

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20426

February 10, 2017

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 298-080 – California
Kaweah Hydroelectric Project
Southern California Edison Company

Subject: Scoping Document 1 for the Kaweah Hydroelectric Project

To the Party Addressed:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is currently reviewing the Pre-Application Document submitted by the Southern California Edison Company (SCE) for relicensing the Kaweah Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 298). The proposed project is located on the Kaweah River and East Fork Kaweah River in Tulare County, California.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, Commission staff intends to prepare an environmental assessment (EA), which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue a new license for the project. To support and assist our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed and that the EA is thorough and balanced.

We invite your participation in the scoping process and are circulating the attached Scoping Document 1 (SD1) to provide you with information on the proposed Kaweah Hydropower Project. We are also soliciting your comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA. We are also requesting that you identify any studies that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the EA for the project.

We will hold two scoping meetings for the Kaweah Hydroelectric Project to receive input on the scope of the EA. A daytime meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on March 14, 2017, at the Wyndham Visalia, 9000 W. Airport Drive, Visalia, California. An evening meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the same day and at the same location. We will also visit the project facilities on March 15, 2017, starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at or about 4:00 p.m.

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We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to attend one or all of these meetings. Further information on our environmental site review and scoping meetings is available in the enclosed SD1.

SD1 is being distributed to both the applicant's distribution list and the Commission's official mailing list (see section 10.0 of the attached SD1). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by email to efiling@ferc.gov or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written or emailed requests must specify your wish to be added to or removed from the mailing list and must clearly identify the following on the first page: **Kaweah Hydroelectric Project No. 298-080**.

Please review SD1 and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 6.0, *Request for Information and Studies*. If you have any questions about SD1, the scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the EA for this project, please contact Jim Hastreiter at (503) 552-2760 or james.hastreiter@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Kaweah Hydroelectric Project may be obtained from our website, www.ferc.gov, or Southern California Edison's Kaweah Project relicensing website, <http://on.sce.com/kaweah>. The deadline for filing comments is April 13, 2017. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 1

cc: Mailing List
Public Files

SCOPING DOCUMENT 1
KAWEAH HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

CALIFORNIA

PROJECT NO. 298-080

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Hydropower Licensing
Washington, DC

February 2017

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SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

Kaweah Hydroelectric Project, No. 298-080

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ may issue licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydroelectric projects. On December 14, 2016, the Southern California Edison Company (SCE or applicant) filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD) and Notice of Intent to seek a new license for the Kaweah Project (FERC Project No. 298).²

The Kaweah Project (project) is located on the Kaweah River and East Fork Kaweah River in Tulare County, California (figure 1). The 8.85 megawatt (MW) project consists of three developments: Kaweah No.1, Kaweah No. 2 and Kaweah No. 3. The average annual generation of the Kaweah Project from 2010 to 2014 was 28.5 megawatt-hours (MWh). Portions of the project occupy public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The project incorporates several non-project facilities (diversion and water conveyance structures) located within Sequoia National Park, which are operated under a special use permit issued to SCE by the National Park Service. Section 3.0 provides a detailed description of the project.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969,³ the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require that we independently evaluate the environmental effects of relicensing the Kaweah Project as proposed, and also consider reasonable alternatives to the licensee's proposed action. At this time, we intend to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects, if any, of the proposed action and alternatives. The EA preparation will be supported by a scoping process to ensure identification and analysis of all pertinent issues.

Although our current intent is to prepare an EA, there is a possibility that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be required. The scoping process will satisfy

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r) (2012).

² The current license for the Kaweah Project was issued with an effective date of January 31, 1992, for a term of 30 years and expires on December 31, 2021.

³ National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370(f) (2012).

the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission issues an EA or an EIS.

