

Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214, 385.211, 385.1105, and 385.1106). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-33147 Filed 12-14-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-93-000]

#### Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

December 9, 1998.

Take notice that on November 30, 1998, Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company (Williston Basin), 200 North Third Street, Suite 300, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501, filed in Docket No. CP99-93-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 157.205, 157.216) under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for authorization to abandon two farm taps in Carbon County, Montana, under Williston Basin's blanket certificate issued in Docket Nos. CP82-487-000, *et al.*, pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Williston Basin proposes to abandon by removal the facilities, located on its Lovell-Billings transmission line in Carbon County, because they are no longer being used. Williston Basin does not foresee any use for these taps in the future. It is stated that Williston Basin was authorized to acquire and operate the taps in 1985 for deliveries to Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota), a local distribution company, which in turn served end-use customers. It is asserted that Montana-Dakota now serves the customers through its distribution system and consent to the proposed abandonment.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of

the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized 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 Natural Gas Act.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project Nos. 2004-073 and 11607-000]

#### Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Gas & Electric Department, Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant, and Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company; Notice Denying Extension of Time, in Part, to File Comments, Recommendations, Terms and Conditions, and Prescriptions Pursuant to Our Ready for Environmental Analysis Notice

December 9, 1998.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued its Notice of Application Ready for Environmental Analysis (REA) for both relicensing applications in the Holyoke proceeding on November 3, 1998. The REA notices established a deadline of January 2, 1999, for filing comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions in the aforementioned proceeding.

On November 9, 1998, subsequent to issuing the REA notices, the staff issued a request to both competing applicants, seeking clarification of previously filed additional information. The Commission staff's letter established deadlines of November 30 and December 24, 1998, for responding to different elements of the request. On or about November 19, 1998, the competing applicants jointly requested extensions of these deadlines. The Commission staff denied the applicants' requests by letters dated November 25, 1998.

On December 4, November 30, and November 27, 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Connecticut River Watershed Council, and the Town of South Hadley, respectively, filed requests for extension of the January 2, 1999, deadline for filing comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions. These parties assert that the current juxtaposition of the deadlines for responses by the competing applicants to the requests for clarification of information already filed (December 24, 1998), and the due date for comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions (January 2, 1999), does not allow for an adequate review of the material filed with the Commission and subsequent preparation and filing of comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions based on that material.

A substantial amount of information has been on file with the Commission (with copies to the parties of the proceeding) as far back as September 28, 1998. Our letter dated November 9, 1998, merely sought clarification of information that had been previously filed with the Commission, or for responses to comments made by resources agencies and non-governmental organizations on that information. We believe that federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties should be able to respond to the remaining material to be filed by the applicants within a short period of time.

Also, as far back as October 27, 1997, in our Notice Granting Extension of Time to File comments and Requests for Additional Studies, we established a very tight schedule so as to resolve these contested applications for relicensing prior to the expiration of the original license term. Again, in Scoping Documents I and II (issued January 8 and June 9, 1998, respectively), we reiterated our schedule to complete these proceedings in the Summer/Fall of 1999. We take this schedule very seriously, and will continue to make every effort to resolve this relicensing prior to September 1, 1999.

We can not justify granting an extension of time to the dates requested. However, in order to address the concerns iterated above, we will extend the deadline to provide final comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions to January 15, 1999, with the caveat that preliminary comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions must be

filed with the Commission by January 2, 1999.

After comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions are filed, applicants are given 45 days to file response comments. Given our schedule for completing relicensing of the Holyoke Project, we will not favorably view and requests for extensions of time to file reply comments. Despite the additional time provided above, reply comments are still due on or before February 18, 1999.

The Commission staff expects to issue a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) in March 1999, with a final EIS being issued in July 1999. Parties will be given 45 days to comment on the draft EIS, and, should there be a need, consultation pursuant Section 10(j) of the Federal Power Act will be completed within 75 days from the issuance of the draft EIS. Moreover, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act will be completed during this same period of time.

In light of our goal to act on the applications by September 1, 1999, we provided the above schedule. We do this so that participants in the process are able to anticipate and prepare for necessary actions, such as review of the draft EIS and 10(j) negotiations.

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

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-33152 Filed 12-14-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Motions to Intervene and Protests

December 9, 1998.

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

*a. Type of Application:* New Major License.

*b. Project No.:* P-2661-012.

*c. Date filed:* September 24, 1998.

*d. Application:* Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

*e. Name of Project:* Hat Creek Hydroelectric Project.

*f. Location:* On Hat Creek in Shasta County, California. About 6.57 acres of the project occupy lands of the U.S. Forest Service, Shasta National Forest.

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

*h. Applicant Contact:* Mr. Terry Morford, Manager, Hydro Generation,

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, P.O. Box 770000, N11C, San Francisco, California 94177, (415) 973-4603.

*i. FERC Contact:* Any questions on this notice should be addressed to David Turner, E-mail address, David.Turner@FERC.FED.US, or telephone (202) 219-2844.

*j. Deadline for filing interventions and protests:* 60 days from the issuance date 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 is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

*l. Description of Project:* The run-of-river project consists of two developments: that Creek No. 1 and Hat Creek No. 2.

*Hat Creek No. 1 consists of:* (1) A 12-foot-high, 231-foot-long concrete buttress overflow diversion dam impounding a 13-acre reservoir at a water surface elevation of 3,188 feet (referred to as Cassel Pond); (2) a 2,270-foot-long, 9-foot-deep, 30-foot-wide canal with a hydraulic capacity of about 600 cfs; (3) a 14-foot-high, 750-foot-long shotcreted earthfill forebay with an overflow spillway, having a surface area of about 2 acres; (4) a 1,600-foot-long, riveted steel penstock that varies in inside diameter from 12 feet at the intake to 7 feet-six inches at the powerhouse; (5) a 43 foot by 56.5 foot reinforced concrete powerhouse containing a Francis/Vertical shaft turbine with a generating capacity of 10,000 kilowatt (kW).

*Hat Creek No. 2 consists of:* (1) Crystal Lake, a natural lake with a surface area of 115 acres at a water surface elevation of 2,980 feet; (2) a 29-foot-high, 120-foot-long concrete gravity overflow diversion dam impounding an 89-acre reservoir at a water surface elevation of 2,975 feet (referred to as Baum Lake); (3) a 4,520 foot-long, 7-foot-deep, 18-foot-wide reinforced concrete flume, with a hydraulic capacity of 600 cfs; (4) a 414-foot-long riveted steel penstock with an inside diameter varying from 14 feet at

the intake to 7 feet-six inches at the powerhouse; and (5) a 43 foot by 56.5 foot reinforced concrete powerhouse containing a Francis/Vertical shaft turbine with a generating capacity of 10,000 kW.

*m. Locations of 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, D.C. 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The application maybe 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 an reproduction at the address in item h above.

*n. This notice also consists of the following standard paragraphs:* B1 and E1.

*B1. Protests or Motions to Intervene—* Anyone may submit a protest or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, 385.211, and 385.214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests 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 protests or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular application.

*E1. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—* The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time; therefore, the Commission is not now requesting comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions.

When the application is ready for environmental analysis, the Commission will issue a public notice requesting comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST" or "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 responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. 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, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. An additional