

amount of short-term debt instruments, with maturity dates of not later than September 30, 2001.

Comment date: May 18, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

David P. Boergers,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-11350 Filed 4-28-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2609-013]

Curtis/Palmer Hydroelectric Company and International Paper Company; Notice of Application and Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment Accepted for Filing; Requesting Interventions and Protests; Establishing Procedural Schedule and Final Amendment Deadline; and Requesting Comments, Final Terms and Conditions, Recommendations and Prescriptions

April 23, 1998.

Curtis/Palmer Hydroelectric Company and International Paper Company (International Paper) have filed with the Commission an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment and License Application for the Curtis-Palmer Project No. 2609, located on the Hudson River, New York.

The Curtis/Palmer Project consists of two separate developments with a total installed capacity of 58.8 MW. The existing facilities at the Curtis Development include: (1) a 25 foot-high by 743 foot-long dam constructed of concrete; (2) a 714 foot long spillway section topped by 46 inch-high wooden

flash boards; (3) a 29 foot-long sluice gate structure housing a gate measuring 11 feet wide by 13 feet high; (4) a 5.9 mile-long impoundment with a surface area of 390 acres at the normal high water elevation of 548.8 feet NGVD, and a storage capacity of 585 acre-feet at a drawdown of 1.5 feet; (5) a powerhouse intake structure containing ten gate openings, each equipped with a sliding headgate, plus three additional hydraulically operated gates located 35 feet downstream; (6) a powerhouse containing five turbine generators, three with installed capacities of 2.8 MW each, and two with installed capacities of 1.2 MW each, with a total hydraulic capacity of 6,500 cfs; and (7) a substation connected to a three-mile long, 13.8 kV transmission line.

International Paper proposes to install an inflatable rubber flashboard system at Curtis. Impoundment elevation and total hydraulic capacity would remain unchanged.

The existing facilities at the Palmer Development (located 2,700 feet downstream of Curtis) include: (1) a 486 foot-long dam with maximum height of 37 feet, comprised of a 346 foot-long spillway section of two Ambursen type spillways topped with a 6 foot-high inflatable rubber dam; (2) a 7 foot by 7 foot steel sluice gate located within a concrete abutment forming the transition between the dam spillway section and the forebay spillway section; (3) an impoundment extending 2,700 feet upstream to the dam and powerhouse of the Curtis development, with a surface area of 28 acres at a normal pond elevation of 522.9 feet NGVD; (4) an intake structure constructed of reinforced concrete containing 22 foot by 22.5 foot headgates located adjacent and perpendicular to the forebay spillway; (5) two 20 foot diameter by 220 and 260 feet long, concrete encased steel penstocks extending from the intake structure to the powerhouse; (6) a powerhouse containing two generating units of equal size with installed capacities of 24 MW each, with a total hydraulic capacity of 7,500 cfs; and (7) a substation which transfers power to a Niagara Mohawk Power Company bus maintained within.

Purpose of Notice

The purpose of this notice is to: (1) Inform all interested parties that an applicant-prepared environmental assessment (APEA) and final license application for the Curtis/Palmer Project has been filed with the Commission on April 13, 1998, and are available for public inspection; (2) inform all parties that the applications and APEA are

hereby accepted; (3) invite interventions and protests; (4) solicit comments, final recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions on the final license application and APEA; and (5) identify an approximate schedule and procedures that will be followed in processing the application and APEA.

International Paper has used a Cooperative Team (Team) approach to prepare the APEA for the Curtis/Palmer Project. The Team consists of federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the public. The Team has been meeting since September 1995 to guide the study process and prepare the APEA.

The Team has reached substantive agreement on most resource issues, and a comprehensive settlement agreement has been drafted and signed by most parties of the Team. Two Team members remain non-signatories to the Settlement Agreement. Due to a disagreement on measures to assess and protect downstream passage of resident fish, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and New York Rivers United do not concur with the encompassing settlement Agreement, and its presentation by the Applicant and Team as the preferred alternative. The Settlement Agreement is reflected in the APEA as the preferred alternative.

Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment Process and Processing Schedule

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EP Act) gives the Commission the authority to allow the filing of an APEA with a license application. The EP Act also directs the Commission to institute procedures, including pre-application consultations, to advise applicants of studies or other information foreseeably required by the Commission.

On April 23, 1996, the Director, Office of Hydropower Licensing, waived or amended certain of the Commission's regulations to allow for coordinated processing of the license application and preparation of an APEA. Since then, the Commission has been working cooperatively in advising the Team on studies or other information foreseeably required by the Commission.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping was conducted on the project through scoping documents issued December 7, 1995 and April 19, 1996, and in public scoping meetings on January 12, 1996 and February 8, 1996. A draft license application and preliminary APEA were issued by the applicant for comment on October 3, 1997. The final license application and APEA were filed with the Commission on April 13, 1998. The APEA includes

responses to all comments received on the preliminary APEA.

Commission staff have reviewed the APEA and license application and have determined that the application is acceptable and no additional information or studies are needed to prepare the Commission's environmental assessment (EA). The deadline for the applicant to file any final amendments to the application is June 8, 1998. Comments, as indicated below, are now being requested from interested parties. Any comments received will be addressed in a draft EA issued by Commission by late summer, 1998. There will be a 30-day comment period on the draft EA. A final EA is scheduled for the fall of 1998, or earlier.

Interventions and Protests

All intervention and protest filings must: (1) bear in all capital letters the title "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 responses; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person intervening or protesting; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All motions to intervene or protest must be received June 22, 1998. A copy of any motion to intervene or protest must be served on the applicant.

Comments, Final Terms and Conditions, Recommendations and Prescriptions

Interested parties have until June 22, 1998, to file with the Commission, any comments, final terms and conditions, recommendations and prescriptions for the Curtis/Palmer Hydroelectric Project. The applicant will have 45 days following the notice period to respond. In view of the high level of early involvement of the Cooperative Team, we expect the majority of comments to reflect the agreement and preferred alternative in the preliminary APEA.

Copies of the Application and APEA

A copy of the APEA and final license application is available for review by contacting Stuart Field, International Paper, Hudson River Mill, Pine Street, Corinth, New York 12822, or phone 518-654-3445. Copies of these documents are also available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room.

Filing Requirements

Any comments, final terms and conditions, recommendations and prescriptions should be filed by

providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

In addition to the above copies, comments, interventions, final terms and conditions, recommendations may also be submitted on a 3½-inch diskette formatted for Windows-95 based computers to: Tom Dean, Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE, Room 61-47, Washington, D.C. 20426. For Macintosh users, it would be helpful to save the documents in Macintosh word processor format and then write them to files on a diskette formatted for MS-DOS or Windows-95 machines.

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to Commission staff Tom Dean at 202-219-2778.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-11314 Filed 4-28-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Extension of Comment Period for Proceeding Pursuant to Reserved Authority To Determine Whether Modification to License Are Appropriate

April 23, 1998.

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

a. *Type of Action:* Notice of extension of comment period for proceeding pursuant to reserved authority to determine whether modifications to license are appropriate.

b. *Project No:* 4718-010.

c. *Licensee Issued:* December 8, 1982.

d. *Licensee:* Southern New Hampshire Hydroelectric Development Corporation.

e. *Name of Project:* Cocheco Falls.

f. *Location:* Cocheco River, Dover, New Hampshire.

g. *Authorization:* Article 11 of the project.

h. *Licensee Contact:* Mr. John Webster, Southern New Hampshire Hydroelectric Development Corporation, P.O. Box 178, South Berwick, ME 03908.

i. *FERC Contact:* Robert Grieve (202) 219-2655.

j. *Comment Date:* June 11, 1998.

k. *Description of Proceeding:* The comment period for the March 9, 1998 notice of the proceeding initiated by the Commission to determine if reserved authority under article 11 of the project license should be used to require modifications to the project is extended to June 11, 1998.

1. *This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs:* B, C1, and D2.

B. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene—Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments 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 comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular applications.

C1. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS", "PROTEST", OR "MOTION TO INTERVENE", as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to the which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

D2. Agency Comments—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comment within the time specified or filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of any agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

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