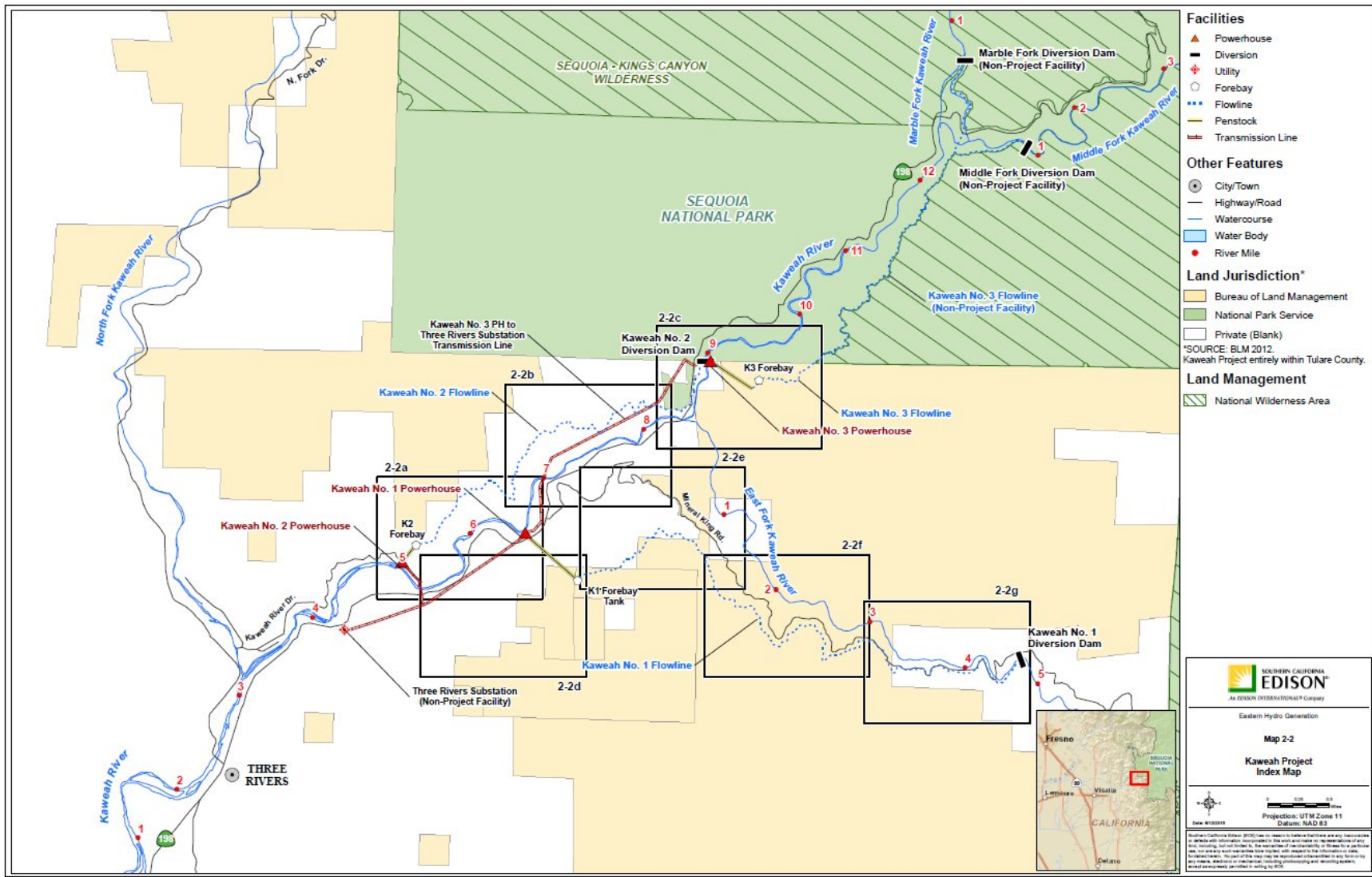


Figure 1. Location of the project (Source: SCE, 2016).

2.0 SCOPING

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the EA and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and schedule for the development of the EA; (2) a description of the proposed action and alternatives; (3) a preliminary identification of environmental issues and proposed studies; (4) a request for comments and information; (5) a proposed EA outline; and (6) a preliminary list of comprehensive plans that are applicable to the project.

2.1 PURPOSES OF SCOPING

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. In general, scoping should be conducted during the early planning stages of a project. The purposes of the scoping process are as follows:

- invite participation of federal, state, and local resource agencies; Indian tribes; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;
- determine the resource issues, depth of analysis, and significance of issues to be addressed in the EA;
- identify how the project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects in the project area;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that should be evaluated in the EA;
- solicit from participants available information on the resources at issue, including existing information and study needs; and
- determine the resource areas and potential issues that do not require detailed analysis during review of the project.

2.2 COMMENTS, SCOPING MEETINGS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW

During preparation of the EA, there will be several opportunities for the resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to provide input. These opportunities occur:

- during the public scoping process and study plan meetings when we solicit oral and written comments regarding the scope of issues and analysis for the EA;
- in response to the Commission's notice that the project is ready for environmental analysis; and
- after issuance of the draft EA when we solicit written comments on the draft EA.

In addition to written comments solicited by this SD1, we will hold two public scoping meetings and an environmental site review in the vicinity of the project. A daytime meeting will focus on concerns of the resource agencies, NGOs, and Indian tribes, and an evening meeting will focus on receiving input from the public. We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both of the meetings to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. All interested parties are also invited to participate in the environmental site review. The times and locations of the meetings and environmental site review are as follows:

Daytime Scoping Meeting

Date and Time: March 14, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.
 Location: Wyndham Visalia
 9000 W. Airport Drive
 Visalia, CA 93277
 Phone Number: (559) 651-5000

Evening Scoping Meeting

Date and Time: March 14, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.
 Location: Wyndham Visalia
 9000 W. Airport Drive
 Visalia, CA 93277
 Phone Number: (559) 651-5000

Environmental Site Review

Date and Time: March 15, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.
 Location: Memorial Building
 43490 Sierra Drive
 Three Rivers, CA 93271
 Phone Number: (559) 561-9996

Please notify Mr. David Moore of Southern California Edison Company at (626) 302-9494 or David.Moore@sce.com **on or before March 1, 2017**, if you plan to attend the environmental site review.

The scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (oral and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the project. Before each meeting, all individuals who attend, especially those who intend to make statements, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record. Interested parties who choose not to speak or who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide written comments and information to the Commission as described in section 6.0. These meetings, along with other related information, are posted on the Commission's calendar located on the internet at www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx.

Meeting participants should come prepared to discuss their issues and/or concerns as they pertain to the relicensing of the Kaweah Project. It is advised that participants review the PAD in preparation for the scoping meetings. Copies of the PAD are available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, P-298, to access the documents. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy of the PAD also can be obtained from Southern California Edison's Kaweah Project relicensing website (<http://on.sce.com/kaweah>) or can be inspected and reproduced, by appointment, at the following addresses: Southern California Edison Company, Kaweah Hydro Headquarters Office – Carpenter's Shop, 44511 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271. The public may contact Mr. David Moore, or his designee, by telephone at (626) 302-9494 to make an appointment to review the information at SCE's office.

