

Public Service Corporation (WPSC) for the following six existing hydropower projects owned and operated by WPSC on the Peshtigo River in Marinette County, Wisconsin: the Caldron Falls Project, FERC No. 2525; the High Falls Project, FERC No. 2595; the Johnson Falls Project, FERC No. 2522; the Sandstone Rapids Project, FERC No. 2546; the Potato Rapids Project, FERC No. 2560; and the Peshtigo Project, FERC No. 2581.

After reviewing the applications, supplemental filings, and intervenor submittals, the Commission staff has concluded that relicensing these six projects would constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Moreover, given the location and interaction of the six projects, staff will prepare one multiple-project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that describes and evaluates the probable impacts of the applicant's proposed and alternative operating procedures, environmental enhancement measures, and additional river access facilities for all six projects.

The staff's EIS will consider both site specific and cumulative environmental impacts of relicensing the six projects and will include economic and financial analyses.

A draft EIS will be issued and circulated for review by all interested parties. All comments filed on the draft EIS will be analyzed by the FERC staff and considered in a final EIS.

One element of the EIS process is scoping and a site visit. These activities are initiated early to:

- Identify reasonable alternative operational procedures and environmental enhancement measures that should be evaluated in the EIS;
- Identify significant environmental issues related to the operation of the existing projects;
- Determine the depth of analysis for issues that will be discussed in the EIS; and
- Identify resource issues that are of lesser importance and, consequently, do not require detailed analysis in the EIS.

Site Visits

A site visit to each of the six projects will be held over a two-day period: Tuesday, July 11, 1995, and Wednesday, July 12, 1995. The purpose of these visits is for interested persons to observe existing area resources and site conditions, learn the locations of proposed new facilities, and discuss project operational procedures with representatives of WPSC and the Commission.

For details concerning the site visits, please contact Greg Egtvedt of WPSC in Greenbay, Wisconsin at (414) 433-5713.

Scoping Meetings

The FERC staff will conduct two scoping meetings: the evening meeting is designed to obtain input from the general public, while the morning meeting will focus on resource agency concerns. All interested individuals, organizations, agencies, and Indian Tribes are invited to attend either or both meetings in order to assist staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the multiple-project EIS.

To help focus discussions, a preliminary EIS scoping document outlining subject areas to be addressed at the meeting will be distributed by mail to persons and entities on the FERC mailing lists for the six Peshtigo River projects. Copies of the preliminary scoping document also will be made available at the scoping meetings.

The evening meeting for the general public will be held from 7:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. on Wednesday, July 12, 1995, in the Best Western Riverfront Inn, located at 1821 Riverside Avenue in Marinette, Wisconsin.

The agency meeting will be held at the same location from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 Noon on Thursday, July 13, 1995.

Scoping Meeting Procedures

Both meetings, which will be recorded by a stenographer, will become part of the formal record of the Commission's proceeding on the Peshtigo River projects. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to sign in before the meetings start and identify themselves for the record.

Concerned parties are encouraged to offer us verbal guidance during the public meetings. Speaking time allowed for individuals at the evening public meetings will be determined before that meeting, based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the approximate amount of time available for the session, but all speakers will be provided at least five minutes to present their views.

Scoping Meeting Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will:

- Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the multiple-project EIS;

- Identify resource issues that are of lesser importance and, therefore, do not require detailed analysis;
- Solicit from the meeting participants all available information,

especially quantifiable data, concerning significant local resources; and

- Encourage statement from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EIS.

Information Requested

Federal and state resource agencies, Indian tribes, local government officials, interested groups, area residents, and concerned individuals are requested to provide any information they believe will assist the Commission staff to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with relicensing the six projects. The types of information sought included the following:

- Data, reports, and resource plans that characterize the physical, biological or social environments in the vicinity of the projects; and
- Information and data that helps staff identify or evaluate significant environmental issues.

Scoping information and associated comments should be submitted to the Commission no later than July 31, 1995. Written comments should be provided at the scoping meetings or mailed to the Commission, as follows: Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol St., NE., Washington, DC 20426.

All filings sent to the Secretary of the Commission should contain an original and 8 copies. Failure to file an original and 8 copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner. See 18 CFR 4.34(h).

All correspondence should show the following caption on the first page:

Project No. 2525-004: Caldron Falls Project
Project No. 2595-005: High Falls Project
Project No. 2522-002 Johnson Falls Project
Project No. 2546-001: Sandstone Rapids Project
Project No. 2560-001: Potato Rapids Project
Project No. 2581-002: Peshtigo Project

Intervenors and interceders (as defined in 18 CFR 385.2010) who file documents with the Commission are reminded of the Commission's Rules or Practice and Procedure requiring them to serve a copy of all documents filed with the Commission on each person whose name is listed on the official service list for this proceeding. See 18 CFR 4.34(b).

For further information, please contact Jim Haimes in Washington, DC at (202) 219-2780.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-14970 Filed 6-19-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M