

Subpart K—Exemption of Small Hydroelectric Power Projects of 5 Megawatts or Less

§ 4.101 Applicability.

This subpart provides procedures for exemption on a case-specific basis from all or part of Part I of the Federal Power Act (Act), including licensing, for small hydroelectric power projects as defined in § 4.30(b)(29).

(Energy Security Act of 1980, Pub. L. 96–294, 94 Stat. 611; Federal Power Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 792–828c); Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601–2645); and the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101–7352); E.O. 12009, 3 CFR 142 (1978))

[Order 202, 47 FR 4243, Jan. 29, 1982, as amended by Order 413, 50 FR 11687, Mar. 25, 1985; Order 482, 52 FR 39630, Oct. 23, 1987; Order 2002, 68 FR 51121, Aug. 25, 2003]

§ 4.102 Surrender of exemption.

(a) To voluntarily surrender its exemption, a holder of an exemption for a small hydroelectric power project must file a petition with the Commission.

(b)(1) If construction has begun, prior to filing a petition with the Commission, the exemption holder must consult with the fish and wildlife agencies in accordance with § 4.38, substituting for the information required under § 4.38(b)(1) information appropriate to the disposition and restoration of the project works and lands. The petition must set forth the exemption holder's plans with respect to disposition and restoration of the project works and lands.

(2) If construction has begun, public notice of the petition will be given, and, at least 30 days thereafter, the Commission will act upon the petition. New applications involving the site may be filed on the next business day.

(c) If no construction had begun, unless the Commission issues an order to the contrary, the surrender will take effect at the close of the thirtieth day after the Commission issues a public notice of receipt of the petition. New applications involving the site may be filed on the next business day.

(d) Exemptions may be surrendered only upon fulfillment by the exemption holder of such obligations under the exemption as the Commission may pre-

scribe and, if construction has begun, upon such conditions with respect to the disposition of such project works and restoration of project lands as may be determined by the Commission and the Federal and state fish and wildlife agencies.

(e) Where occupancy of United States lands or reservations has been permitted by a Federal agency having supervision over such lands, the exemption holder must concurrently notify that agency of the petition to surrender and of the steps that will be taken to restore the affected U.S. lands or reservations.

[Order 413, 50 FR 11688, Mar. 25, 1985]

§ 4.103 General provisions for case-specific exemption.

(a) *Exemptible projects.* Subject to the provisions in paragraph (b) of this section, § 4.31(c), and §§ 4.105 and 4.106, the Commission may exempt on a case-specific basis any small hydroelectric power project from all or part of Part I of the Act, including licensing requirements. Any applications for exemption for a project shall conform to the requirements of §§ 4.107 or 4.108, as applicable.

(b) *Limitation for licensed water power project.* The Commission will not accept for filing an application for exemption from licensing for any project that is only part of a licensed water power project.

(c) *Waiver.* In applying for case-specific exemption from licensing, a qualified exemption applicant may petition under § 385.207 of this chapter for waiver of any specific provision of §§ 4.102 through 4.107. The Commission will grant a waiver only if consistent with section 408 of the Energy Security Act of 1980.

[Order 413, 50 FR 11688, Mar. 25, 1985, as amended by Order 503, 53 FR 36568, Sept. 21, 1988]

§ 4.104 Amendment of exemption.

(a) An exemption holder must construct and operate its project as described in the exemption application approved by the Commission or its delegate.

(b) If an exemption holder desires to change the design, location, method of

construction or operation of its project, it must first notify the appropriate Federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and inform them in writing of the changes it intends to implement. If these agencies determine that the changes would not cause the project to violate the terms and conditions imposed by the agencies, and if the changes would not materially alter the design, location, method of construction or operation of the project, the exemption holder may implement the changes. If any of these agencies determines that the changes would cause the project to violate the terms and conditions imposed by that agency, or if the changes would materially alter the design, location, method of construction or the operation of the project works, the exemption holder may not implement the changes without first acquiring authorization from the Commission to amend its exemption or acquiring a license for the project works that authorizes the project, as changed.

(c) An application to amend an exemption may be filed only by the holder of an exemption. An application to amend an exemption will be governed by the Commission's regulations governing applications for exemption. The Commission will not accept applications in competition with an application to amend an exemption, unless the Director of the Office of Hydropower Licensing determines that it is in the public interest to do so.

[Order 413, 50 FR 11688, Mar. 25, 1985]

§ 4.105 Action on exemption applications.

(a) *Exemption from provisions other than licensing.* An application for exemption of a small hydroelectric power project from provisions of Part I of the Act other than the licensing requirement will be processed and considered as part of the related application for license or amendment of license.

(b)(1) *Consultation.* The Commission will circulate a notice of application for exemption from licensing to interested agencies and Indian tribes at the time the applicant is notified that the application is accepted for filing.

(2) *Non-standard terms and conditions.* In approving any application for ex-

emption from licensing, the Commission may prescribe terms or conditions in addition to those set forth in § 4.106 in order to:

(i) Protect the quality or quantity of the related water supply;

(ii) Otherwise protect life, health, or property;

(iii) Avoid or mitigate adverse environmental impact; or

(iv) Better conserve, develop, or utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region.

(Energy Security Act of 1980, Pub. L. 96-294, 94 Stat. 611; Federal Power Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 792-828c); Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601-2645); and the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101-7352); E.O. 12009, 3 CFR 142 (1978))

[Order 106, 45 FR 76123, Nov. 18, 1980, as amended by Order 202, 47 FR 4246, Jan. 29, 1982; Order 413, 50 FR 11688, Mar. 25, 1985; Order 533, 56 FR 23154, May 20, 1991]

§ 4.106 Standard terms and conditions of case-specific exemption from licensing.

Any case-specific exemption from licensing granted for a small hydroelectric power project is subject to the following standard terms and conditions:

(a) *Article 1.* The Commission reserves the right to conduct investigations under sections 4(g), 306, 307, and 311 of the Federal Power Act with respect to any acts, complaints, facts, conditions, practices, or other matters related to the construction, operation, or maintenance of the exempt project. If any term or condition of the exemption is violated, the Commission may revoke the exemption, issue a suitable order under section 4(g) of the Federal Power Act, or take appropriate action for enforcement, forfeiture, or penalties under Part III of the Federal Power Act.

(b) *Article 2.* The construction, operation, and maintenance of the exempt project must comply with any terms and conditions that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and any state fish and wildlife agencies have determined are appropriate to prevent loss of, or damage to, fish or wildlife resources or otherwise to carry out the