Following the scoping meetings and comment period, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made as to the level of analysis needed. If preliminary analysis indicates that any issues presented in this scoping document have little potential for causing significant effects, the issue(s) will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be given in the EA.

If we receive no substantive comments on SD1, then we will not prepare a Scoping Document 2 (SD2). Otherwise, we will issue SD2 to address any substantive comments received. The SD2 will be issued for informational purposes only; no response will be required. The EA will address recommendations and input received during the scoping process.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with NEPA, the environmental analysis will consider the following alternatives, at a minimum: (1) the no-action alternative, (2) the co-applicants' proposed action, and (3) alternatives to the proposed action.

3.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the no-action alternative, the Kaweah Project would continue to operate as required by the current project license (i.e., there would be no change to the existing environment). No new environmental protection, mitigation, or enhancement measures would be implemented. We use this alternative to establish baseline environmental conditions for comparison with other alternatives.

3.1.1 Existing Project Facilities

The Kaweah Project has three developments consisting of the following components.

Kaweah No. 1

This development consists of: (1) a 20-foot-long and 6-foot-high concrete diversion dam on the East Fork Kaweah River, (2) a 30,723-foot-long steel flume, (3) a forebay tank, (4) a 3,340-foot-long penstock, and (4) a powerhouse with an impulse turbine rated at 2.25 megawatts (MW).

Kaweah No. 2

This development consists of: consists of: (1) a 161-foot-long and 7-foot-high masonry diversion dam on the Middle Fork Kaweah River, (2) a 16,738-foot-long concrete-lined ditch, (3) a 3,822-foot-long steel flume, (4) a 1,047-foot-long steel pipe, (5) a forebay, (6) a 1,012-foot-long buried penstock, and (7) a powerhouse with a Francis turbine rated at 1.8 MW.

Kaweah No. 3

This development consists of: consists of: (1) a 2,580 foot-long concrete-lined flume, (2) an embankment forebay, (3) a 3,151 foot-long penstock, and (4) a powerhouse with two impulse turbines rated at a combined 4.8 MW.

The project has a primary 4.09-mile-long transmission line extending from the Kaweah No. 3 powerhouse to a substation, and two tap lines (120-foot-long and 0.4-mile-long) connecting Kaweah No. 1 and No. 2 powerhouses, respectively, to the primary line, and appurtenant facilities.

Non-project Facilities

The project makes use of several non-project facilities located in Sequoia National Park. These facilities comprise portions of Kaweah No. 1 and No. 3 developments: (1) two diversion structures on the Middle Fork and Marble Fork Kaweah Rivers, (2) a 21,000-foot-long steel flume that is the initial section of flowline which conveys water to the Kaweah No. 3 powerhouse, and (3) four small reservoirs on the East Fork Kaweah River. These facilities are operated under a special use permit (Permit No. PWR-SEKI-6000-2016-015) issued to SCE by the National Park Service, which expires on September 8, 2026.

3.1.2 Existing Project Operations

The project developments operate independently of one another and in a run-of-river mode. Water captured by the diversion structures is transported through connecting conveyance facilities and penstocks to the powerhouses for power generation and then returned to the river at the tailraces to meet downstream contractual obligations for water delivery with pre-1914 water users.

The project forebays and diversion pools have minimal water storage capability of about 13 acre-feet (AF). The four small non-project reservoirs located on tributaries to the East Fork Kaweah River upstream of the Kaweah No. 1 diversion dam and within the Sequoia National Park store a maximum of 1,153 AF of water, which is used to generate power at the Kaweah No. 1 powerhouse.

The project diversions create two bypassed river reaches. The Kaweah No. 1 development bypasses streamflow around 4.7 miles of the East Fork Kaweah River from the diversion dam to the confluence with the Kaweah River. The Kaweah No. 2 development bypasses streamflow around 4.1 miles of the Kaweah River from the diversion dam to the Kaweah No. 2 powerhouse tailrace.

The volume and timing of streamflow diverted is a function of inflow, minimum flow and ramping rate requirements of the existing license, and the flow required to maintain sufficient head in the water conveyance facilities (flowlines) to meet downstream water delivery contractual obligations. The Kaweah No.1 development flowline has a maximum hydraulic capacity of 24 cubic feet per second (cfs), the Kaweah No. 2 development flowline has a maximum hydraulic capacity of 87 cfs, and the Kaweah No. 3 development flowline has a maximum hydraulic capacity of 97 cfs. To maintain sufficient head pressure to meet downstream water deliveries, SCE must maintain at least 1 cfs flow through the Kaweah No. 1 development and 3 cfs through the Kaweah No. 3 development.

3.2 APPLICANTS' PROPOSAL

3.2.1 Proposed Project Facilities and Operations

SCE proposes to continue to operate and maintain the Kaweah Project as required by its existing license. SCE does not propose any new development at this time. However, SCE is proposing to modify the existing project boundary to encompass all facilities necessary for operation and maintenance of the project, while removing lands that are not related to project functions. SCE proposes to include the existing Kaweah No. 1 forebay access road as a project facility.

