

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 U.S.C. 470hh).

(xi) *Socio-economic resources.* A general description of socio-economic conditions in the vicinity of the project. Components of this description include general land use patterns (*e.g.*, urban, agricultural, forested), population patterns, and sources of employment in the project vicinity.

(xii) *Tribal resources.* A description of Indian tribes, tribal lands, and interests that may be affected by the project. Components of this description include:

(A) Identification of information on resources specified in paragraphs (d)(2)(ii)–(xi) of this section to the extent that existing project construction and operation affecting those resources may impact tribal cultural or economic interests, *e.g.*, impacts of project-induced soil erosion on tribal cultural sites; and

(B) Identification of impacts on Indian tribes of existing project construction and operation that may affect tribal interests not necessarily associated with resources specified in paragraphs (d)(3)(ii)–(xi) of this Section, *e.g.*, tribal fishing practices or agreements between the Indian tribe and other entities other than the potential applicant that have a connection to project construction and operation.

(xiii) *River basin description.* A general description of the river basin or sub-basin, as appropriate, in which the proposed project is located, including information on:

(A) The area of the river basin or sub-basin and length of stream reaches therein;

(B) Major land and water uses in the project area;

(C) All dams and diversion structures in the basin or sub-basin, regardless of function; and

(D) Tributary rivers and streams, the resources of which are or may be affected by project operations;

(4) *Preliminary issues and studies list.* Based on the resource description and impacts discussion required by paragraph (d)(3) of this section; the pre-application document must include with respect to each resource area identified above, a list of:

(i) Issues pertaining to the identified resources;

(ii) Potential studies or information gathering requirements associated with the identified issues;

(iii) Relevant qualifying Federal and state or tribal comprehensive waterway plans; and

(iv) Relevant resource management plans.

(5) *Summary of contacts.* An appendix summarizing contacts with Federal, state, and interstate resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, or other members of the public made in connection with preparing the pre-application document sufficient to enable the Commission to determine if due diligence has been exercised in obtaining relevant information.

(e) If applicable, the applicant must also provide a statement of whether or not it will seek benefits under section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) by satisfying the requirements for qualifying hydroelectric small power production facilities in §292.203 of this chapter. If benefits under section 210 of PURPA are sought, a statement of whether or not the applicant believes the project is located at a new dam or diversion (as that term is defined in §292.202(p) of this chapter), and a request for the agencies' view on that belief, if any.

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

§ 5.7 Tribal consultation.

A meeting shall be held no later than 30 days following filing of the notification of intent required by §5.5 between each Indian tribe likely to be affected by the potential license application and the Commission staff if the affected Indian tribe agrees to such meeting.

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

§ 5.8 Notice of commencement of proceeding and scoping document, or of approval to use traditional licensing process or alternative procedures.

(a) *Notice.* Within 60 days of the notification of intent required under §5.5, filing of the pre-application document

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pursuant to §5.6, and filing of any request to use the traditional licensing process or alternative procedures, the Commission will issue a notice of commencement of proceeding and scoping document or of approval of a request to use the traditional licensing process or alternative procedures.

(b) *Notice contents.* The notice shall include:

(1) The decision of the Director of the Office of Energy Projects on any request to use the traditional licensing process or alternative procedures.

(2) If appropriate, a request by the Commission to initiate informal consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 CFR part 402, section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.920, or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800.2, and, if applicable, designation of the potential applicant as the Commission's non-federal representative.

(3) If the potential license application is to be developed and filed pursuant to this part, notice of:

(i) The applicant's intent to file a license application;

(ii) The filing of the pre-application document;

(iii) Commencement of the proceeding;

(iv) A request for comments on the pre-application document (including the proposed process plan and schedule);

(v) A statement that all communications to or from the Commission staff related to the merits of the potential application must be filed with the Commission;

(vi) The request for other Federal or state agencies or Indian tribes to be cooperating agencies for purposes of developing an environmental document;

(vii) The Commission's intent with respect to preparation of an environmental impact statement; and

(viii) A public scoping meeting and site visit to be held within 30 days of the notice.

(c) *Scoping Document 1.* At the same time the Commission issues the notice

provided for in paragraph (a) of this Section, the Commission staff will issue Scoping Document 1. Scoping Document 1 will include:

(1) An introductory section describing the purpose of the scoping document, the date and time of the scoping meeting, procedures for submitting written comments, and a request for information or study requests from state and Federal resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals;

(2) Identification of the proposed action, including a description of the project's location, facilities, and operation, and any proposed protection and enhancement measures, and other alternatives to the proposed action, including alternatives considered but eliminated from further study, and the no action alternative;

(3) Identification of resource issues to be analyzed in the environmental document, including those that would be cumulatively affected along with a description of the geographic and temporal scope of the cumulatively affected resources;

(4) A list of qualifying Federal and state comprehensive waterway plans;

(5) A list of qualifying tribal comprehensive waterway plans;

(6) A process plan and schedule and a draft outline of the environmental document; and

(7) A list of recipients.

(d) *Scoping meeting and site visit.* The purpose of the public meeting and site visit is to:

(1) Initiate issues scoping pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act;

(2) Review and discuss existing conditions and resource management objectives;

(3) Review and discuss existing information and make preliminary identification of information and study needs;

(4) Review, discuss, and finalize the process plan and schedule for pre-filing activity that incorporates the time periods provided for in this part and, to the extent reasonably possible, maximizes coordination of Federal, state, and tribal permitting and certification processes, including consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species

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Act and water quality certification or waiver thereof under section 401 of the Clean Water Act; and

(5) Discuss the appropriateness of any Federal or state agency or Indian tribe acting as a cooperating agency for development of an environmental document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

(e) *Method of notice.* The public notice provided for in this section will be given by:

(1) Publishing notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER;

(2) Publishing notice in a daily or weekly newspaper published in the county or counties in which the project or any part thereof or the lands affected thereby are situated, and, as appropriate, tribal newspapers;

(3) Notifying appropriate Federal, state, and interstate resource agencies, state water quality and coastal zone management plan consistency certification agencies, Indian tribes, and non-governmental organizations, by electronic means if practical, otherwise by mail.

[Order 2002, 68 FR 51121, Aug. 25, 2003, as amended by Order 653, 70 FR 8724, Feb. 23, 2005]

§ 5.9 Comments and information or study requests.

(a) *Comments and study requests.* Comments on the pre-application document and the Commission staff's Scoping Document 1 must be filed with the Commission within 60 days following the Commission's notice of consultation procedures issued pursuant to § 5.8. Comments, including those by Commission staff, must be accompanied by any information gathering and study requests, and should include information and studies needed for consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

(b) *Content of study request.* Any information or study request must:

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

(2) If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;

(3) If the requester is a not resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study;

(4) Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;

(5) Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements;

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

(7) Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why any proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.

(c) *Applicant seeking PURPA benefits; estimate of fees.* If a potential applicant has stated that it intends to seek PURPA benefits, comments on the pre-application document by a fish and wildlife agency must provide the potential applicant with a reasonable estimate of the total costs the agency anticipates it will incur in order to set mandatory terms and conditions for the proposed project. An agency may provide a potential applicant with an 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.