



**Federal Energy  
Regulatory  
Commission**

**Office of  
Energy  
Projects**

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**FERC/DEIS - 0215D**

## **Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hydropower Licenses**



**Yadkin Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2197-073**



**Yadkin-Pee Dee River Hydroelectric Project - FERC Project No. 2206-030  
North Carolina**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Office of Energy Projects  
888 First Street N.E.  
Washington, DC 20426**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR HYDROPOWER LICENSES**

Yadkin Hydroelectric Project—FERC Project No. 2197-073  
Yadkin-Pee Dee River Hydroelectric Project—FERC Project No. 2206-030  
North Carolina

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

September 2007



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 (EIS) for the Yadkin Hydroelectric Project (Yadkin or Project No. 2197) located in the North Carolina counties of Davidson, Davie, Montgomery, Rowan, and Stanly within the Yadkin River drainage and the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Hydroelectric Project (Yadkin-Pee Dee or Project No. 2206), located on the Yadkin and Pee Dee rivers in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties, North Carolina.

The draft EIS documents the view of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, affected Indian tribes, the public, the license applicants, and Commission staff. It contains staff evaluations on the applicants' proposals and the alternatives for relicensing the Yadkin and Yadkin-Pee Dee River Projects.

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 staff's preparation of the final EIS.

Comments should be filed with Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. The comments must be filed within 60 days of the notice date in the Federal Register and should reference the project discussed in your comments: Project No. 2197 and/or Project No. 2206. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing.

Before the Commission makes a licensing decision, it will take into account all concerns relevant to the public interest. The EIS will be part of the record from which the Commission will make its decision. The final EIS is expected to be issued in February 2008.

Copies of the draft EIS are available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Branch, Room 2A, located at 888 First Street, NE, Washington DC 20426. An electronic copy of the draft EIS also may be viewed on FERC's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Please call (202) 502-8222 or TTY (202) 208-1659 for assistance.

Attachment: Draft Environmental Impact Statement

## COVER SHEET

- a. Title: Relicensing the Yadkin Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) Project No. 2197 and the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Project, FERC Project No. 2206
- b. Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- c. Lead Agency: FERC
- d. Abstract: The Yadkin Project is located on the Yadkin River in Davidson, Davie, Montgomery, Rowan, and Stanly counties, North Carolina. There are no federal lands affected by the project.
- The Yadkin-Pee Dee River Project is located on the Yadkin and Pee Dee rivers in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties, North Carolina. There are no federal lands affected by the project.
- e. Contact: **Environmental Staff**
- |                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Stephen Bowler                       | Lee Emery                            |
| Federal Energy Regulatory Commission | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission |
| Office of Energy Projects            | Office of Energy Projects            |
| 888 First Street, NE                 | 888 First Street, NE                 |
| Washington, DC 20426                 | Washington, DC 20426                 |
| (202) 502-6861                       | (202) 502-8379                       |
- f. Transmittal: This draft environmental impact statement prepared by the Commission's staff on the hydroelectric license applications filed by Alcoa Power Generating, Inc. and Progress Energy Carolinas for the existing Yadkin Project and Yadkin-Pee Dee River Project (FERC Nos. 2197 and 2206, respectively) is being made available to the public on or about September 28, 2007, 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).

## 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 FPA 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 USC §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), and the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58 (2005).

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

<sup>4</sup>16 USC §803(a).

<sup>5</sup>16 USC §803(g).

<sup>6</sup>18 CFR §385.206 (1987).

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