

them to comment on their areas of concern.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section on pages 3 and 4 of this Notice.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Endangered and threatened species.
- Water resources and wetlands.
- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Geology and soils.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. 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.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Columbia. These issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Eight residences are located within 50 feet of the construction right-of-way.
- One prehistoric site that is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places lies within the project's area of potential effect.
- Most of the project area is underlain by deep coal mines.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal, 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 two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;

- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.1;

- Reference Docket No. CP98-315-000; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before June 5, 1998.

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 filing by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide 14 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 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 Procedures (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 3). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed having ended on April 29, 1998. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by Section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention.

You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-12359 Filed 5-8-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 77-110]

Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Notice of Site Visit and Scoping Meetings Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

May 5, 1998.

On April 17, 1998, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued notice of an application for amendment of the license for the Potter Valley Project (FERC No. 77-110) and of our intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in support of the Commission's decision in this matter. The proposed amendment involves changes in the minimum flow requirements at the project, located on the Eel and East Fork Russian River, in Lake and Mendocino Counties, California.

The purpose of this notice is to: (1) Advise all parties of upcoming site visits to the project area; (2) announce the dates, times, and locations of public and agency meetings to be held to assist staff in determining the appropriate scope of staff's environmental analysis; (3) seek additional information pertinent to this analysis; and (4) advise all parties of their opportunity for comment.

Project Site Visits

The licensee and the Commission staff will conduct site visits of the Potter Valley Project and other relevant areas on June 1-2, 1998. On June 1, downstream areas of the East Fork Russian River will be visited. On June 2, the Potter Valley Project and downstream areas of the Eel River will be visited. Times and meeting places are as follows.

Date: June 1, 1998.

Time: 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Place: Sonoma County Water Agency, 2150 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

Date: June 2, 1998.

Time: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Place: Hoppers Corner, Main Street and Eel River Road, Potter Valley, CA 95469.

All interested individuals, nongovernmental organizations (NGO's), and agencies are invited to attend. All participants are responsible for their own transportation. For more details, interested parties should contact the Project Manager identified at the end of this notice prior to May 28, 1998.

Scoping Process

The purpose of the scoping process is to identify significant issues related to the proposed action and to determine what issues should be addressed in the environmental document to be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). A document entitled "Scoping Document" (SD) will be circulated shortly to enable appropriate federal, state, and local resource agencies, developers, Indian tribes, NGO's and other interested parties to effectively participate in and contribute to the scoping process. The SD provides a brief description of the proposed action, project alternatives, the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis, and a list of preliminary issues identified by staff.

Scoping Meetings

The Commission staff will hold scoping meetings on June 3 and June 4, 1998, to facilitate its preparation of an EIS for the proposed amendment. The scoping meetings will be held in two locations in the general vicinity of the Potter Valley Project. On each date there will be two scoping meetings: One afternoon meeting and one evening meeting. The afternoon meetings will focus on resource agency concerns, whereas the evening meeting will focus on receiving input from the public. However, we invite all interested agencies, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EIS. The times and locations of these meetings are shown below.

Ukiah Scoping Meetings:

Date: June 3, 1998.
Time: 1:00–3:00 p.m.; 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Place: Ukiah Valley Conference Center,
200 S. School Street, Ukiah, CA
95482, (707) 686–4571.

Eureka Scoping Meetings:

Date: June 4, 1998.
Time: 1:00–3:00 p.m.; 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Place: Doubletree Inn Eureka, 1929
Fourth Street, Eureka, CA 95501,
(707) 445–0844.

As mentioned previously a scoping document will be distributed to the parties on the Commission's mailing list. The SD should help focus discussions, by outlining the issues to be addressed at the meetings. Copies of the SD can also be obtained by contacting the Project Manager identified at the end of this notice.

Meeting Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will:

- (1) Summarize the environmental issues

tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements on environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EIS, including opinions in favor of, or in opposition to, the staff's preliminary list of issues; (4) determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the EIS; and (5) identify resource issues that will not require detailed analysis in the EIS.

The scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (oral and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for this proceeding. Before each meeting starts, all individuals who attend, especially those individuals that intend to make statements during the meeting, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record prior to speaking. Time allotted for presentations will be determined by staff based on the length of the meetings and the number of people wanting to speak. All individuals wishing to speak will be provided at least five minutes to present their views.

Interested parties who choose not to speak, or are unable to attend the scoping meetings, may provide written comments and information to the Commission until June 15, 1998. Written comments and information should be submitted to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The first page of all filings should indicate "Potter Valley Project, FERC No. 77–110" at the top of the page. All filings sent to the Secretary of the Commission should contain an original and eight copies. Failure to file an original and eight copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner. Furthermore, participants in this proceeding are reminded that if they file comments with the Commission, they must serve a copy of their filing to the parties on the Commission's service list.

For further information, please contact the Project Manager, Dr. John M. Mudre at (202) 219–1208.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–12362 Filed 5–8–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Public Outreach Meeting; Portland, OR

May 5, 1998

The Office of Hydropower Licensing will hold a public Outreach Meeting in Portland, OR, on Tuesday, May 19, 1998. The Outreach Meeting is scheduled to start at 9:00 am and finish at 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Outreach program is to familiarize federal, state, and other government agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations, licensees, and other interested parties with the Commission's hydropower licensing program. The topics for the Outreach Meeting are pre-licensing, licensing, and post-licensing procedures for hydroelectric projects in Oregon whose licenses expire between calendar years 2000 and 2010.

Staff from the Commission's Office of Hydropower Licensing will preside over the meetings.

The location of the Outreach Meeting is: Doubletree Hotel, 909 North Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217, (503) 283–4466.

Directions to Hotel: Take I–5 North to Exit #308/Jantzen Beach Center, You will drive by a large Safeway store to a stop light, Right on Hayden Island Dr., Hotel will be directly in front.

If you plan to attend, notify John Blair, Western Outreach Coordinator, fax: 202–219–2152; telephone: 202–219–2845 or Theresa Gibson (202) 219–2793.

David P. Boergers

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–12356 Filed 5–8–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Public Outreach Meeting; Tacoma, Washington

May 5, 1998

The Office of Hydropower Licensing will hold a public Outreach Meeting in Tacoma, Washington, on Thursday, May 21, 1998. The Outreach Meeting is scheduled to start at 9:00 am and finish at 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Outreach program is to familiarize federal, state, and other government agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations, licensees, and other interested parties