

Electronically Filed July 31, 2020

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Subject: Cutler Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2420)
Licensing Process: First Study Season Progress Update**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to the regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), 18 C.F.R. Section 5.15(b), PacifiCorp hereby submits the First Study Season Progress Update (Progress Update) for PacifiCorp's Cutler Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2420 (Project), located on the Bear River in northeastern Utah. The current license is set to expire on March 31, 2024.

This Progress Update (**Attachment A**) is being submitted in accordance with FERC's ILP regulations and is a summary of PacifiCorp's overall progress in implementing the on-going field studies which began in late 2019 and through July of 2020. As a reminder, PacifiCorp is implementing the following studies approved in the FERC's Study Plan Determination:

- Threatened and Endangered Species Study
- Shoreline Habitat Characterization Study
- Land Use Study
- Fish and Aquatic Study
- Water Quality Study
- Hydraulic Modeling Study
- Sedimentation Study
- Recreation Resources Study
- Cultural Resources Study

Kimberly D. Bose, FERC
Cutler Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2420)
Progress Update of First Study Season
July 31, 2020

The letter and its attachments have been filed electronically. The security classification for each component in this packet is shown in the enclosure list below. If you have any questions concerning this Progress Update, please contact Eve Davies at 801-220-2245.

Sincerely,

Mark Sturtevant Digitally signed by Mark Sturtevant
Date: 2020.07.30 09:01:56 -07'00'

Mark Sturtevant
Vice President, Renewable Resources

ED:nvh:km

Encl:	Progress Update - Public
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eFile:	Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary via eLibrary at www.ferc.gov
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ATTACHMENT A

**FIRST STUDY SEASON PROGRESS UPDATE FOR
CUTLER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (P-2420)**

STUDY NAME	STUDY STATUS
Threatened and Endangered Species Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First year surveys for Ute ladies'-tresses (ULT) orchid were conducted in 2019. Several populations were located in the Cutler Reservoir study area. • Second year expanded surveys for ULT are planned for August 2020 (the appropriate survey window). • Draft Technical Study Report will be prepared based on the survey results.
Shoreline Habitat Characterization Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predator cameras have been pulled and all pictures analyzed. • Vegetation classification and species life history is 90 percent complete. • Accuracy assessment for vegetation classification is in process. • List of potentially impacted species (including special status species) and their habitat requirements has been compiled. • Draft Technical Study Report is in process.
Land Use Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reservoir bank erosion data collection is in process (July 2020). • Assessment of aesthetic resource field data is complete. • Assessment of available data characterizing irrigation withdrawals and fences is in process. • Draft Technical Study Report is in process.
Fish & Aquatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing information review is in process (May–July 2020). • Lab work results were received from Utah State University's Bug Lab in March 2020 that include species identification of aquatic macroinvertebrates and numbers per sampling unit. • Mollusk survey data were received from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in November 2019 that include species found and locations. • Draft Technical Study Report is in process.
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawdown water quality lab results were received from ERI in December 2019. • Review of existing information was completed in March 2020. • Draft Technical Study Report is in process.

STUDY NAME	STUDY STATUS
Hydraulic Modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing LiDAR, calibration data, and flow data is being processed and reviewed (February–July 2020; on-going). • 2D modeling construction and calibration is in process (July–August 2020). • Preliminary operational regime simulations will be run in August 2020. • Sediment transport modeling construction and calibration will take place late August–mid September 2020. • Preliminary operational regime simulations will be run mid-September–mid October 2020. • Draft Hydraulic Model Study Report will be in process mid-September–end of October 2020. • All resource areas to analyze modeled inundation boundary results.
Sedimentation Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second-season (spring) floc sediment samples were collected June 1, 2020. March 2020 was the first season sampled, to capture late winter conditions. • Bed elevation map was finalized in June 2020. • Composited core samples¹ were pulled and size class and metals were processed, and pesticide analysis was completed (July 2020). Core samples were analyzed (second week of July 2020). • Third-season (summer) floc sediment samples are in process (July–August 2020). • October 2019 isopatch data will be processed in August 2020 and sediment distribution coverage results developed, using core samples to quality assure depth measurements. • Draft Technical Study Report will be in process mid-September–end of October 2020.

