

in those cases, EERE was able to work with the grantees to procure American-made products rather than granting a waiver.

Upon receipt of completed waiver requests for the product in this current waiver, EERE reviewed the information provided and submitted the relevant technical information to the MEP. The MEP then used their network of nationwide centers to scout for domestic manufacturers. The MEP reported that their scouting process did not locate any domestic manufacturers for these exact or equivalent items.

In addition to the MEP collaboration outlined above, the EERE Buy American Coordinator worked with other manufacturing stakeholders to scout for domestic manufacturing capacity or an equivalent product for each item contained in this waiver. EERE also conducted significant amounts of independent research to supplement MEP's scouting efforts, including utilizing the solar experts employed by the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory. EERE's research efforts confirmed the MEP findings that the good included in this waiver is not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality.

The nonavailability determination is also informed by the inquiries and petitions to EERE from recipients of EERE Recovery Act funds, and from suppliers, distributors, retailers and trade associations—all stating that their individual efforts to locate domestic manufacturers for the item have been unsuccessful.

Specific technical information for the manufactured goods included in this non-availability determination is detailed below:

Pre-insulated district heating pipe system consisting of thin wall thickness steel pipe meeting the EN13941 standard, bonded to polyurethane foam insulation, bonded to an HDPE jacket, such that all the components operate as a single pipe (including two 1.5 mm squared area copper wires embedded in the insulation for leak detection and location); pre-insulated steel fittings with the same characteristics as the pre-insulated pipe; and pre-insulated maintenance free ball valves with an all welded valve body and a stainless steel valve ball in a spring loaded teflon seat, having the same insulation and jacket characteristics as the pipe.

Pre-insulated hot water district energy piping manufactured as a system to meet quality standards (EN Standards, ISO 9001, and ISO 14001) that test all aspects of the individual components

(insulation cell structure/water absorption/compression resistance) plus ensure compliance of the finished system to five rigorous tests: axial and tangential shear strength, aged shear strength, creep and impact resistance. This degree of diligence is not imposed on thermal distribution piping manufactured as individual parts, and as a result products produced as a system to meet the above referenced standards better predict overall long term behavior of the system under sustained high temperature, resulting in lower life cycle cost and greater system efficiency. Because there is not a US manufacturer who makes a complete system, the components (pre-insulated valves, fittings, bends, etc.) of a hot water district energy system, have not been tested together to ensure that the entire system behaves in the same manner.

In light of the foregoing, and under the authority of section 1605(b)(2) of Public Law 111-5 and Redelegation Order 00-002-01E, with respect to Recovery Act projects funded by EERE, I hereby issue a "determination of inapplicability" (a waiver under the Recovery Act Buy American provision) for: Pre-insulated district heating pipe system consisting of thin wall thickness steel pipe meeting the EN13941 standard, bonded to polyurethane foam insulation, bonded to an HDPE jacket, such that all the components operate as a single pipe (including two 1.5 mm squared area copper wires embedded in the insulation for leak detection and location); pre-insulated steel fittings with the same characteristics as the pre-insulated pipe; and pre-insulated maintenance free ball valves with an all welded valve body and a stainless steel valve ball in a spring loaded teflon seat, having the same insulation and jacket characteristics as the pipe.

Having established a proper justification based on domestic nonavailability, EERE hereby provides notice that on March 27, 2012, one (1) nationwide categorical waiver of section 1605 of the Recovery Act were issued as detailed *supra*. This notice constitutes the detailed written justification required by Section 1605(c) for waivers based on a finding under subsection (b).

This waiver determination is pursuant to the delegation of authority by the Secretary of Energy to the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy with respect to expenditures within the purview of his responsibility. Consequently, this waiver applies to all EERE projects carried out under the Recovery Act.

Authority: Pub. L. 111-5, section 1605.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 27, 2012.