SCE proposes to remove part of the ramping rate requirement when increasing flows below the Kaweah No. 1 and No. 2 diversion dams. The ramping rate in the existing license requires increasing and decreasing flows below Kaweah No. 1 and No. 2 powerhouses to not be altered at a rate greater than 30 percent of the existing stream flow per hour.

SCE also proposes to modify license article 405 by eliminating requests to the resource agencies for approval to alter required minimum instream flow releases. Historically, SCE has requested approval from California Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to temporarily reduce minimum flow releases below Kaweah No. 1 diversion and Kaweah No. 2 diversion when projected inflows were approaching the combined flow necessary to meet both water supply and minimum flow release requirements. These flow modifications were necessary to ensure compliance with required minimum flows based on uncertainty in actual runoff and inflow.

SCE further proposes to remove required protective measures for the elderberry shrub, the host plant for the federally threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). In 2014, the FWS determined that Tulare County was no longer considered within the valley elderberry longhorn beetle's range.

3.2.2 Proposed Environmental Measures

SCE proposes the following environmental measures:

Geology and Soil Resources

- Continue to implement the requirements of Article 401 of the current license for measures in the Erosion Control Plan.
- Continue to implement the requirements of Article 402 of the current license for erosion control monitoring.

- Define and implement methods for sediment management at the Kaweah No. 2 diversion pool, including sediment removal, disposal, and monitoring for protection of environmental resources.

Aquatic Resources

- Continue to implement the requirements of Article 404 of the current license for protecting aquatic resources.
- Continue to implement the requirements of Article 405 of the current license by releasing minimum flows from Kaweah No. 1 diversion and Kaweah No. 2 diversion for protecting aquatic resources.
- Continue to ensure the automatic releases of minimum flows required by Article 406 of the current license.
- Continue to operate and maintain streamflow gages in the East Fork Kaweah River and mainstem Kaweah River.

Terrestrial Resources

- Continue to implement the Wildlife Mortality Monitoring Plan required by Article 410 of the current license, which includes weekly monitoring of Kaweah No. 2 and No. 3 flowlines to determine the success of wildlife protection measures (e.g. wildlife bridges) included in the Wildlife Protection Plan; inspecting wildlife protection facilities to determine any required maintenance or upgrade actions; and filing an annual report with the Commission that documents mortality and observed wildlife use on or near the bridges.
- Continue to implement the Transmission Line Avian Monitoring required by Article 412 of the current license, which includes monitoring for injury or electrocution of raptors and other birds along project transmission lines and filing a report with the Commission every five years documenting the monitoring results.

Threatened and Endangered Species

- None proposed. The potential need for threatened and endangered species resource measures will be evaluated during the licensing process.

Recreation, Land Use, and Aesthetics

- Continue to implement requirements of Article 203 of the current license to ensure all lands along open flow lines remain clear to an adequate width and dispose of all temporary structures.

Cultural Resources

- Update SCE's existing cultural resources management plan including: (1) incorporating information about new historic properties that are identified within the FERC project boundary, (2) identify measures to avoid adverse effects to these historic properties, (3) modify existing measures, as needed, and (4) identify any new monitoring and/or consultation requirements.

3.3 DAM SAFETY

It is important to note that dam safety constraints may exist and should be taken into consideration in the development of proposals and alternatives considered in the pending proceeding. For example, proposed modifications to the dam structure, such as the addition of flashboards or fish passage facilities, could impact the integrity of the dam structure. As the proposal and alternatives are developed, the applicants must evaluate the effects and ensure that the project would meet the Commission's dam safety criteria found in Part 12 of the Commission's regulations and the engineering guidelines (<http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/safety/guidelines/eng-guide.asp>).

3.4 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Commission staff will consider and assess all alternative recommendations for operational or facility modifications, as well as protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures identified by the Commission, the agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public.

3.5 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY

At present, we propose to eliminate the following alternatives from detailed study in the EA.

3.5.1 Non-power License

A non-power license is a temporary license the Commission would terminate whenever it determines that another governmental agency is authorized and willing to assume regulatory authority and supervision over the lands and facilities covered by the non-power license. At this time, no governmental agency has suggested a willingness or

ability to take over the project. No party has sought a non-power license, and we have no basis for concluding that the Kaweah Project should no longer be used to produce power. Thus, we do not consider a non-power license a reasonable alternative to relicensing the project.

3.5.2 Project Decommissioning

Decommissioning of the project could be accomplished with or without dam removal. Either alternative would require denying the relicense application and surrender or termination of the existing license with appropriate conditions. There would be significant costs involved with decommissioning the project and/or removing any project facilities. The project provides a viable, safe, and clean renewable source of power and consumptive water to the region. With decommissioning, the project would no longer be authorized to generate power.

No party has suggested project decommissioning would be appropriate in this case, and we have no basis for recommending it. Thus, we do not consider project decommissioning a reasonable alternative to relicensing the project with appropriate environmental measures.

4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES

4.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. 1508.7), a cumulative effect is the effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

4.1.1 Resources that could be Cumulatively Affected

Based on information in the PAD for the Kaweah Project, and preliminary staff analysis, we have identified water quality (dissolved oxygen and water temperature) and fisheries as resources that could be cumulatively affected by the proposed continued operation and maintenance of the Kaweah Project in combination with other hydroelectric projects and other activities in the Kaweah River Basin.

