

effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-13560 Filed 5-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of New Docket Prefix DR

May 19, 1997.

Notice is hereby given that a new docket prefix DR has been established for petitions requesting the Commission's approval of changes in depreciation rates made for accounting purposes.

On May 15, 1997, in *MidAmerican Energy Company*, 79 FERC ¶ 61,169 (1997) the Commission clarified that section 302(a) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 825a(a) (1994), requires that public utilities and licensees must file for Commission approval prior to changing depreciation rates for accounting purposes.

In order to properly docket and manage this type of filing and assess Commission resources applicable to this type of work, it is necessary to establish a new docket prefix for petitions seeking the Commission's approval of depreciation rate changes made for accounting purposes only. The new docket prefix will be DRFY-NNNNN, where the FY stands for the fiscal year in which the filing was made and the NNNNN is a sequential number. For example, the first depreciation rate change accounting filing petition made this fiscal year will be assigned DR97-1-000, the second will be the DR97-2-000, etc.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-13603 Filed 5-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2000-010]

Power Authority of the State of New York; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Scoping Meetings on Project Relicensing

May 19, 1997.

Power Authority of the State of New York (NYPA) is the licensee for the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project, which is located on the St. Lawrence River in St. Lawrence County, New York. The license for the project expires October 31, 2003.

On June 3, 1996, NYPA filed a Notice of Intent to seek a new license to continue to operate and maintain its St. Lawrence-FDR Project.

NYPA, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), resource agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and many interested members of the public have been conducting a Cooperative Consultation Process (CCP) to identify resource issues to be addressed during the relicensing of the project. The establishment of the CCP Team and the commencement of the Scoping Process for the relicensing were announced in a Notice of Memorandum of Understanding, Formation of Cooperative Consultation Process Team, and Initiation of Scoping Process Associated with Relicensing the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project, issued May 2, 1996, and published in the **Federal Register** dated May 8, 1996, Volume 61, No. 90, on page 20813. Representatives of the Canadian government, the International Joint Commission, and Mohawk Nation communities have also attended some of the meetings. The Scoping Process will assist the FERC and the DEC in satisfying their requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

The Commission and DEC staffs have determined that relicensing the existing project could constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the staffs intend to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the relicensing of the St. Lawrence-FDR Project in accordance with NEPA.

The DEC is a cooperating agency and is responsible for the issuance of a water quality certificate under the Clean Water Act.

The EIS will consider both site specific and cumulative environmental impacts of the proposed project and reasonable alternatives, and will include an economic and engineering analysis.

A draft EIS will be issued and circulated for review by all interested stakeholders and the public. All comments filed on the draft EIS will be analyzed by the Commission staff and considered in a final EIS.

As part of the relicensing process, the CCP Team has prepared a Scoping Document I (SDI), which provides information on the scoping process, relicensing schedule, background information, environmental issues, and the proposed project and alternatives. The issues contained in SDI are based on agency and public comments at the CCP Team and other meetings.

The purpose of this notice is to: (1) Advise all interested individuals, organizations, and agencies as to the proposed scope of the environmental analysis, including cumulative effects, and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis; and (2) advise all individuals, organizations, and agencies of their opportunity for comment.

Scoping Process

The staffs' scoping objectives are to:

- Identify significant environmental issues;
- Determine the depth of analysis appropriate to each issue;
- Identify the resource issues not requiring detailed analysis; and
- Identify reasonable project alternatives.

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 EIS.

Scoping Meetings

The Commission and DEC staffs will conduct one afternoon scoping meeting and three evening scoping meetings. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend and assist the staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EIS.

To help focus discussions, SDI will be circulated to enable appropriate federal, state, and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and other interested individuals, organizations, and agencies to participate effectively in and contribute to the scoping process. SDI provides a brief description of the

proposed action, project alternatives, the geographic and temporal scope of a cumulative effects analysis, and a list of preliminary issues. Copies of SDI will also be made available at the meetings.

The afternoon meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 1997 beginning at 2:00 P.M. at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, 30 Bayley Road, Massena, New York.

The first evening meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 1997 beginning at 7:00 P.M. at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, 30 Bayley Road, Massena, New York.

The second evening meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 1997 beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the United Methodist Church, State Route 37 (Lincoln Ave.), Waddington, New York.

The third evening meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26, 1997 beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the Akwesasne Housing Authority Building, State Route 37 (behind the police station), Hogsburg, New York.

