

**COVER SHEET**

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR  
AMENDMENT TO LICENSE  
HOLTWOOD HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT  
Docket No. P-1881-050

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

DEIS



**Federal Energy  
Regulatory  
Commission**

**Office of  
Energy  
Projects**

**July 2008**

**FERC/DEIS-0224D**

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement for License Amendment**



**Holtwood Hydroelectric Project  
FERC Project No. 1881-050, Pennsylvania**

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

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR AMENDMENT TO LICENSE**

Holtwood Hydroelectric Project—FERC Project No. 1881-050  
Pennsylvania

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

July 2008

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 Holtwood Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1881-050), located on the Susquehanna River in Lancaster and York counties, Pennsylvania.

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

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 30 days of the notice date in the Federal Register and should reference Project No. 1881-050. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing.

Before the Commission makes a decision on the amendment of license, 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. The draft EIS was sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and made available to the public on or about July 25, 2008. The final EIS is expected to be issued in October 2008.

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/ferris.htm](http://www.ferc.gov/ferris.htm). Please call 202-502-8222 or TTY 202-208-1659 for assistance.

Attachment: Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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## COVER SHEET

- a. Title: Amending the license to increase the installed capacity of the Holtwood Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1881-050
- b. Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- c. Lead Agency: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- d. Abstract: On December 20, 2007, PPL Holtwood, LLC (PPL or licensee) filed an application for an amendment to its license for the Holtwood Hydroelectric Project located on the Susquehanna River in Lancaster and York counties, Pennsylvania. PPL proposes to redevelop the Holtwood Hydroelectric Project by constructing a new powerhouse, installing new generation, and reconfiguring the project to improve upstream fish passage, particularly for American shad. PPL also requests that the license term be extended by 16 years to August 31, 2030.
- PPL proposes to amend the project consistent with the Consent Order and Agreement (COA) between PPL and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, dated November 21, 2007. The COA orders and PPL agrees to implement various fish passage improvements at the project as well as minimum flow provisions and recreational enhancements. PPL would also implement a settlement agreement with representatives of whitewater boating organizations, dated June 13, 2008.
- The staff's recommendation is to amend the project license as proposed, with certain modifications, and additional measures recommended by the agencies.
- e. Contact: **Commission Staff Contact**
- Blake Condo  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Office of Energy Projects  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20426  
202-502-8914

- f. Transmittal: This draft environmental impact statement prepared by the Commission's staff on the hydroelectric application to amend the license filed by PPL for the existing Holtwood Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1881-050) is being made available to the public on or about July 25, 2008, 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 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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