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Federal license renewal begins for Cutler project

Hydroelectric project is part of utility's multi-use Bear River system

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Dec. 11, 2018—Rocky Mountain Power, a division of PacifiCorp, is beginning the six-year process to renew its federal license for the Cutler hydroelectric project. The current license expires in 2024. Stakeholders, adjacent land owners and the general public will have an opportunity to participate in all facets of the license renewal process as conducted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

“We have been reaching out to all the key stakeholders who have an interest in operations at Cutler,” said Eve Davies, principal environmental scientist with PacifiCorp. “As we proceed with the license renewal process, we want to encourage involvement and comment from all interested parties.”

The company anticipates continuing upper levels of Cutler reservoir similar to those of the current license, and does not envision inundation of any additional lands. The company is planning to study the potential benefits and impacts of varying the reservoir elevations more than the current license prescribes.

The federal license process includes the following steps:

- March 2019—a Pre-Application Document (PAD) and Notice of Intent (NOI) are issued, followed by public scoping meetings and a site visit.
- 2019 to 2020—Initial meetings to develop, implement, and report on study plans (minimum 2 years).
- 2021—Complete Project Study Reports; development of Project Mitigation and Enhancement Measures.
- 2021—Draft License Application (includes a public comment period).
- March 2022—Final License Application (includes public comment period).

The Cutler project first began producing power in 1927. Cutler generates about 106,000 megawatt hours of electricity annually. That is enough power to meet the typical needs of 12,000 residential homes in Utah.

The project is designed for both irrigation and hydropower. The 109 foot-high Cutler Dam forms a 5,500 acre reservoir on the Bear River in Cache Valley, Utah, which is also a recreation area. The area surrounding the reservoir is mostly

agricultural land. The Cutler project license was last renewed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 1994 for a term of 30 years. The current license and related documents can be viewed here:

<http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/cutler.html#>

A number of discussions were held with stakeholders beginning in 2017 regarding PacifiCorp's operations of the utility's Bear River system. In October 2018, the Idaho Water Resources Board, the Utah Department of Natural Resources and PacifiCorp agreed on the following statement regarding their future interactions regarding Bear River:

"As demands increase for energy and water supply within the Bear River Basin, it has been recognized that increased collaboration is necessary to meet the region's future challenges. Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power are discussing the water supply, power operations, and future needs throughout the Bear River Basin, including Bear Lake. In addition, all of these parties are reaching out to their associated stakeholders in order to reflect the important and diverse interests within the basin," the statement said.

About Rocky Mountain Power

Rocky Mountain Power provides safe and reliable electric service to more than a million customers in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho. The company works to meet customers' growing electricity needs while protecting and enhancing the environment. Rocky Mountain Power is part of PacifiCorp, one of the lowest-cost electricity providers in the United States. More information at

<https://www.rockymountainpower.net/index.html>

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