

total volume of gas proposed in both projects, about 435,000 Mcf per day;

- The *ELI System Alternative*, which could use the ELI Extension Project instead of the Islander East Project to deliver 260,000 Mcf per day, in the event that the Commission decides that there is a market for only one pipeline to serve eastern Long Island; and

- The *Long Island System Alternative*, which combines both Islander East and the ELI Extension projects in a joint pipeline on Long Island only.

The staff has also examined eight route alternatives and nine other route variations to the proposed facilities. The staff has recommended the use of two of the route variations to minimize impacts on Branford Land Trust property in Connecticut and Core Preservation Areas of the Central Pine Barrens in New York. See section 4 of the DEIS for details on alternatives.

#### Comment Procedures and Public Meeting

Any person wishing to comment on the DEIS may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. 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 comments 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 2, PJ11.2
- Reference Docket Nos. CP01-384-000 and CP01-387-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before May 19, 2002.

Please note that we are continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. As a result, we will include all comments that we receive within a reasonable time frame in our environmental analysis of this project. However, the Commission 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 by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account."

We will announce in a future notice, the location and time of one local public

meeting in Connecticut, and one in New York, to receive comments on the DEIS.

After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the DEIS, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be published and distributed by the staff. The FEIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments filed on the DEIS.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).

Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this DEIS. You must file your request to intervene as specified above.<sup>1</sup> You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

The DEIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

A limited number of copies are available from the Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch identified above. In addition, copies of the DEIS have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, individuals who have requested the DEIS, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC Internet website ([www.ferc.gov](http://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

<sup>1</sup> Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Scoping Meeting and Soliciting Scoping Comments for an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment Using the Alternative Licensing Process

March 29, 2002.

a. *Type of Application:* Alternative Licensing Process.

b. *Project No.:* 11894-001.

c. *Applicant:* Rugraw, Inc.

d. *Name of Project:* Lassen Lodge.

e. *Location:* The proposed Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project (Project) is located entirely on the South Fork of Battle Creek in Tehama County, California. No Federal lands would be affected.

f. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 USC §§ 791(a)-825(r).

g. *Applicant Contact:* Art Hagood, Project Manager, Synergics Energy Services, 191 Main Street Annapolis, MD 21043; (410) 268-8820; [ahagood@synergics.com](mailto:ahagood@synergics.com).

h. *FERC Contact:* Kenneth Hogan at (202) 208-0434 or via e-mail at: [Kenneth.Hogan@ferc.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Hogan@ferc.gov).

j. *Deadline for filing scoping comments:* May 28, 2002.

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 and Procedure require all interveners 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 intervener 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.

Scoping comments 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 (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the "e-Filing" link.

k. The structures proposed for the Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project are: (1) a new 5-foot-high, 80-foot-long

reinforced concrete diversion structure; (2) a half-acre reservoir with an operating surface elevation of 4,310 feet mean sea level (msl); (4) an intake structure located at the diversion dam to include trash racks, fish screens, and fish passage facilities; (5) a 19,200-foot-long buried penstock composed of a 42-inch-diameter, 7,200-foot-long, polyethylene section, and a 36 inch diameter, 12,000-foot-long steel section; (6) a powerhouse with an installed generating capacity of approximately 7 megawatts and a maximum hydraulic capacity of 100 cfs; (7) a 10-mile-long 60-kilovolt transmission line; and (8) a 55-foot-long reinforced concrete, box culvert tailrace discharge structure.

1. *Scoping Process:* Rugraw Inc. (Rugraw) intends to utilize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) alternative licensing process (ALP). Under the ALP, Rugraw will prepare an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA) and license application for the Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project.

Rugraw expects to file with the Commission, the APEA and the license application for the project by October 2003.

The purpose of this notice is to inform you of the opportunity to participate in the upcoming scoping meetings identified below, and to solicit your scoping comments.

### Scoping Meetings

Rugraw and the Commission staff will hold two scoping meetings, one in the daytime and one in the evening, to help us identify the scope of issues to be addressed in the APEA.

The daytime scoping meeting will focus on resource agency concerns, while the evening scoping meeting is primarily for public input. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist the staff in identifying the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the APEA. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Daytime Meeting: Thursday, April 25, 2002, 2 p.m. until concluded, Red Bluff Community Center 1500 South Jackson Road, Red Bluff, CA 96080.

Evening Meeting: Thursday, April 25, 2002, 6 p.m. until concluded, Red Bluff Community Center 1500 South Jackson Road, Red Bluff, CA 96080.

To help focus discussions, Scoping Document 1, prepared by Rugraw in coordination with the California State Water Resources Control Board, was

mailed in March 2002, outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the APEA to the parties on the mailing list. Copies of the SD1 also will be available at the scoping meetings. SD1 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).

Based on all written comments received, a Scoping Document 2 (SD2) may be issued. SD2 will include a revised list of issues, based on the scoping sessions.

### Objectives

At the scoping meetings, Rugraw and the Commission staff will: (1) summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the APEA; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the APEA, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views; (4) determine the resource issues to be addressed in the APEA; and (5) identify those issues that require a detailed analysis, as well as those issues that do not require a detailed analysis.

### Procedures

The meetings will be recorded and will become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist Rugraw in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the APEA.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM98-1-000]

### Regulations Governing Off-the-Record Communications; Public Notice

March 29, 2002.

This constitutes notice, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2201(h), of the receipt

of exempt and prohibited off-the-record communications.

Order No. 607 (64 FR 51222, September 22, 1999) requires Commission decisional employees, who make or receive an exempt or a prohibited off-the-record communication relevant to the merits of a contested on-the-record proceeding, to deliver a copy of the communication, if written, or a summary of the substance of any oral communication, to the Secretary.

Prohibited communications will be included in a public, non-decisional file associated with, but not part of, the decisional record of the proceeding. Unless the Commission determines that the prohibited communication and any responses thereto should become part of the decisional record, the prohibited off-the-record communication will not be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision. Parties to a proceeding may seek the opportunity to respond to any facts or contentions made in a prohibited off-the-record communication, and may request that the Commission place the prohibited communication and responses thereto in the decisional record. The Commission will grant such requests only when it determines that fairness so requires. Any person identified below as having made a prohibited off-the-record communication should serve the document on all parties listed on the official service list for the applicable proceeding in accordance with Rule 2010, 18 CFR 385.2010.

Exempt off-the-record communications will be included in the decisional record of the proceeding, unless the communication was with a cooperating agency as described by 40 CFR 1501.6, made under 18 CFR 385.2201(e)(1)(v).

The following is a list of exempt and prohibited off-the-record communications received in the Office of the Secretary within the preceding 14 days. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. The documents may 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).