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*Filed Electronically*

October 30, 2020

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
825 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Subject: Bishop Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1394  
Initial Study Report**

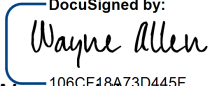
Southern California Edison Company (SCE) hereby files with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) its Initial Study Report for the Bishop Creek Project (Project No. 1394).

Pursuant to 18 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 5.15(c) an Initial Study Report (ISR) and meeting mark the 1-year anniversary of the Study Plan Determination. SCE intends to hold an ISR Meeting on November 10, 2020 from 9am – 2pm PST. The proposed agenda for the ISR meeting, and supporting materials are included with this filing.

Due to the global pandemic brought on by COVID-19, the ISR meeting will be held virtually and will allow for stakeholders to suggest modifications to studies or additional areas of inquiry. Following the acceptance of this filing, SCE will forward the “Acceptance for Filing” e-mail generated by FERC's e-filing service to all contacts on the distribution list either via e-mail or U.S Mail, as appropriate. This filing, along with the ISR meeting notice will also be placed on SCE's Bishop Creek Relicensing Website ([www.sce.com/bishopcreek](http://www.sce.com/bishopcreek)) where it will be available for download, and available for review by appointment at the Bishop Creek Hydro Headquarters Office – 4000 E. Bishop Creek Road, Bishop, CA 93514.

SCE looks forward to continuing to work with FERC and other interested parties on the Bishop Creek relicensing. Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this filing please contact Matthew Woodhall, Senior Regulatory Advisor, by phone at (626) 302-9596 or via e-mail at [matthew.woodhall@sce.com](mailto:matthew.woodhall@sce.com).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
Wayne Allen  
Principal Manager

Attachments:

- ISR Meeting Agenda
- Transmittal memo to technical working group
- Initial Study Report
- Initial Study Report Appendices

# Bishop Creek Hydroelectric System Relicensing Initial Study Report Meeting

## Meeting Objectives

1. Update public stakeholders on the relicensing process and accept any feedback
2. Provide an opportunity for stakeholder/TWG questions about the study results described in the Initial Study Report
3. Confirm process for requesting new studies or modifications to existing studies

## Meeting Agenda

*The times on this agenda are approximate; depending on the number of questions and extent of discussion, any given topic may take more or less time than indicated, so if you are not attending the entire meeting, we recommend joining the webinar at least 30 min before your topic-of-interest is scheduled. The meeting will end no later than 2pm.*

*There will be an opportunity for Q&A after each agenda item and each study.*

- 9:00 am: **Introductions & agenda review**
- 9:10 am: **Overview of the relicensing process & timeline**
- 9:20 am: **Introduction to the Initial Study Report & process for stakeholder input**
- 9:35 am: **Status of Studies**

*For each study, the following items will be discussed:*

- Status
- Purpose
- Participant questions about data summary in the report
- Planning and schedule, including any need for changes

*The studies will be discussed in the following order:*

- Water Quality
- Fish Distribution - Reservoir

10:35 am - 10:45 am Break

- Riparian
- Fish Distribution - Creek
- Operations Modeling
- Sediment Geomorphology

12:15 pm - 12:45 pm Lunch Break

- Cultural
- Tribal
- Invasives
- Threatened & Endangered Plans
- Flow Studies
- Lands
- Facilities Assessment
- Recreation
- Wildlife, including bats

- 1:45 pm: **Next steps, including action items**
- 2:00 pm: **Adjourn**

**LOOKING FORWARD:** *FERC timeline for providing feedback on the Initial Study Report*

- SCE will file a meeting summary with FERC within 15 days (by November 25th)
- Stakeholders will have 30 days from that filing date to provide comments to SCE, requests for new studies, or suggested modifications to existing studies
- Within 30 days after that, SCE will respond to comments

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Technical Work Groups  
FERC Distribution List

**FROM:** Bishop Creek Relicensing Team

**CC:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Docket P-1394-080

**DATE:** October 30, 2020

**RE:** Initial Study Report

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### INTRODUCTION

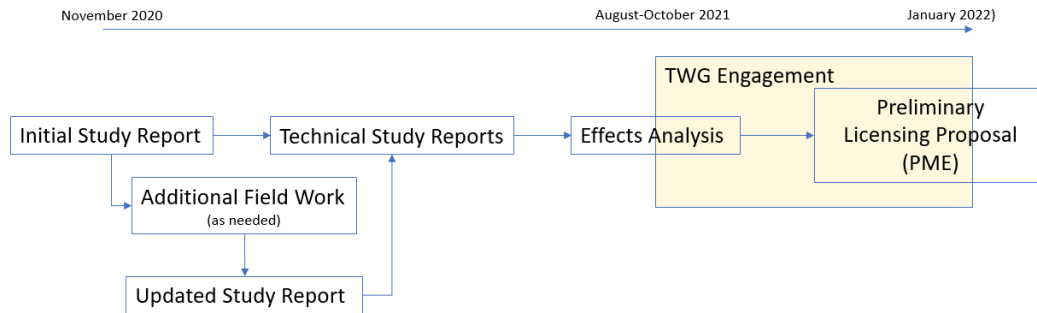
On November 4, 2019 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a study plan determination (Determination), approving Southern California Edison's (SCE) Technical Study Plan (TSP) for the relicensing of the Bishop Creek Project (FERC No. 1394, Project). As provided for in 18 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 5.15(c) an Initial Study Report (ISR) and meeting mark the 1-year anniversary of the Determination.

