

preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

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

- Geology and soils
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Endangered and threatened species
- Public safety
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Air quality and noise
- Hazardous waste

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.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section below.

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 NWP. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Small portions of the loop pipelines would be located on NWP-owned lands on the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation, Washington Department of Natural Resources land, or Skagit County land.
- The project would cross a total of 25 waterbodies and about 98 wetlands.
- Of the waterbodies crossed, some may contain domestic water rights; and some may have critical habitat designations for the Federally listed chinook and/or coho salmon.

- 15 federally listed endangered, threatened, or candidate species and four state-protected species may occur in the project area.

- A total of 33 residences are located within 50 feet of the construction right-of-way or temporary extra workspaces. Of these landowners, about 24 structures are within 25 feet of the construction area.

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, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations or routes), 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: David P. Boergers, 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/Hydro.
- Reference Docket No. CP02-004-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before December 3, 2001.

Comments may also 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 at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create an account by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."

If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to remain on our mailing list, please return the Information Request (appendix 3). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

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 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 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 about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application and Applicant Prepared Draft Environmental Assessment Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Motions To Intervene and Protests

November 2, 2001.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application, including an applicant prepared draft environmental

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

assessment, have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application*: New Major License.

b. *Project No.*: 346-037.

c. *Date Filed*: August 23, 2001.

d. *Applicant*: Minnesota Power Inc., d.b.a. ALLETE, Inc.

e. *Name of Project*: Blanchard Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location*: On the Mississippi River near the City of Little Falls, in Morrison County, MN. The project occupies federal lands of the Bureau of Land Management.

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

h. *Applicant Contact*: Bob Bohm, ALLETE, Inc., P.O. Box 60, Little Falls, MN 56345, rbohmn@mnpower.com, 320-632-2318, ext. 5042.

i. *FERC Contact*: Tom Dean, thomas.dean@ferc.fed.us, 202-219-2778.

j. *Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests*: 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. Comments, protests and interventions 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 under the "e-Filing" link.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person that is 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. The license application has been accepted for filing, but are not ready for environmental analysis.

l. The existing Blanchard Project consists of: (1) A 750-foot-long, 62-foot-high concrete gravity dam comprising: (a) a 190-foot-long non-overflow section; (b) a 437-foot-long gated spillway section; (c) eight 44-foot-wide by 14.7-foot-high Taintor gates; and (d) a 124-foot-wide integral powerhouse; (2) approximately 3,540-foot-long earth dikes extending from both sides of the concrete dam; (3) a 1,152-acre reservoir at normal water surface elevation of 1,081.7 feet NGVD; (4) a powerhouse containing three generating units with a

total installed capacity of 18,000 kW; and (5) other appurtenances.

m. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "RIMS" link, select "Docket#" and follow the instructions (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction by contacting the applicant identified in item h above.

n. Anyone may submit a protest or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, 385.211, 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 at the Commission on or before the specified deadline date.

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 pertains; (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. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. 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 Tendered for Filing With the Commission

November 2, 2001.

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

a. *Type of Application*: Original Minor License.

b. *Project No.*: 11659-002.

c. *Date filed*: October 23, 2001.

d. *Applicant*: Gustavus Electric Company (GEC).

e. *Name of Project*: Falls Creek Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location*: On Falls Creek (also known as the Kahtaheena River), in southeastern Alaska near the town of Gustavus. The project would be located on lands currently located within the boundary of Glacier Bay National Park and administered by the National Park Service. The Glacier Bay National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 1998 (Act) provides that if a license is issued for the project, the minimum amount of Glacier Bay National Park land necessary to construct and operate the hydroelectric project would be transferred, as part of a land exchange, to the State of Alaska. The Act also authorizes the submittal of a license application for this project to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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

h. *Applicant Contact*: Richard Levitt, Gustavus Electric Company, P.O. Box 102, Gustavus, Alaska 99826; (907) 697-2299.

i. *FERC Contact*: Bob Easton, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426; (202) 219-2782, Email: robert.easton@ferc.fed.us.

j. The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

k. *The Falls Creek Hydroelectric Project would consist of*: (1) An approximately 70-foot-long and 10-foot-high dam; (2) a 0.5-acre reservoir having no storage capacity at elevation 665 feet mean sea level; (3) a powerhouse containing one generating unit for a total installed capacity of 800 kilowatts; (4) 5 miles of buried transmission line; and (5) appurtenant facilities. The project is estimated to generate an average of 4.8 million kilowatthours annually. The dam and project facilities would be owned by the applicant.

1. A copy of the application is on file with the Commission and is available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "RIMS" link—select "Docket #" and follow the instructions (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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