4.1.2 Geographic Scope

Our geographic scope of analysis for cumulatively affected resources is defined by the physical limits or boundaries of: (1) the proposed action's effect on the resources, and (2) contributing effects from other hydropower and non-hydropower activities within the Kaweah River Basin. We have identified the geographic scope for water quality and fisheries to include the East Fork Kaweah River from the Kaweah No. 1 diversion dam and the Kaweah River from Kaweah No. 2 diversion dam to the Tule River. We chose this geographic scope because the operation and maintenance of the Kaweah Project, in combination with other water development activities in these drainages may cumulatively affect water quality and fisheries through the geographic reaches identified.

4.1.3 Temporal Scope

The temporal scope of our cumulative effects analysis in the EA will include a discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and their effects on each resource that could be cumulatively affected. Based on the potential term of a new license, the temporal scope will look 30 to 50 years into the future, concentrating on the effect on the resources from reasonably foreseeable future actions. The historical discussion will, by necessity, be limited to the amount of available information for each resource. The quality and quantity of information, however, diminishes as we analyze resources further away in time from the present.

4.2 RESOURCE ISSUES

In this section, we present a preliminary list of environmental issues to be addressed in the EA. We identified these issues, which are listed by resource area, by reviewing the PAD and the Commission's record for the Kaweah Project. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but contains the issues raised to date. After the scoping process is complete, we will review the list and determine the appropriate level of analysis needed to address each issue in the EA. Those issues identified by an asterisk (*) will be analyzed for both cumulative and site-specific effects.

4.2.1 Geologic and Soils Resources

- Effects of continued project operation on shoreline erosion and sedimentation in project waters.

4.2.2 Aquatic Resources

- Effects of continued project operation on dissolved oxygen and water temperature in the East Fork Kaweah River and the Kaweah River.*
- Effects of continued project operation on streamflows, aquatic habitat, and fish resources* in the East Fork Kaweah River and the Kaweah River.
- Effects of fish entrainment at the Kaweah No. 1 and No. 2 diversion dams on fish resources.*

4.2.3 Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of continued project operation on riparian and wetland habitat and associated wildlife, including waterfowl, wetland-dependent birds, and aquatic reptiles and amphibians.
- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on upland wildlife habitat and associated wildlife, including effects of non-native invasive plants.
- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on special-status wildlife and botanical species.

4.2.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on federally listed and proposed endangered, threatened, and candidate plant and animal species that have the potential to occur in the project area including: California jewelflower (*Caulanthus californicus*), Springville clarkia (*Clarkia*

springvillensis), kern mallow (*Eremalche kernensis*), Keck's checker-mallow (*Sidalcea keckii*), fisher (*Pekania pennanti*), blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*), California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*).

4.2.5 Recreation Resources

- Effects of project operation and maintenance on recreational access and use in the project area.
- Adequacy of existing recreational access and facilities to meet current and future recreation demand.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance on aesthetic quality of the project area.

4.2.6 Cultural Resources

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on historic or archeological resources, or traditional cultural properties that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

4.2.7 Developmental Resources

- Economics of the project and the effects of any recommended environmental measures on the project's economics.

5.0 PROPOSED STUDIES

Depending upon the findings of studies completed by the co-applicants and the recommendations of the consulted entities, the co-applicants will consider, and may propose, certain other measures to enhance environmental resources affected by the project as part of the proposed action. Table 1 identifies SCE's initial study proposals by resource area; the PAD contains detailed information on the co-applicants' initial study proposals. Further studies may need to be added to this list based on comments provided to the Commission and the co-applicants from interested participants, including Indian tribes.

Table 1. SCE's initial study proposals for the Kaweah Project. (Source: Kaweah Project PAD).

| Resource Area | Proposed Study |
|--------------------------|---|
| Aquatic Resources | |
| | Instream Flow Study to characterize aquatic and riparian habitat as a function of streamflow. |
| | Fish Population Study to document and characterize in the project bypassed reaches fish species composition, distribution, abundance, fish growth, condition factor, and population age structure. |
| | Macroinvertebrate Technical Study to document in the bypassed reaches the benthic macroinvertebrate community, the density and size distribution of drifting macroinvertebrates, and to characterize general habitat conditions. |
| | Water Temperature Study to characterize the relationship between flow and water temperature in bypass river, document the availability of cold water temperature refugia in bypass river reaches, and assess the potential effects of increased air temperature due to global warming on water temperatures over the term a new license. |
| | Geomorphology Study to document sediment conditions in the bypass river reaches, characterize sediment capture in diversion pools, develop information to assist in the identification of flows necessary to maintain geomorphic processes in the bypass river reaches, and identify sources of sediment (major gullies, areas of vegetation and soil loss, and hillslope destabilization and erosion), including documentation of erosion resulting from spills from project forebays and historic flume failures. |
| | Water Quality Study to characterize physical, chemical, and bacterial water quality conditions in the bypass river reaches and comparison |