The ISR and associated meeting is intended to provide an opportunity to review progress in implementing the approved study plans and provide an opportunity for stakeholders to suggest modification or additional areas of inquiry. Criteria for suggesting modifying existing studies or suggesting new studies are described in 18 CFR 5.15(d) and 18 CFR 5.15(e), respectively and are included as Attachment 1.

### BISHOP CREEK ISR

The ISR for Bishop Creek resembles technical study reports but omits any detailed discussions about potential Project impacts. The goal of the ISR is to solicit input on the implementation of studies and the reach agreement on what else (if anything) is needed to have an informed discussion of Project effects. The ISR is a snapshot of the status of each study and we have endeavored to provide as much data as possible to help guide discussions.

As each study is completed, the ISR sections will be converted to stand-alone Technical Study Reports (TSR) which will provide more detailed analysis and discussion. Once all TSRs are completed, an effects analysis will be completed. This will allow SCE and the TWGs to look at interactions between resources and derive a comprehensive list of effects, for which some level of protection, enhancement, and mitigation measures (PMEs) would be appropriate. SCE anticipates that Technical Reports will begin to be issued in early 2021 and will involve the TWG in review of those reports and in the subsequent discussions about effects. Figure 1 below illustrates the basic steps and general schedule.



**Figure 1.** Planned workflow showing steps from the ISR to development of license application and supporting PMEs

## ISR Meeting

The ISR meeting is scheduled for November 10, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Our principal objective is to 1) summarize overall progress in implementing the study plans; 2) recap remaining schedule and the describe the data collected; 3) review any variance from the study plans and schedule; and 4) discuss any need for modifications to ongoing studies or new studies proposed by stakeholders. We will not go into detailed results for each study; we recommend that attendees review Section 2 of the ISR in advance of the meeting to see where key decisions may need to be made.

## FERC Schedule

Within 15 days of the meeting, SCE will file with FERC a meeting summary that includes any modifications to ongoing studies or new studies proposed. Any participant or the Commission staff may file a disagreement concerning the applicant's meeting summary within 30 days, setting forth the basis for the disagreement. This filing must also include any modifications to ongoing studies or new studies proposed by the Commission staff or other participant.

SCE and the relicensing team appreciate the continued involvement of the TWG members, which has enabled this process to proceed smoothly. Should there be additional questions about the ISR content, FERC process, or SCEs schedule, please feel free to contact Matthew Woodhall or Finlay Anderson using the contact information below.

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## Attachment 1

### EXCERPT FOM 18 CFR 5.15: Conduct of Studies

(c) *Initial study report.* (1) Pursuant to the Commission-approved study plan and schedule provided for in §5.13 or no later than one year after Commission approval of the study plan, whichever comes first, the potential applicant must prepare and file with the Commission an initial study report describing its overall progress in implementing the study plan and schedule and the data collected, including an explanation of any variance from the study plan and schedule. The report must also include any modifications to ongoing studies or new studies proposed by the potential applicant.

(2) Within 15 days following the filing of the initial study report, the potential applicant shall hold a meeting with the participants and Commission staff to discuss the study results and the potential applicant's and or other participant's proposals, if any, to modify the study plan in light of the progress of the study plan and data collected.

(3) Within 15 days following the meeting provided for in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the potential applicant shall file a meeting summary, including any modifications to ongoing studies or new studies proposed by the potential applicant.

(4) Any participant or the Commission staff may file a disagreement concerning the applicant's meeting summary within 30 days, setting forth the basis for the disagreement. This filing must also include any modifications to ongoing studies or new studies proposed by the Commission staff or other participant.

(5) Responses to any filings made pursuant to paragraph (c)(4) of this section must be filed within 30 days.

(6) No later than 30 days following the due date for responses provided for in paragraph (c)(5) of this section, the Director will resolve the disagreement and amend the approved study plan as appropriate.

(7) If no participant or the Commission staff files a disagreement concerning the potential applicant's meeting summary and request to amend the approved study plan within 30 days, any proposed amendment shall be deemed to be approved.

(d) *Criteria for modification of approved study.* Any proposal to modify an ongoing study pursuant to paragraphs (c)(1)-(4) of this section must be accompanied by a showing of good cause why the proposal should be approved, and must include, as appropriate to the facts of the case, a demonstration that:

(1) Approved studies were not conducted as provided for in the approved study plan; or (2) The study was conducted under anomalous environmental conditions or that environmental conditions have changed in a material way.

(e) *Criteria for new study.* Any proposal for new information gathering or studies pursuant to paragraphs (c)(1)-(4) of this section must be accompanied by a showing of good cause why the proposal should be approved, and must include, as appropriate to the facts of the case, a statement explaining:

(1) Any material changes in the law or regulations applicable to the information request;

(2) Why the goals and objectives of any approved study could not be met with the approved study methodology;

(3) Why the request was not made earlier;

(4) Significant changes in the project proposal or that significant new information material to the study objectives has become available; and

(5) Why the new study request satisfies the study criteria in §5.9(b).