

COVER SHEET

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE OROVILLE FACILITIES PROJECT
Docket No. P-2100-052

Cover Letter (and other information before the Table of Contents)
FEIS



Office of
Energy
Projects

May 18, 2007

FERC/FEIS-0202F

Final Environmental Impact Statement



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

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

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR HYDROPOWER LICENSE**

Oroville Facilities—FERC Project No. 2100-052

California

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

May 2007

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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

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

This final 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 (FERC No. 2100-052).

Before the Commission makes a licensing decision, it will take into account all concerns relevant to the public interest. The final EIS will be part of the record from which the Commission will make its decision. The final EIS was sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and made available to the public on or before May 18, 2007.

Copies of the final 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 final EIS also may be viewed on the Internet at www.ferc.gov under the eLibrary link.

Attachment: Final 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: Final 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 final 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 May 18, 2007, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969¹ and the Commission's regulations implementing NEPA (18 CFR Part 380).

¹ 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)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 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)...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 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.⁶

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).

⁶ 18 C.F.R. §385.206 (1987).

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