

updated estimate as it deems necessary. If any agency believes that its most recent estimate will be exceeded by more than 25 percent, it must supply the potential applicant with a new estimate and submit a copy to the Commission.

[Order 2002, 68 FR 51121, Aug. 25, 2003; 68 FR 61742, Oct. 30, 2003; 68 FR 69957, Dec. 16, 2003]

§ 5.10 Scoping Document 2.

Within 45 days following the deadline for filing of comments on Scoping Document 1, the Commission staff shall, if necessary, issue Scoping Document 2.

§ 5.11 Potential Applicant's proposed study plan and study plan meetings.

(a) Within 45 days following the deadline for filing of comments on the pre-application document, including information and study requests, the potential applicant must file with the Commission a proposed study plan.

(b) The potential applicant's proposed study plan must include with respect to each proposed study:

(1) A detailed description of the study and the methodology to be used;

(2) A schedule for conducting the study;

(3) Provisions for periodic progress reports, including the manner and extent to which information will be shared; and sufficient time for technical review of the analysis and results; and

(4) If the potential applicant does not adopt a requested study, an explanation of why the request was not adopted, with reference to the criteria set forth in § 5.9(b).

(c) The potential applicant's proposed study plan must also include provisions for the initial and updated study reports and meetings provided for in § 5.15.

(d) The applicant's proposed study plan must:

(1) Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;

(2) Address any known resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;

(3) Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study

proposal, and the need for additional information;

(4) Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied;

(5) Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate field season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers any known tribal interests;

(6) Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable.

(e) The potential applicant's proposed study plan must be accompanied by a proposal for conducting a study plan meeting or meetings during the 90-day period provided for in § 5.12 for the purpose of clarifying the potential applicant's proposed study plan and any initial information gathering or study requests, and to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to the proposed study plan. The initial study plan meeting must be held no later than 30 days after the deadline date for filing of the potential applicant's proposed study plan.

§ 5.12 Comments on proposed study plan.

Comments on the potential applicant's proposed study plan, including any revised information or study requests, must be filed within 90 days after the proposed study plan is filed. This filing must also include an explanation of any study plan concerns and any accommodations reached with the potential applicant regarding those concerns. Any proposed modifications to the potential applicant's proposed study plan must address the criteria in § 5.9(b).

§ 5.13 Revised study plan and study plan determination.

(a) Within 30 days following the deadline for filing comments on the potential applicant's proposed study plan, as provided for in § 5.12, the potential applicant must file a revised study plan for Commission approval. The revised study plan shall include the comments