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Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on February 21, 2012.

Dated: February 2, 2012.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-2857 Filed 2-7-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 13272-002]

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications

On January 3, 2012, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC) filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of the Old Harbor Hydroelectric Project (Old Harbor Project or project) to be located on the East Fork of Mountain Creek (a Lagoon Creek tributary), near the town of Old Harbor, Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska. The project crosses federal lands of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed run-of-river project would consist of an intake, penstock, powerhouse, tailrace and constructed channel, access road and trail, and transmission line. Power from this project would be used by the residents of the city of Old Harbor.

Intake

The intake would consist of a diversion/cut off weir with a height ranging from about 4 feet at the spillway to 6 feet elsewhere and having an overall length of approximately 100 feet. The creek bottom is close to bedrock so the base of the diversion wall would be a shallow grouted or concrete footing dug into the stream bed. The weir would not create any significant impoundment of water and would only be high enough to have an intake that pulls water from the midpoint of the water column. This would allow floatable objects and bottom moving sediments to remain in the creek. A water filtering system consisting of a trash rack, diversion gates, and secondary screens would be incorporated into the weir structure as a separate desanding box that would be partially exposed above grade. The project diversion and intake works would consist of concrete, or other suitable material, with an integral spillway. A below grade transition with an above ground air relief inlet pipe would convey water to a buried High Density Polyethylene Pipe (HDPE) pipeline.

Penstock

A 10,100-foot-long penstock consisting of an 18-inch-diameter HDPE pipe, a 20-inch-diameter HDPE pipe, and a 16-inch-diameter steel pipe would be installed. A total of 7,250 feet of HDPE would be installed from the intake and 2,850 feet of steel pipe would be installed near the powerhouse. The pipe would be buried 1 to 3 feet underground and follow the natural terrain as much as possible. The pipeline would be located such that bends would be gradual while minimizing the amount of excavation and fill needed.

Powerhouse

The powerhouse would consist of a 30-foot by 35-foot (approximate) by 16-foot-high metal building or similar structure. The building would house the turbines and associated equipment, switchgear, controls, and tools and would be placed on a fill pad. The power generation equipment would consist of two Pelton 262 kilowatt (kW) units with a 480-volt, 3-phase synchronous generator and switchgear

for each unit. Each unit would have a hydraulic capacity of 5.9 cubic feet per second (cfs) for a total project peak flow rate of 11.8 cfs capable of producing 525 kW of power. A bypass flow system for maintaining environmental flows is not proposed at this time, since the source creek runs dry during certain times of the year.

Tailrace

A tailrace structure and constructed channel would convey the project flows approximately 700 feet from the powerhouse to the nearby lake, known in the city of Old Harbor as the Swimming Pond. A culvert would contain some of the tailrace near the powerhouse to allow for vehicle travel over the tailrace. The constructed channel would convey project flows 1,100 feet from the Swimming Pond to the headwaters of the Lagoon Creek tributary.

Access Road and Trail

An approximately 11,200-foot-long intake access trail would run between the intake and the powerhouse following the penstock route. The 12-foot-wide trail would be made of 1 to 2 feet of rock fill placed over a geo-textile filter fabric. Two gates would be placed along on the access trail to block the public from accessing the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge on all terrain vehicles. One gate would be located at the powerhouse. Another gate would be placed where an existing trail connects to the new trail at about 7,000 feet northwest of the powerhouse. A new 6,800-foot-long by 24-foot-wide powerhouse access road would extend from powerhouse to the existing community drinking water tank access road. The road would be open to the public.

Transmission Line

A 6,800-foot-long (1.5-mile), 7.2-kV, 3-phase overhead power line would be installed from the powerhouse to the existing power distribution system in Old Harbor. The transmission line would follow the powerhouse access road and drinking water tank road alignment.

The estimated dependable capacity of the project is 140 kW. The peak installed capacity will primarily depend on economics and the projected increase in demand. AVEC has chosen to permit the project with a peak capacity of 525 kW.

Applicant Contact: Brent Petrie; Manager, Community Development and Key Accounts; Alaska Village Electric Cooperative; 4831 Eagle Street,

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-7497; (907) 565-5358 or email at bpetrie@avec.org.

FERC Contact: Carolyn Templeton; (202) 502-8785 or carolyn.templeton@ferc.gov.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36. Comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1 (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, mail an original and seven copies to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number (P-13272) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: February 2, 2012.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-2855 Filed 2-7-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 13102-000]

Birch Power Company; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications

On December 1, 2011, Birch Power Company filed an application for a

preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of a hydropower project located at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Demopolis Lock and Dam, located on the Tombigbee River in Marengo County, Alabama. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed project would consist of the following: (1) A 100-foot-wide, 175-foot-long forebay channel; (2) a powerhouse, located on the north end of the dam, containing two generating units with a total capacity of 42.0 megawatts; (3) a 1,750-foot-long, 140-foot-wide tailrace; (4) a 1.8-mile-long, 115.0 kilo-volt transmission line. The proposed project would have an average annual generation of 191.6 gigawatt-hours (GWh), and operate run-of-river utilizing surplus water from the Demopolis Lock & Dam, as directed by the Corps.

Applicant Contact: Mr. Ted Sorenson, Sorenson Engineering, 5203 South 11th East, Idaho Falls, ID 83404. (208) 522-8069.

FERC Contact: Michael Spencer, michael.spencer@ferc.gov, (202) 502-6093.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36. Comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1 (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, mail an original and seven copies to: Kimberly

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

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number (P-13102-000) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: February 2, 2012.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Commission Staff Attendance

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hereby gives notice that members of the Commission's staff may attend the following meeting related to the transmission planning activities of the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP): Strategic Planning Committee Task Force on Order No. 1000 Meeting, February 10, 2012, 9-3 p.m., Local Time.

The above-referenced meeting will be held at: AEP Offices, 1201 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

The above-referenced meeting is open to stakeholders.

Further information may be found at www.spp.org.

The discussions at the meetings described above may address matters at issue in the following proceedings:

Docket No. ER09-35-001, *Tallgrass Transmission, LLC*
Docket No. ER09-36-001, *Prairie Wind Transmission, LLC*
Docket No. ER09-36-002, *Prairie Wind Transmission, LLC*
Docket No. ER09-548-001, *ITC Great Plains, LLC*
Docket No. ER11-4105-000, *Southwest Power Pool, Inc.*
Docket No. EL11-34-001, *Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc.*
Docket No. ER11-3967-002, *Southwest Power Pool, Inc.*
Docket No. ER11-3967-003, *Southwest Power Pool, Inc.*

For more information, contact Luciano Lima, Office of Energy Market Regulation, Federal Energy Regulatory