

the project exemptee, failed to complete construction of the project within the required time frame. Under article 3 of the exemption, the Commission has the authority to revoke the exemption should the exemptee fail to complete project construction within the required time frame. In the environmental assessment (EA), staff concludes that revocation of the project would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The Bannister Mill Project is located on Sewall Brook near the town of Boylston in Worcester County, Massachusetts.

The EA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the EA are available for review at the Commission's Reference and Information Center, Room 2-A, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-11459 Filed 4-29-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2487-006]

John M. Skorupski; Notice of Site Visit and Scoping Meetings Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

April 24, 1998.

On March 27, 1998, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a letter accepting the John M. Skorupski's application for new license for the Hoosick Falls Hydro Project, located on the Hoosick River in Rensselaer County, New York.

The purpose of this notice is to: (1) advise all parties as to the proposed scope of the staff's environmental analysis, including cumulative effects, and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis; and (2) advise all parties of their opportunity for comment.

Scoping Process

The Commission's 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 environmental document to be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The document entitled "Scoping Document" (SD) will be circulated shortly to enable appropriate federal, state, and local resource agencies, developers, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations (NGO's), and other interested parties to effectively participate in and contribute to the scoping process. SD 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 identified by staff.

Project Site Visit

The applicant and the Commission staff will conduct a site visit of the Hoosick Falls Hydro Project on May 19, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. They will meet at the project powerhouse, located off Rt. 22, north of Hoosick Falls. All interested individuals, NGO's and agencies are invited to attend. All participants are responsible for their own transportation. For more details, interested parties should contact Mr. Douglas Clark, the applicant contact, at (518) 794-8613, prior to the site visit date.

Scoping Meetings

The Commission staff will hold scoping meetings on May 18 and 19, 1998, in preparation for completing an Environmental Assessment (EA), under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for relicensing the Hoosick Falls Project.

Commission staff will hold the scoping meetings in the vicinity of the Hoosick Falls Project: one evening meeting and one morning meeting. The evening will focus on receiving input from the public, whereas the afternoon meeting will focus on resource agency concerns. We invite all interested agencies, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. The times and locations of these meetings are shown below.

Evening Scoping Meeting

Date: May 18, 1998.

Time: 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Place: Hoosick Falls Town Hall, 80 Church St., Hoosick Falls, NY 12090, (518) 686-4571.

Morning Scoping Meeting

Date: May 19, 1998.

Time: 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Place: Hoosick Falls Town Hall, 80 Church St., Hoosick Falls, NY 12090, (518) 686-4571.

To help focus discussions, we will distribute a Scoping Document (SD) outlining the areas to be addressed at the meetings to the parties on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of the SD also will be available at the scoping meetings.

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will: (1) summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements on environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA, including opinions in favor of, or in opposition to, the staff's preliminary list of issues; (4) determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the EA; and (5) identify resource issues that will not require detailed analysis in the EA.

The scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (oral and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the project. Before each meeting starts, all individuals who attend, especially those individuals that intend to make statements during the meeting, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record prior to speaking. Time allotted for presentations will be determined by staff based on the length of the meetings and the number of people wanting to speak. All individuals wishing to speak will be provided at least five minutes to present their views.

Interested parties who choose not to speak, or are unable to attend the scoping meetings, may provide written comments and information to the Commission until June 1, 1998. Written comments and information should be submitted to the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

The first page of all filings should indicate "Hoosick Falls Project, FERC No. 2487-006" at the top of the page. All filings sent to the Secretary of the Commission should contain an original and eight copies. Failure to file an original and eight copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner. Furthermore, participants in this proceeding are reminded that if they file comments with the Commission, they must serve a copy of

their filing to the parties on the Commission's service list.

For further information, please contact John Costello at (202) 219-2914.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11072-001 New York]

Trenton Falls Hydroelectric Company, Inc.; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

April 24, 1998.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for original license for the Boyd Dam Hydroelectric Project, located on the East Branch of the Fish Creek in Lewis County, New York, and has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the project.

Copies of the FEA are available in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2-A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

For further information, contact William Diehl at (202) 219-2813 or Ed Lee at (202) 219-2809.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-11460 Filed 4-29-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6006-3]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; NPDES Modification and Variance Requests

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): National Pollutant Discharge

Elimination System (NPDES) Modification and Variance Requests, EPA ICR No. 0029.07, OMB No. 2040-0068, expires August 31, 1998. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the ICR will be available at the Water Docket (W-98-11), Mail Code-4101, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M. Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Copies of the ICR can be obtained free of charge by writing to this address. All public comments shall be submitted to: ATTN: NPDES Modification and Variance ICR Renewal Comment Clerk, W-98-11, Water Docket MC-4101, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460.

Please submit the original and three copies of your comments and enclosures (including references). Commenters who want EPA to acknowledge receipt of their comments should enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. No facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted. Comments may also be submitted electronically to: ow-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and forms of encryption. Electronic comments must be identified by the docket number W-98-11. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1 format or ASCII file format. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. The record for this proposed ICR revision has been established under docket number W-98-11, and includes supporting documentation as well as printed, paper versions of electronic comments. It does not include any information claimed as CBI. The record is available for inspection from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, at the Water Docket, Room M2616, Washington, DC 20460. For access to the docket materials, please call (202) 260-3027 to schedule an appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela Lee, Phone: (202) 260-6814, Fax: (202) 260-9544, E-mail: Lee.Angela@EPAMail.EPA.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are NPDES

permit applicants that request a variance from the conditions that would normally be imposed on the applicant's discharge or NPDES permittees that request a modification of the NPDES or sewage sludge management permit conditions.

Title: NPDES Modification and Variance Requests (OMB Control No. 2040-0068, EPA ICR No. 0029.07) expiring 8/31/98.

Abstract: This ICR calculates the burden and costs associated with modifications and variances made to NPDES permits and to the National Sewage Sludge Management Program permit requirements. The regulations specified at 40 CFR 122.62 and 122.63 specify information a facility must report in order for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine whether a permit modification is warranted. A NPDES permit applicant may request a variance from the conditions that would normally be imposed on the applicant's discharge. An applicant must submit information so the permitting authority can assess whether the facility is eligible for a variance, and what deviation from Clean Water Act (CWA) provisions is necessary. In general, EPA and authorized States use the information to determine whether: (1) the conditions or requirements that would warrant a modification or variance exist, and (2) the progress toward achieving the goals of the Clean Water Act will continue if the modification or variance is granted. Other uses for the information provided include: Updating records on permitted facilities, supporting enforcement actions, and overall program management, including policy and budget development and responding to Congressional inquiries. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR Part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

- (i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and