| Resource Area | Proposed Study |
|------------------------------|---|
| | reaches, and compare to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (CVRWQCB 2004) objectives and water quality standards. |
| | Special-status Amphibians and Aquatic Reptiles Study to identify and map in the project area potential habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF), document the distribution and abundance of FYLF populations, document the timing and length of FYLF breeding season, if FYLF are present, characterize the water stage, velocity, and temperature of various flow regimes as it relates to FYLF habitat through coordination with the instream flow and water temperature studies, document the presence of western pond turtle (WPT) during FYLF surveys, and document the presence of potential WPT nesting habitat. |
| | Fish Passage Study to document the location, nature, and characteristics of fish barriers in bypass river reaches, and identify project facilities and operations (e.g., diversion structures, instream flow releases) that may affect fish passage. |
| | Entrainment Study to characterize diversions, flowlines, powerhouse turbines, and operations in relation to factors that may affect entrainment or mortality, directly estimate the potential for entrainment and mortality by sampling fish entrainment in the project flowlines, and develop the information necessary to assess the potential fish population/production effects of entrainment. |
| Terrestrial Resources | |
| | Botanical Study to document vegetation alliances and wildlife habitats adjacent to project facilities, document riparian vegetation alliances along bypass reaches and diversion pools and forebays, document special-status plant and moss populations at Project facilities, and document non-native invasive plants at project facilities. |
| | Wildlife Study to identify special-status wildlife species potentially occurring in California Wildlife Habitat Relationships habitats documented as part of the Botanical Resources Study, determine whether project transmission line, transmission tap line, and power line configurations are consistent with guidelines for the avoidance of avian mortalities, document use of project facilities by special-status bats during reproduction or other seasonal use, evaluate the use of wildlife bridges and escape ramps by mule deer and other animals, including livestock, and document mortality of wildlife/livestock in project flowlines. |

| Resource Area | Proposed Study |
|---|---|
| Recreation, Land Use, and Aesthetics | |
| | <p>Transportation Study to inventory and assess condition of project roads and trails, characterize SCE's use of project roads and trails, including season of use and level of use, characterize SCE's current maintenance practices and responsibilities, identify existing agreements related to project roads and trails (e.g., maintenance agreements, easements, rights of way, special use permits), and identify the location, condition, use, and maintenance of helicopter landing sites utilized for routine operation and maintenance of the project.</p> |
| | <p>Visual and Noise Study to identify and map visual resources in the vicinity of the Kaweah Project, including visual management objectives established by the BLM, Tulare County, and/or the NPS, document the existing visual condition of project facilities from key observation points established in consultation with the BLM, Tulare County, and/or the NPS, as appropriate, determine whether the project facilities meet established BLM, Tulare County, and/or NPS visual resource management objectives and assess compatibility of project facilities with surrounding landscape, assess helicopter noise associated with routine operation and maintenance of the project, and assess visual condition and noise associated with spills from the Kaweah No. 3 forebay</p> |
| | <p>Recreation Study to identify, map, and describe all developed recreation facilities (public and private) in the vicinity of the Kaweah Project, including capacity and ownership, identify, map and describe any existing project-related recreation facilities/area (i.e., "Edison Beach"), including capacity, condition, user conflicts, consistency with applicable accessibility requirements, and operation and maintenance responsibilities, characterize recreation use and opportunities in the immediate vicinity of the project facilities and in the bypass reaches, including along the Kaweah No. 2 flowline, document recreation needs identified in current relevant State or local recreation plans and determine whether those needs can be accommodated by existing recreation facilities, characterize commercial and private whitewater boating use in the bypass reaches, identify the range of flows in the bypass reaches that accommodate whitewater boating, identify existing mechanisms for disseminating flow information to the public, and document potential safety issues and existing features or measures that are implemented to protect the public.</p> |

| Resource Area | Proposed Study |
|---------------------------|--|
| Cultural Resources | |
| | Cultural Study to identify all known and currently undiscovered cultural resources that could potentially be affected by project operations and maintenance activities, and to evaluate newly discovered cultural resources to determine if they are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. |

6.0 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND STUDIES

We are asking federal, state, and local resource agencies; Indian tribes; NGOs; and the public to forward to the Commission any information that will assist us in conducting an accurate and thorough analysis of the project-specific and cumulative effects associated with relicensing the Kaweah Project. The types of information requested include, but are not limited to:

- information, quantitative data, or professional opinions that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis (both site-specific and cumulative effects), and that helps identify significant environmental issues;
- identification of, and information from, any other EA, EIS, or similar environmental study (previous, ongoing, or planned) relevant to the proposed relicensing of the Kaweah Project;
- existing information and any data that would help to describe the past and present actions and effects of the project and other developmental activities on environmental and socioeconomic resources;
- information that would help characterize the existing environmental conditions and habitats;
- the identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected resource area (e.g., proposals to construct or operate water treatment facilities, recreation areas, water diversions, timber harvest activities, or fish management programs), along with any implementation schedules;
- documentation that the proposed project would or would not contribute to cumulative adverse or beneficial effects on any resources. Documentation can include, but need not be limited to, how the project would interact with other projects in the area and other developmental activities; study results; resource management policies; and reports from federal and state agencies, local agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public;
- documentation showing why any resources should be excluded from further study or consideration; and
- study requests by federal and state agencies, local agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the EA for the project.

All requests for studies filed with the Commission must meet the criteria found in appendix A, *Study Plan Criteria*.

The requested information, comments, and study requests should be submitted to the Commission no later than **April 13, 2017**. All filings must clearly identify the following on the first page: **Kaweah Project (P-298-080)**. Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website <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, please send a paper copy to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support. <mailto:ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov>.

