

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Southern California Edison

Project No. 67
Project No. 120
Project No. 2085
Project No. 2175

POOR QUALITY ORIGINALS

NOTICE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON'S
REQUEST TO USE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES
IN FILING LICENSE APPLICATIONS

(December 23, 1999)

On December 10, 1999, the existing licensee, Southern California Edison (SCE) filed a request to use the Commission's alternative procedures in submitting applications to relicense four existing hydroelectric projects - Big Creek No. 2A, 8, and Eastwood (FERC No. 67); Big Creek No. 3 (FERC No. 120); Mammoth Pool (FERC No. 2085); and Big Creek No. 1 and 2 (FERC No. 2175). The projects are located in the San Joaquin River Basin of California, and have a combined capacity of about 871.6 megawatts. This notice invites comments on SCE's request, pursuant to Section 4.34(i) of the Commission's regulations. Additional notices seeking comments on the specific project proposal, interventions and protests, and recommended terms and conditions will be issued at a later date.

The alternative procedure being requested here would combine the prefiling consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing the applicants to file an applicant-prepared Environmental Assessment in lieu of Exhibit E of the license applications. This differs from the traditional process, in which the applicant consults with agencies, Indian tribes, and NGOs during preparation of the application for the license and before filing it, but the Commission staff performs all of the environmental review after the application is filed. The alternative procedures are intended to reduce redundancies in the licensing process by combining the prefiling consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants. The alternative procedures can be tailored to the particular project under consideration.

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ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES AND THE BIG CREEK PROJECTS

In this instance, SCE is proposing a consolidated relicensing of four projects within what is known as the Big Creek System. An applicant-prepared environmental assessment would be filed on all four projects with their applications. SCE also intends on negotiating an agreement on the relicensing of the projects by December, 2004. The application on the Mammoth Pool project is due to be filed in 2005, while the other three applications are due in 2007.

COMMENTS

SCE has demonstrated that it has made an effort to contact resource agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and others affected by the proposal, and that a consensus likely exists that the use of the alternative procedures is appropriate in this case. SCE has also submitted a communications protocol that was developed in consultation with interested entities.

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any additional comments on the licensee's proposal to use the alternative procedures. The licensee's request may be viewed on the web at <http://rimsweb1.ferc.fed.us/rims/>. Call 202-208-2222 for assistance.

FILING REQUIREMENTS

Any comments must be filed by providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of the Secretary
Dockets - Room 1A
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

All comment filings must bear the heading "Comments on the Alternative Procedure," and include the project names and numbers: Big Creek No. 2A, 8, and

Eastwood (FERC No. 67); Big Creek No. 3 (FERC No. 120); Mammoth Pool (FERC No. 2085); and Big Creek No. 1 and 2 (FERC No. 2175). For further information, please contact Vince Yearick at (202) 219-3073 or e-mail at vince.yearick@ferc.fed.us.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.
Acting Secretary