At the scoping meetings, the Commission and DEC staffs will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantified data, on the resources at issue, and (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EIS. Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist the staffs in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the EIS.

Meeting Procedures

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer. The minutes will become a part of the record of the Commission proceeding on the St. Lawrence-FDR Project. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to identify themselves for the record.

Concerned individuals, organizations, and agencies are encouraged to offer verbal comments during the public meetings. Speaking time will be determined before each meeting, based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the approximate amount of time available for the session, but all speakers will be provided at least five minutes to present their views.

Persons choosing not to speak but wishing to express an opinion, as well as speakers unable to summarize their positions within their allotted time, may submit written statements for inclusion in the public record.

Written scoping comments may also be filed with the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20426,

no later than August 25, 1997. All filings should contain an original and 5 copies. Failure to file an original and 5 copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner.

All correspondence should clearly show the following caption on the first page: Scoping Comments, St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project, Project No. 2000-010, New York.

All those attending the meeting are urged to refrain from making any communications concerning the merits of the project to any member of the Commission staff outside of the established process for developing the record as stated in the record of the proceeding.

If you would like to participate in the meetings or need general information on the CCP Team and process, as well as the relicensing process, contact any one of the following three individuals:

Mr. Thomas R. Tatham, New York Power Authority, 212-468-6747, 212-468-6272 (fax), EMAIL:

Ytathat@IP3GATE.USA.COM
Mr. Keith Silliman, New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation, 518-457-0986, 518-457-3978 (fax), EMAIL: Silliman@ALBANY.NET.

Mr. Thomas Russo, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 202-219-2700, 202-219-2634 (fax), EMAIL: Thomas.Russo@FERC.FED.US

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project Nos. 11603-000 et al.]

Hydroelectric Applications [Indianford Water Power Company, Inc., et al.]; Notice of Applications

Take notice that the following hydroelectric applications have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection:

1a. *Type of Application:* Preliminary Permit.

b. *Project No.:* P-11603-000.

c. *Date filed:* March 28, 1997.

d. *Applicant:* Indianford Water Power Company, Inc.

e. *Name of Project:* Indianford Hydro Project.

f. *Location:* On the Rock River near Fulton, Rock County, Wisconsin.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Thomas J. Reiss, Indianford Water Power Company, Inc., P.O. Box 553, 319 Hart Street, Watertown, WI 53094, (414) 261-7975.

i. *FERC Contact:* Edward Lee at (202) 219-2809.

j. *Comment Date:* June 27, 1997.

k. *Description of Project:* The proposed project would consist of: (1) an existing 6-foot-high, 332-foot-long concrete gravity dam; (2) an existing 55,793 acre-foot reservoir with a surface area of 10,460 acres; (3) an existing concrete and brick powerhouse containing two 250-kilowatt (kW) generating units for a proposed total installed capacity of 500-kW; (4) a new 100-foot-long transmission line; and (5) appurtenant facilities. The applicant estimates that the average annual generation would be 730,000 kilowatt-hours. No new access road will be needed to conduct the studies. The applicant estimates that the cost of the studies to be conducted under the preliminary permit would be \$25,000. All existing project structures are owned by Rock County, Parks & Conservation Commission, 51 Main Street, Janesville, Wisconsin 53545.

l. *Purpose of Project:* Project power would be sold to a local utility.

m. *This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs:* A5, A7, A9, A10, B, C, and D2.

2a. *Type of Application:* Amendment of Exemption.

b. *Project No.:* 4563-004.

c. *Date Filed:* March 17, 1997.

d. *Applicant:* John R. LeMoyné.

e. *Name of Project:* LeMoyné Power Plant.

f. *Location:* On Riley Creek near the town of Hagerman, Gooding County, Idaho.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. John R. LeMoyné 901 A Gridley Island, Hagerman, ID 83332 (208) 837-4887.

i. *FERC Contact:* Robert Gwynn, (202) 219-2764.

j. *Comment Date:* June 26, 1997.

k. *Description of Filing:* LeMoyné Power Plant proposes to remove the fish hatchery ponds from the project's water conveyance system, and replace the existing 50-foot long, 36-inch diameter penstock with a new 530-foot long, 52-inch diameter penstock that would convey water directly from the Riley Creek diversion to the project powerhouse. The project generator would be replaced, increasing the generating capacity from 32 kW to 75 kW.