Any questions concerning the scoping meetings, site visits, or how to file written comments with the Commission should be directed to Jim Hastreiter at (503) 552-2760 or james.hastreiter@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Kaweah Project may be obtained from the Commission's website, www.ferc.gov.

7.0 EA PREPARATION

At this time, we anticipate the need to prepare a draft and final EA. The EA will be sent to all persons and entities on the Commission's service and mailing lists for the Kaweah Project. The EA will include our recommendations for operating procedures, as well as environmental protection and enhancement measures that should be part of any license issued by the Commission. All recipients will then have 30 days to review the EA and file written comments with the Commission.

The major milestones, with pre-filing target dates, are as follows:

| <u>Major Milestone</u> | <u>Target Date</u> |
|--|--------------------|
| Scoping Meetings | March 2017 |
| Applicant files Final License Application | December 2019 |
| Ready for Environmental Analysis Notice Issued | - |
| Deadline for Filing Comments, Recommendations, and-Agency Terms and Conditions/Prescriptions | - |
| Draft EA Issued | - |
| Comments on EA Due | - |
| Deadline for Filing Modified Agency Recommendations | - |
| Final EA Issued | - |
| Order Issued | - |

Post-filing milestones will be established following the co-applicants' filing of the final license application. A copy of the co-applicants' process plan and schedule, which has a complete list of pre-filing relicensing milestones for the Kaweah Project, including those for developing the license application, is attached as appendix B to this SD1.

8.0 PROPOSED EA OUTLINE

The preliminary outline for the Kaweah Project EA is as follows:

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9.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal and state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. The staff has preliminarily identified and reviewed the plans listed below that may be relevant to the Kaweah Project. Agencies are requested to review this list and inform the Commission staff of any changes. If there are other comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission, or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed for consideration with the Commission according to 18 CFR 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing/complan.pdf>.

The following is a list of comprehensive plans currently on file with the Commission that may be relevant to the Kaweah Project.

California Department of Fish and Game. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2010. Final Hatchery and Stocking Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. Sacramento, California. January 2010.

California Department of Fish and Game. 2007. California Wildlife: Conservation Challenges, California's Wildlife Action Plan. Sacramento, California. 2007.

California Department of Fish and Game. 1996. Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan for California. February 1996.

California Department of Fish and Game. 2003. Strategic Plan for Trout Management: A Plan for 2004 and Beyond. Sacramento, California. November 2003.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2008. California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan. Sacramento, California. January 18, 2008.

California Department of Parks and Recreation. 1998. Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California. Sacramento, California. March 1998.

California Department of Parks and Recreation. 1994. California Outdoor Recreation Plan. Sacramento, California. April 1994.

California Department of Water Resources. 1983. The California water plan: projected use and available water supplies to 2010. Bulletin 160-83. Sacramento, California. December 1983.

California Department of Water Resources. 1994. California Water Plan Update. Bulletin 160–93. Sacramento, California. October 1994. Two Volumes and Executive Summary.

California State Water Resources Control Board. 1995. Water Quality Control Plan Report. Sacramento, California. Nine Volumes.

California State Water Resources Control Board. 2004. Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin. Sacramento, California. January 2004.

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. Sacramento District. 1996. Kaweah River Basin Investigation: Final Feasibility Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Sacramento, California. September 1996.

Forest Service. 1988. Sequoia National Forest Land and Management Plan. Department of Agriculture, Porterville, California. March 1988.

Forest Service. 2004. Sierra Nevada National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Amendment. Department of Agriculture, Vallejo, California. January 2004.

National Park Service. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1993.

State Water Resources Control Board. 1999. Water Quality Control Plans and Policies Adopted as Part of the State Comprehensive Plan. April 1999.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Canadian Wildlife Service. 1986. North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Department of the Interior. Environment Canada. May 1986.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. N.D. Fisheries USA: The Recreational Fisheries Policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.

10.0 MAILING LIST

The list below is the Commission's official mailing list for the Kaweah Project (FERC No. 298). If you want to receive future mailings for the Kaweah Project and are not included in the list below, please send your request by email to efiling@ferc.gov or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written and emailed requests to be added to the mailing list must clearly identify the following on the first page: Kaweah Project No. 298-080. You may use the same method if requesting removal from the mailing list below.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. 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.

Official Mailing List for the Kaweah Project

| | |
|--|---|
| JIM CANADAY SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES 1001 I ST SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 | CATHY CROTHERS OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COUNSEL CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES PO BOX 942836 SACRAMENTO,CALIFORNIA 94236-0001 |
| RUSS J KANZ CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS PO BOX 100 SACRAMENTO,CALIFORNIA 95812- 0100 | COMMANDER U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT OFFICE 1455 MARKET ST, #1760 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103 |
| CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION CHAIRMAN 505 VAN NESS AVE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214 | SHER BEARD SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY 54170 MOUNTAIN SPRUCE BIG CREEK, CALIFORNIA 93605 |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>KELLY HENDERSON ATTORNEY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY PO BOX 800 ROSEMEAD, CALIFORNIA 91770- 0800</p> | <p>MARTIN OSTENDORF COMPLIANCE MANAGER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY 54170 MTN. SPRUCE ROAD P.O. Box 100 BIG REEK, CALIFORNIA 93605</p> |
| <p>WAYNE P ALLEN RELICENSING MANAGER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY PO BOX 100 BIG REEK,CALIFORNIA 93605-0100</p> | <p>FERC CASE ADMINISTRATION SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY 2244 WALNUT GROVE AVE. ROSEMEAD, CALIFORNIA 91770</p> |
| <p>NICOLAS VON GERSDORFF DAM SAFETY ENGINEER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY 1515 WALNUT GROVE AVE ROSEMEAD, CALIFORNIA 91770</p> | <p>KAMALA D. HARRIS SENATOR U.S. SENATE 112 HART SENATE OFFICE BLDG WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 20510</p> |

APPENDIX A
STUDY PLAN CRITERIA
18 CFR Section 5.9(b)

Any information or study request must contain the following:

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 not a 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 field 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 proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.

