

### The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils.
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Public safety.
- Air quality and noise.
- Hazardous Waste.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section on pages 4 and 5 of this notice.

### Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention

based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Eastern Shore. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- One federally listed threatened species, the bog turtle, may occur in the proposed project area.
- Nineteen streams and thirteen wetlands would be crossed by the project.

### Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations/routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.2;
- Reference Docket No. CP98-800-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before January 4, 1999.

### Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor". Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 3). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file later interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website ([www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us)) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-32709 Filed 12-8-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Application Ready for Environmental Analysis and Soliciting Comments, Recommendations, Terms and Conditions, and Prescriptions

December 3, 1998.

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

- a. *Type of Application:* Subsequent license.
- b. *Project No.:* 1981-010.
- c. *Date filed:* February 25, 1998.
- d. *Applicant:* Oconto Electric Cooperative.
- e. *Name of Project:* Stiles Project.
- f. *Location:* On the Oconto River, near the City of Oconto Falls, Oconto County, Wisconsin. This project would not utilize federal lands.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act 16 USC 791(a)-825(r).
- h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Tony Anderson, General Manager, Oconto Electric Cooperative, 7479 REA Road, P.O. Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154-0168, (920) 846-2816.
- i. *FERC Contact:* Any questions on this notice should be addressed to Patti Leppert-Slack, E-mail address [patricia.leppertslack@ferc.fed.us](mailto:patricia.leppertslack@ferc.fed.us) or telephone (202) 219-2767.
- j. *Deadline for filing comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions:* 60 days from the issuance of this notice.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P.

Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor 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.

k. *Status of environmental analysis:* This application has been accepted for filing and is ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. *Description of the Project:* The existing project consists of: (1) a 20-foot-high earthen embankment and 463-acre impoundment; (2) a 66-foot-long powerhouse, containing two generating units with a total capacity of 1,000 kilowatts; (3) a substation; and other appurtenances.

m. *Locations of the Application:* A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference, located at 888 First Street N.E., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The application may be viewed on the web at [www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us). Call (202) 208-2222 for assistance. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address shown in item h above.

n. *This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs:* A4 and D10.

A4. Development Application—Public notice of the filing of the initial development application, which has already been given, established the due date for filing competing applications or notices of intent. Under the Commission's regulations, any competing development application must be filed in response to and in compliance with public notice of the initial development application. No competing applications or notices of intent may be filed in response to this notice.

D10. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—The application is ready for environmental analysis at this time, and the Commission is requesting comments, reply comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions.

The Commission directs, pursuant to Section 4.34(b) of the Regulations (see Order No. 533 issued May 8, 1991, 56 FR 23108, May 20, 1991) that all comments, recommendations, terms and

conditions and prescriptions concerning the application be filed with the Commission within 60 days from the issuance date of this notice. All reply comments must be filed with the Commission within 105 days from the date of this notice.

Anyone may obtain an extension of time for these deadlines from the Commission only upon a showing of good cause or extraordinary circumstances in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2008.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "REPLY COMMENTS", "RECOMMENDATIONS," "TERMS AND CONDITIONS," or "PRESCRIPTIONS;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. Any of these documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies required by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. An additional copy must be sent to Director, Division of Project Review, Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, at the above address. Each filing must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed on the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b), and 385.2010.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-32712 Filed 12-8-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Amendment of License

December 3, 1998.

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

a. *Application Type:* Amendment to License.

b. *Projects:* Catawba-Wateree Project No. 2232-381; Ninety-Nine Islands Project No. 2331-014; Gaston Shoals Project No. 2332-021; Keowee & Jocassee Project No. 2503-048; Bad Creek Project No. 2740-041.

c. *Date Filed:* November 5, 1998.

d. *Applicant:* Duke Power Company.

e. *Location:* The five hydroelectric projects listed above are on the Catawba River in the general region of western North Carolina and northern South Carolina. The following Lakes are included in the above projects: James, Rhodhiss, Hickory, Lookout Shoals, Norman, Mountain Island, Wylie, Fishing Creek, Great Falls, Rocky Creek, Wateree, Bad Creek, Ninety-nine Islands, Gaston Shoals, Jocassee and Keowee.

f. *Filed Pursuant to:* 18 CFR 4.200.

g. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Joe Hall, Duke Power, P.O. Box 1006, Charlotte, NC 28201-1006, (704) 382-8576.

h. *FERC Contact:* Steve Hocking (202) 219-2656.

i. *Comment Date:* January 7, 1999.

j. *Description of Amendment:* Duke Power requests Commission approval of an Excavation programmatic Agreement (PA) for its five hydroelectric projects listed above. The PA would allow Duke to authorize, without Commission approval, applications to dredge or excavate less than 2,000 cubic yards of soil from the above lakes. The PA outlines those procedures Duke Power would use to review such applications including its permitting process, excavation criteria, consultation requirements, environmental requirements and other restrictions.

l. 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 application.

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