



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

WEBER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT Scoping Meeting

October 6, 2015



Agenda

- Introductions
- Information on FERC Hydropower Licensing Process
- Proposed Action
 - Project History
 - Proposed Project
 - Proposed Studies
- Scoping of Issues
- Comments and Discussion
- Questions



Purpose of Scoping

- Provide information on:
 - Relicensing process
 - Existing and proposed new project facilities and operations
 - Issues and potential impacts on environment or community
- Solicit information on resources at issue
- Invite oral and written comment

▶ *Tomorrow: Site Visit (am) and Study Planning Meeting (pm)*

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission



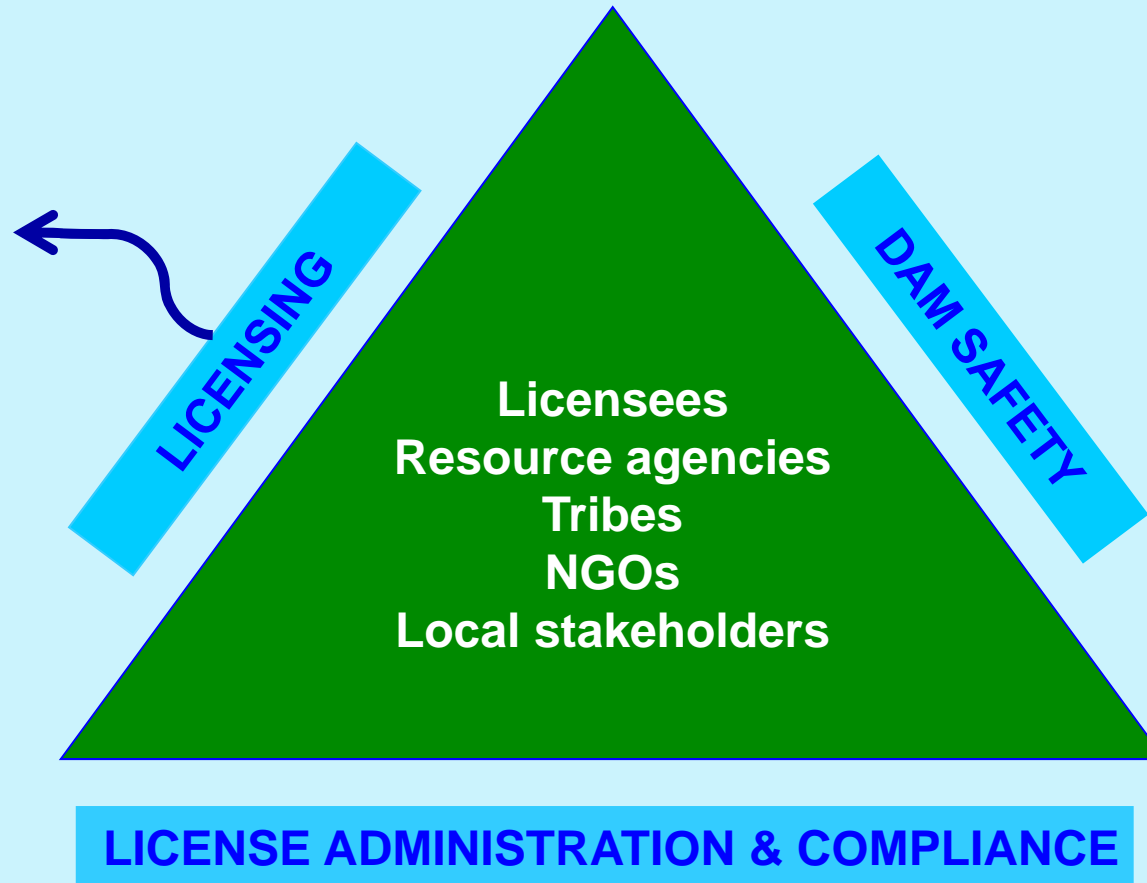
- FERC is the federal agency responsible for oversight of non-federally operated hydroelectric projects
- Independent Regulatory Agency
- Five-member Commission
 - Appointed by the President of the United States
 - Confirmed by the Senate
- Regulates
 - Natural gas
 - Electric power
 - Oil pipelines
 - Hydropower





FERC Hydropower Program

West Branch
Coordinator
Engineer
Fisheries Biologist
Terrestrial Biologist
Recreation Planner
Cultural Resources



Hydropower Licensing Processes



- Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) – default
- Traditional Licensing Process (TLP)
- Alternative Licensing Process (ALP)

*More information on licensing processes available at
www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower.asp*



