

# **COVER SHEET**

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR OROVILLE FACILITIES

Docket No. P-2100

Cover Letter (and Other Information before the Table of Contents)  
DEIS

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

FERC/DEIS-0202D

**Oroville Facilities, California (FERC Project No. 2100)**





**Federal Energy  
Regulatory  
Commission**

**Office of  
Energy  
Projects**

September 29, 2006

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FERC/DEIS-0202D

# **Draft Environmental Impact Statement**



**Oroville Facilities  
California  
(FERC Project No. 2100)**

*888 First Street N.E., Washington, DC 20426*



**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR HYDROPOWER LICENSE**

Oroville Facilities—FERC Project No. 2100

California

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Office of Energy Projects  
Division of Hydropower Licensing  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

September 2006

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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

Attached is the draft environmental impact statement (draft EIS) for the Oroville Facilities, located on the Feather River in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in Butte County, California.

This draft EIS documents the view of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, affected Indian tribes, the public, the license applicant, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) staff. It contains evaluations on the applicant's proposal and the alternatives for licensing the Oroville Facilities.

You are invited to file comments on the draft EIS. 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 must be filed by November 28, 2006, and should reference Project No. P-2100. 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 draft EIS will be part of the record from which the Commission will make its decision.

Copies of the draft EIS are available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Branch, Room 2A, located at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426. The draft EIS also may be viewed on the Internet at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) under the eLibrary link. Please call (202) 502-8822 for assistance.

Attachment: Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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## COVER SHEET

- a. Title: Relicensing the Oroville Facilities located on the Feather River in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in Butte County, California, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) Project No. 2100.
- b. Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- c. Lead Agency: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- d. Abstract: The Oroville Facilities were developed as part of the California State Water Project, a water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, aqueducts, power plants, and pumping plants. The existing license for the Oroville Facilities (issued by the FERC, on February 11, 1957) will expire on January 31, 2007. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), through the Alternative Licensing Procedures, is seeking a new federal license to continue generating hydroelectric power while continuing to meet existing commitments and comply with regulations pertaining to water supply, flood control, the environment, and recreational opportunities.
- e. Contact: James Fargo  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Office of Energy Projects  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20426  
202-502-6095
- f. Transmittal: This draft environmental impact statement prepared by the Commission's staff on the hydroelectric license application filed by DWR for Oroville Facilities (FERC Project No. 2100) is being made available to the public on or about September 29, 2006, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, amended (Pub. L. 91-190. 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended by Pub. L. 94-52, July 3, 1975, Pub. L. 94-83, August 9, 1975, and Pub. L. 97-258, §4(b), September 13, 1982).

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## FOREWORD

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), pursuant to the Federal Power Act (FPA)<sup>2</sup> and the U.S. Department of Energy Organization Act<sup>3</sup> is authorized to issue licenses for up to 50 years for the construction and operation of non-federal hydroelectric development subject to its jurisdiction, on the necessary conditions:

That the project...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, mitigation, 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)...<sup>4</sup>

The Commission may require such other conditions not inconsistent with the Federal Power Act as may be found necessary to provide for the various public interests to be served by the project.<sup>5</sup> Compliance with such conditions during the licensing period is required. The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure allow any person objecting to a licensee's compliance or noncompliance with such conditions to file a complaint noting the basis for such objection for the Commission's consideration.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> Public Law 95-91, 91 Stat. 556 (1977).

<sup>4</sup> 16 U.S.C. §803(a).

<sup>5</sup> 16 U.S.C. §803(g).

<sup>6</sup> 18 C.F.R. §385.206 (1987).

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