

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

To the Agency or Individual Addressed:

Reference: Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Attached is the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Clackamas River Hydroelectric Project No. 2195-011, located on the Clackamas River in Clackamas County, Oregon.

This DEIS documents the views of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, affected Indian tribes, the public, the license applicant, and Commission staff. It contains staff evaluations on the applicant's proposal and the alternatives for relicensing the Clackamas Hydroelectric Project.

You are invited to file comments on the DEIS. Any comments, conclusions, or recommendations that draw upon studies, reports, or other working papers should be supported by appropriate documentation. Your comments will be considered in the staff's preparation of the final EIS.

Comments should be filed with Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426. All comments should be filed within 45 days of the notice date in the Federal Register and should reference Project No.2195-011. Comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and instructions at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the eLibrary link.

Before the Commission makes a licensing decision, it will take into account all concerns relevant to the public interest. The DEIS will be part of the record from which the Commission will make its decision. The DEIS was sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and made available to the public in June 2006.

A copy of the final EIS is available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Branch, Room 2A, located at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426. The final EIS also may be viewed on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the eLibrary link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

COVER SHEET

- a. Title: Relicensing the Clackamas Hydroelectric Project in Oregon, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) Project No. 2195-011
- b. Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- c. Lead Agency: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- d. Abstract: Portland General Electric Company (PGE) of Portland, filed an application for a new license for the existing 173-megawatt (MW) Clackamas Hydroelectric Project (project) located on the Clackamas River in Clackamas County, Oregon. The nearest city is Estacada located at River Mill Power House, approximately 30 miles southeast of Portland. The project occupies about 2478 acres of Federal land of which 2365 acres are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and 113 acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The power generated at the 173 MW project provides approximately 72 percent of the current need for power by PGE's 733,000 customers in the region (approximately 40 percent of the electrical power supplied in Oregon).

Five species of anadromous fish occur within the project area, including wild late-run and naturalized early-run coho salmon, spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon, winter-and-summer run steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout (that are believed to be freshwater migrations), and Pacific lamprey.

Key issues associated with relicensing this project are: erosion and sedimentation control; water quality and quantity; fish resources and habitat and protection enhancement; fish passage; terrestrial resources, including barriers to wildlife movements and terrestrial habitat connectivity; potential effects on threatened, endangered or rare fish, wildlife, and plant species; enhancing local recreational opportunities; land use and socioeconomics, aesthetic resources, and protecting cultural resources.

The staff's recommendation is to relicense the project as proposed, with additional measures recommended by agencies and the staff to protect and enhance environmental resources.

FOREWORD

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), pursuant to the Federal Power Act (FPA)² and the U.S. Department of Energy Organization Act³ is authorized to issue licenses for up to 50 years for the construction and operation of non-federal hydroelectric developments subject to its jurisdiction, on the necessary conditions:

That the project adopted... shall be such as in the judgment of the Commission will be best adapted to a comprehensive plan for improving or developing a waterway or waterways for the use or benefit of interstate or foreign commerce, for the improvement and utilization of water-power development, for the adequate protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife (including related spawning grounds and habitat), and for other beneficial public uses, including irrigation, flood control, water supply, and recreational and other purposes referred to in Section 4(e)...⁴

The Commission may require such other conditions not inconsistent with the FPA as may be found necessary to provide for the various public interests to be served by the project.⁵

² 16 U.S.C. §791(a)-825r, as amended by the Electric Consumers Protection Act of 1986, Public Law 99-495 (1986) and the Energy Policy Act of 1992, Public Law 102-486 (1992).

³ Public Law 95-91, 91 Stat. 556 (1977).

⁴ 16 U.S.C. §803(a).

⁵ 16 U.S.C. §803(g).