing aquatic resources. These include: (1) PG&E will provide \$20,000 annually to fund a scientific aide position at the Van Arsdale Fishery Station; (2) PG&E will fund annual chinook salmon carcass surveys at selected sites on the Eel River and Tomki Creek; (3) PG&E will provide CDFG \$10,000 annually for Sacramento squawfish suppression; (4) PG&E will provide CDFG up to \$30,000 annually for CDFG's chinook salmon and stock rescue program; (5) PG&E will continue to cooperate in releasing warm water from the spillway of Scott Dam in the late winter/spring period to promote the timely migration of juvenile chinook salmon from the Eel River between Scott

and Cape Horn Dams; (6) the Tomki Creek flow gage will be updated to improve the precision of low flow measurements and to allow data telemetry for flow calculation; and (7) Cape Horn Dam will be modified to allow accurate regulation of the higher minimum flows provided under the JR.

Commission staff has determined that amendment of the minimum flow requirements at the Potter Valley Project could constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, staff intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed amendment. The EIS will also consider reasonable alternatives to the proposed amendment. A draft EIS will be issued and circulated for review to those on the mailing list for this proceeding. All comments filed on the draft EIS will be analyzed by Commission Staff and considered in the Final EIS.

As part of the EIS process, we will be conducting a series of scoping meetings in the project vicinity. The purpose of the scoping process is to identify the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EIS and to provide us with information that may be useful in preparing the EIS. The dates, times, and locations of the scoping meetings will be announced in a subsequent public notice. We will also accept written scoping comments from any interested party, either prior to, or for a limited period following, the scoping meetings. To help focus comments on the environmental issues, a scoping document outlining subject areas to be addressed in the EIS will be sent to those on the mailing list for this proceeding prior to the scoping meetings. The deadline for receiving scoping comments will be specified at that time. Those not on the mailing list may request a copy of the scoping document from the project coordinator, whose telephone number is listed below.

Those wishing to be added to the mailing list or to submit comments, information, or other correspondence pertaining to this proceeding should file their correspondence with the commission at the following address: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.

All filings should show the following on the first page: "Potter Valley Project," FERC No. 77-110.

For further information, please contact the FERC Project Coordinator, John M. Mudre, at (202) 219-1208.

1. *This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs:* B, C1, and D2.

B. 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 Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .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, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

C1. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS", "PROTEST", OR "MOTION TO INTERVENE", as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

D2. Agency Comments—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-10191 Filed 4-16-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5998-5]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Program Evaluation (Self-Audit)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.