Alternative Licensing Process



- Collaborative
- Involves a wider range of participants at earlier stage
- Accelerates environmental review process by combining:
 - Pre-filing consultation
 - Evaluation of project impacts pursuant to NEPA
 - Other federal and state regulatory reviews (e.g., Federal Power Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act)
 - Where desired, a negotiation process leading to a settlement agreement (18 CFR 385.602)
- Allows applicant-prepared EA or third-party contractor EIS to be submitted with license application

Licensing Process Comparison



Alternative Licensing Process



-
- Collaborative
 - Flexible
 - Streamlined
 - Applicant-driven
-
- FERC, state, and federal resource agencies still exercise all of their authorities and obligations



Alternative Licensing Process



Pre-filing

1. Applicant files notice of intent and pre-application document
2. Applicant forms work groups, develops communications protocol, builds consensus
3. FERC acts on ALP request
4. Applicant issues scoping document 1 (FERC issues notice)
5. Initial information meeting and scoping meeting
6. Studies planned
7. Dispute resolution of any studies referred to FERC
8. Applicant issues scoping document 2 and study plans finalized
9. Studies conducted
10. Additional studies requested (if needed)
11. PDEA or 3PC DEIS and draft application issued for stakeholder comment (FERC issues notice)

Alternative Licensing Process



Pre-filing (cont.)

12. Applicant conducts meeting to resolve disputes (if needed)
13. Applicant files PDEA or 3PC DEIS and license application

Post-filing

1. FERC issues Notice of License Application
2. FERC reviews application and, if needed, requests additional information
3. FERC issues notice of acceptance and requests final conditions
4. DEA/DEIS issued
5. 10(j) process (if needed)
6. FEA/FEIS issued
7. License order





Weber Hydroelectric Project

- PacifiCorp's license to operate the Weber Hydroelectric Project expires on May 31, 2020
- PacifiCorp:
 - Filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to relicense the Weber Project and filed a Pre-Application Document (May 2015)
 - Requested to use the Alternative Licensing Process (ALP)
 - Issued a scoping document (Sept 2015)





How to Participate

- Understanding the Process:
 - FERC website: www.ferc.gov
 - *Hydropower Licensing – Get Involved* (brochure)
- ALP Working Group: email PacifiCorp to get on distribution list
 - miriam.hugentobler@gmail.com
- Send or Receive Official Project Correspondence
 - *Guide to Electronic Information at FERC* (brochure)
 - eRegister
 - eFiling
 - eComments
 - eSubscribe
 - eLibrary



Filing to the Record

- Comment electronically:
 - First eRegister, then go to eFiling → “Comment on a Filing”
 - Refer to *Hydropower Licensing – Get Involved* and *Guide to Electronic Information at FERC* (brochures)
- All correspondence must clearly show at the top of the first page “Weber Hydroelectric Project” and “P-1744”
- Comments on PAD, Scoping, Study requests, Cooperating Agency requests must be filed by **November 5, 2015**
- Or file a paper copy:
 - Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 - 888 First Street, NE
 - Washington, DC 20426



Updates Requested

- Comprehensive Plans

- Mailing List
 - Official Service List
 - Hardcopies of project correspondence
 - Supplemental List
 - Receive hardcopy Notice of Scoping and Notice of Application Filed
 - Working Group email list (Miriam at PacifiCorp)
 - Working group correspondence
 - eSubscribe
 - Email notification of project correspondence with links to documents in eLibrary

FERC Online Support



- FERC Online technical assistance:

Email: FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov

Phone: 1-866-208-3676



Next Up

- Introductions
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End of Presentation





Process Comparison

	TLP	ALP	ILP
Consultation	Meetings and Paper	Collaborative	Integrated
Pre-filing FERC Involvement	Only for study disputes	Yes	Yes
Deadlines	<u>Pre-filing</u> Some Process Defined <u>Post-filing</u> FERC/Process Defined	<u>Pre-filing</u> Collaboratively defined <u>Post-filing</u> FERC/Process Defined	<u>Pre-filing</u> Process Defined <u>Post-filing</u> Process Defined



Process Comparison

	TLP	ALP	ILP
Study Plan Development	<p>Applicant</p> <p>No FERC involvement</p>	<p>Collaborative workgroup meetings</p> <p>FERC assistance</p>	<p>Study plan meetings</p> <p>FERC approved</p>
Study Dispute Resolution	<p><u>Available</u> Agencies Tribes</p> <p>paper</p>	<p><u>Available</u> ALP participants</p> <p>paper</p>	<p><u>Available</u> Mandatory Agency</p> <p>Paper/panel</p>



Process Comparison

	TLP	ALP	ILP
Application	Exhibit E	May prepare APEA or 3rd party EIS	PLP or Exhibit E follows EA format
Post-filing Additional Information Requests	Yes	limited	No
Timing of Resource Agency Terms and Conditions	60 days after REA Schedule for final	60 days after REA Schedule for final	60 days after REA Modified 60 days after due date for comments on draft NEPA document