Henry Kelly,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2012-8329 Filed 4-5-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP12-98-000]

Northwest Pipeline GP; Notice of Application

Take notice that on March 29, 2012, Northwest Pipeline GP (Northwest), 295 Chipeta Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, filed in the above referenced docket an application pursuant to sections 7(b) and 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for authorization to construct and operate its Kemmerer Mine Relocation Project (Project) located in Lincoln County, Wyoming. Northwest states that the proposed Project consists of installing approximately 2.4 miles each of 26-inch diameter and 30-inch diameter pipelines to permanently route Northwest's existing 26-inch diameter and 30-inch diameter pipelines away from an adjacent surface coal mine west of Kemmerer, Wyoming. Northwest also proposes to abandon by removal approximately 0.9 miles of 30-inch diameter pipeline, abandon by place approximately 0.9 mile each of existing 26-inch diameter and 30-inch diameter pipelines, and abandon in place approximately 0.1 mile of 30-inch diameter pipeline, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. The filing 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 at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll-free, (886) 208-3676 or TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Any questions concerning this application may be directed to Pam Barnes, Manager Certificates and Tariffs, Northwest Pipeline GP, 295 Chipeta Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, at (801) 584-6857.

There are two ways to become involved in the Commission's review of this project. First, any person wishing to obtain legal status by becoming a party

to the proceedings for this project should, on or before the comment date stated below file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.10). A person obtaining party status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by all other parties. A party must submit 7 copies of filings made in the proceeding with the Commission and must mail a copy to the applicant and to every other party. Only parties to the proceeding can ask for court review of Commission orders in the proceeding.

However, a person does not have to intervene in order to have comments considered. The second way to participate is by filing with the Secretary of the Commission, as soon as possible, an original and two copies of comments in support of or in opposition to this project. The Commission will consider these comments in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but the filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that persons filing comments in opposition to the project provide copies of their protests only to the party or parties directly involved in the protest.

Persons who wish to comment only on the environmental review of this project should submit an original and two copies of their comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Environmental commentors will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of the environmental documents, and will be notified of meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Environmental commentors will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, the non-party commentors will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission (except for the mailing of environmental documents issued by the Commission) and will not have the right to seek court review of the Commission's final order.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings of comments, protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the "eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original

and 7 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link and is available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an "eSubscription" link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Comment Date: April 6, 2012.

Dated: March 30, 2012.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-8267 Filed 4-5-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project Nos. 2710-057; 2712-074]

Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC; Notice of Application Accepted for Filing, Ready for Environmental Analysis, Soliciting Motions to Intervene, Protests, Comments, Recommendations, Terms and Conditions, and Fishway Prescriptions

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

a. *Type of Application:* Amendment of Licenses.

b. *Project Nos.:* 2710-057 and 2712-074.

c. *Date Filed:* May 18, 2011, supplemented on October 7, 2011, January 20, 2012, and March 14, 2012.

d. *Applicant:* Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC.

e. *Name of Projects:* Orono Project 2710-057; Stillwater Project 2712-074.

f. *Location:* The projects are located on the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River in Penobscot County, Maine.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Scott D. Hall, Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC, P.O. Box 276, Davenport Street, Milford, ME 04461, (207) 827-2247.

i. *FERC Contact:* Ms. Rachel Price at (202) 502-8907 or Rachel.Price@ferc.gov.

j. *Deadline for filing motions to intervene, protests, comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and fishway prescriptions is 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.*

All documents may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. If unable to be filed electronically, documents may be paper-filed. To paper-file, an original and seven copies should be mailed to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments.

Please include the project numbers (P-2710-057 and/or P-2712-074) on any motions, protests, comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or fishway prescriptions filed.

k. *Description of Application:* At the Orono Project the applicant proposes to: construct and operate a second powerhouse containing three turbine-generator units with an installed capacity of 3.738 megawatts (MW); increase the normal maximum surface elevation of the reservoir by 0.6 feet; replace the existing downstream fish passage facility and install a new fish trapping facility (required by ordering paragraphs D and E of the project license); and extend the license term by three years so that it would expire in 2048. At the Stillwater Project the applicant proposes to: construct and operate a second powerhouse containing three turbine-generator units with an installed capacity of 2.229 MW; new downstream fish passage and upstream eel passage facilities; and extend the license term by 10 years so that it would expire in 2048.

l. *Locations of the Application:* A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 502-8371. This filing may also be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. You may also register online