¹ The study plan originally called for collection of individual sediment core samples, however, conditions in the field required modification of sampling methods. Due to lack of available interstitial water, multiple samples were collected per site and composited for analysis. This modification was made in consultation with Utah Department of Environmental Quality. This change to methodology will be detailed in the Initial Study Report.

STUDY NAME	STUDY STATUS
Recreation Resources Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor survey questions were developed and beta tested in April 2020. • Visitor survey announcement was posted on Cutler website April 30, 2020 and can be accessed here: https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/cutler.html • Online visitor survey was distributed to license participants May 6, 2020. • Visitor survey announcement was posted at all recreation sites with internet link and Quick Response (QR) scan code first week of May 2020. • Visitor survey will remain open through November 2020. • Traffic and trail counters were installed at recreation sites in late April 2020. Data were downloaded monthly including data quality assurance/quality control. • Site visit to assess recreation sites and facility conditions was originally planned for July/August 2020. Actual field dates will be scheduled when there is a decrease in COVID-19 pandemic infection rates. • Structured interviews are scheduled for August 2020. • Draft Technical Study Report will be in process mid-September–end of October 2020.
Cultural Resources Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldwork is complete for all Study Components (see Cultural Resource Study Components table below). • Draft Technical Study Report is in process. • Consulting party letters of invitation and follow-up phone calls and emails were sent to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Box Elder, Cache County, and Mendon Certified Local Governments (CLG) ○ Shoshone-Bannock Tribes ○ Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation ○ Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians ○ Ute Tribe ○ No responses to date. Cache County and Mendon CLGs are no longer operational.

CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY COMPONENTS

ACTIVITY TYPE	STUDY AREA	STUDY TYPE	STATUS
Project operations (fluctuating reservoir levels)	Shoreline and riverbanks within zone of water-level fluctuation	Archaeological: intensive-level survey during the fall 2019 drawdown of portions of the water-level fluctuation zone along the reservoir shoreline that are not classified as freshwater emergent wetlands in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey National Wetlands Inventory; intensive-level survey in 2020 study season of areas downstream of the dam or upstream of the reservoir that hydraulic modeling indicates may be affected by changes in river flow regime	Fieldwork complete
	Wheelon Dam site	Historic architectural: intensive-level documentation and evaluation of dam during fall 2019 drawdown	Fieldwork complete
Capital improvements	Cutler Hydroelectric Power Plant Historic District	Historic architectural: amendment to National Register Registration Form	Fieldwork complete
Recreation: concentrated use areas	Marinas, boat launches, and hiking trails listed in Cutler Hydroelectric Project Pre-Application Document, Table 6-22	Archaeological: intensive-level survey of these areas plus 100-foot buffer, or 100-foot-wide corridor for trails	Fieldwork complete

ACTIVITY TYPE	STUDY AREA	STUDY TYPE	STATUS
Recreation: boating	Shoreline in North Boater Zone A ² and Bear River Boater Zone C ³	Will be covered by intensive-level archaeological shoreline survey described above	Fieldwork complete
Irrigation	Known irrigation pumps/canal intakes and undocumented segments of known canals within Project Boundary	Archaeological: intensive-level survey during the first study season of these areas plus 100-foot buffer, or 100-foot-wide corridor for canals	Fieldwork complete
Agricultural leasing	Agricultural lease areas	Archaeological and historic architectural: reconnaissance-level survey during the 2020 study season	Fieldwork complete

² The area north of the Benson Railroad Fishing Bridge and west of the confluence with the Bear River.

³ The Bear River area, east of the confluence with Cutler Reservoir (including the “horseshoe area”).