APPENDIX B
KAWEAH PROJECT PROCESS PLAN AND SCHEDULE

Shaded milestones are unnecessary if there are no study disputes. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is the following business day. Early filings or issuances will not result in changes to these deadlines.

| Responsible Party | Pre-Filing Milestone^a | Date^{b, c} | FERC Regulation |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Applicant | Issue Public Notice for NOI/PAD | 12/14/16 | 5.3(d)(2) |
| Applicant | File NOI/PAD with FERC | 12/14/16 | 5.5, 5.6 |
| FERC | Issue Notice of Commencement of Proceeding; Issue Scoping Document 1 | 2/12/17 | 5.8 |
| FERC | Kaweah Project Scoping Meetings and Environmental Site Review | 3/14/17 3/15/17 | 5.8(b)(viii) |
| All stakeholders | PAD/SD1 Comments and Study Requests Due | 4/13/17 | 5.9 |
| FERC | Issue Scoping Document 2 | 5/28/17 | 5.1 |
| Applicant | File Proposed Study Plan (PSP) | 5/28/17 | 5.11(a) |
| All stakeholders | Proposed Study Plan Meeting | 6/27/17 | 5.11(e) |
| All stakeholders | Proposed Study Plan Comments Due | 8/26/17 | 5.12 |
| The applicants | File Revised Study Plan | 9/25/17 | 5.13(a) |
| All stakeholders | Revised Study Plan Comments Due | 10/10/17 | 5.13(b) |
| FERC | Director's Study Plan Determination | 10/25/17 | 5.13(c) |
| FS, FWS, Ecology | Any Study Disputes Due | 11/14/17 | 5.14(a) |
| Dispute Panel | Third Dispute Panel Member Selected | 11/29/17 | 5.14(d) |
| Dispute Panel | Dispute Resolution Panel Convenes | 12/4/18 | 5.14(d)(3) |
| The applicants | Applicant Comments on Study Disputes Due | 12/9/17 | 5.14(j) |

| Responsible Party | Pre-Filing Milestone^a | Date^{b, c} | FERC Regulation |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Dispute Panel | Dispute Resolution Panel Technical Conference | 12/14/17 | 5.14(j) |
| Dispute Panel | Dispute Resolution Panel Findings Issued | 1/3/18 | 5.14(k) |
| FERC | Director's Study Dispute Determination | 1/23/18 | 5.14(l) |
| Applicant | First Study Season | 2018 | 5.15(a) |
| Applicant | Initial Study Report | 10/25/18 | 5.15(c)(1) |
| All stakeholders | Initial Study Report Meeting | 11/9/18 | 5.15(c)(2) |
| Applicant | Initial Study Report Meeting Summary | 11/24/18 | 5.15(c)(3) |
| All stakeholders | Any Disputes/Requests to Amend Study Plan Due | 12/24/18 | 5.15(c)(4) |
| All stakeholders | Responses to Disputes/Amendment Requests Due | 1/23/19 | 5.15(c)(5) |
| FERC | Director's Determination on Disputes/Amendments | 2/22/19 | 5.15(c)(6) |
| Applicant | Second Study Season | 2019 | 5.15(a) |
| Applicant | Updated Study Report due | 10/24/19 | 5.15(f) |
| All stakeholders | Updated Study Report Meeting | 11/8/19 | 5.15(f) |
| Applicant | Updated Study Report Meeting Summary | 11/23/19 | 5.15(f) |
| All stakeholders | Any Disputes/Requests to Amend Study Plan Due | 12/23/19 | 5.15(f) |
| All stakeholders | Responses to Disputes/Amendment Requests Due | 1/22/20 | 5.15(f) |
| FERC | Director's Determination on Disputes/Amendments | 2/21/20 | 5.15(f) |
| Applicant | File Preliminary Licensing Proposal ^d | 8/3/19 | 5.16(a) |
| All stakeholders | Preliminary Licensing Proposal Comments Due | 11/1/19 | 5.16(e) |
| Applicant | File Final License Application | 12/31/19 | 5.17 |
| Applicant | Issue Public Notice of License Application Filing | 1/14/19 | 5.17(d)(2) |

- ^a The activity description is a good faith effort to summarize the pertinent regulation. The reader is encouraged to read the specific regulation.
- ^b When an activity is contingent on completion of a previous activity, the schedule assumes the previous activity is completed the latest date possible for that previous activity, unless otherwise indicated.
- ^c According to 18 CFR § 385.2007(a)(2), if a filing date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal legal public holiday, the deadline for filing becomes the next business day. The schedule includes this consideration.
- ^d This ILP schedule assumes that studies begin when FERC issues its Study Determination and may continue for two years or more.

Document Content(s)

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