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

**Subject: Weber Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1744)
Six-Month Progress Report for Alternative Licensing Process**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulations for the Alternative Licensing Process (ALP; 18 CFR §4.34), PacifiCorp hereby submits its six-month progress report for the Weber Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. P-1744. This report covers the period of August 13, 2015 through February 13, 2016.

This letter and its enclosures have been filed electronically. The security classification of each component in this packet is shown in the Enclosure list below. Copies have also been transmitted to those cited below. If you have any questions concerning these documents, please contact Eve Davies at 801-220-2245, or eve.davies@pacificorp.com.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Sturtevant
Managing Director, Hydro Resources

MAS: EFD: MH:BB

Encl:	Transmittal Letter – Public
	Six-Month Progress Report – Public

eFile:	Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Via eLibrary at www.ferc.gov	hc:	Claire McGrath, Ph.D. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Division of Hydropower Licensing 888 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20426
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**WEBER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RELICENSING
FERC PROJECT NO. 1744
ALTERNATIVE LICENSING PROCESS
SIX-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT
AUGUST 2015 – FEBRUARY 2016**

SUMMARY

This six-month progress report is the first in a series of reports to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) summarizing major activities undertaken for the Weber Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1744) Alternative Licensing Process (ALP). It covers the period August 13, 2015 through February 13, 2016 and summarizes 1) key project milestones reached, 2) meetings held, 3) communications logged, 4) deliverables completed, 5) progress made on study plans, and 6) work expected over the next six-month period.

PROJECT MILESTONES

Weber Hydro Relicensing ALP Milestones, August 13, 2015 – February 13, 2016	
August 13, 2015	The FERC issues authorization to use the Alternative Licensing Process.
September 2, 2015	PacifiCorp files Scoping Document 1 with the FERC.
September 4, 2015	Notice of public scoping meetings published in <i>Ogden Standard Examiner</i> .
October 6, 2015	Public scoping meetings held at Ben Lomond Suites, 2510 Washington Blvd, Ogden, UT. Morning session focused on resource agency concerns; evening session focused on gathering public input.
October 7, 2015	Site visit to the Weber Hydroelectric Project in Weber Canyon with PacifiCorp and FERC staff, resource and non-governmental agencies, and the public (morning) followed by initial study plan meetings at Ben Lomond Suites (afternoon). Fish passage work group formed.
November 18, 2015	PacifiCorp files Draft Study Plans with the FERC.
January 19, 2016	Onsite review for fish passage design bidders/fish passage work group members. Final selection of water quality monitoring sites.
February 8, 2016	Fish passage work group meets to provide input on PacifiCorp's selection of a fish passage design consultant.
Meeting notes, including a record of attendees, and other relicensing materials are available on PacifiCorp's Weber Relicensing website: http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/weber.html#	

MEETINGS

October 6 & 7, 2015 – Public scoping meetings, site visit, and initial study plan meeting with PacifiCorp, FERC staff, agency and non-governmental agencies, and the public in Ogden and Weber Canyon, Utah.

February 8, 2016 – Fish passage work group meeting in Salt Lake City to review technical proposals received in response to PacifiCorp’s RFP for fish passage design and provide input on contractor selection. Reviewed and reached unanimous agreement on proposed changes to the water quality monitoring/sampling regime.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

October 19, 2015 – Oral communication (meeting) between Eve Davies, Weber Relicensing Program Manager, PacifiCorp; Lindsey Kester and Lucy Parham, SWCA; and Bill Damery and Kari Lundeen, Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ), regarding DWQ’s comments on the Water Quality and Fisheries study plans and 401 permitting timeline. *Outcome:* Agreement was reached regarding preliminary Study Plan edits, as reflected in the November Draft Study Plans.

November 4, 2015 – Per FERC request, Utah State Historic Preservation Office concurrence on Area of Potential Effects (APE) for cultural resources, November 4, 2015 letter to Eve Davies, PacifiCorp, from Chris Hansen, Preservation Planner/Deputy SHPO.

November 13, 2015 – Oral communication (telephone) between Claire McGrath, Weber Project Coordinator, FERC, and Eve Davies, PacifiCorp. No comments received during scoping public comment period; determination made that Scoping Document 2 will not be necessary.

November 17, 2015 – Oral communication (meeting) between Eve Davies, PacifiCorp; Ben Gaddis, Gaddis Consulting; and George Weekly, Paul Abate, and Laura Romin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to discuss FWS comments on the draft Water Quality and Terrestrial Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) Species/Noxious Weeds study plans. *Outcome:* Reviewed and discussed comments; PacifiCorp to provide additional hydrology information.

December 16, 2015 – Oral communication (meeting) between Eve Davies and Connely Baldwin, PacifiCorp; Lindsey Kester, SWCA; and George Weekly and Paul Abate, USFWS regarding PacifiCorp’s proposed approach to FWS comments on Water Quality and Terrestrial TES/Noxious Weeds study plans. *Outcome:* Agreed on plan revision approach: new hydrology section and additional information on *chlorophyll a* to be added to the study plan; renamed Water Resources Study Plan; approved added detail on yellow billed cuckoo.

January 19, 2016 – Onsite review of Weber Hydroelectric Project for potential bidders on fish passage design. Conducted by Eve Davies and Stewart Edwards, PacifiCorp. Also in attendance: Paul Thompson, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Final selection of water quality monitoring sites with Kari Lundeen, DWQ, and Lucy Parham and John Christensen, SWCA. *Outcome:* Identified specific water quality monitoring sites and parameters.

January 22, 2016 – Oral communication (telephone) between Eve Davies, PacifiCorp, and Claire McGrath, FERC, regarding FERC Study Plan comments and proposed changes to the water quality monitoring regime following field reconnaissance of preliminary plans/sites.

January 28, 2016 – Oral communication between Quinn Emmering, Wildlife Biologist, FERC and Eve Davies, PacifiCorp, regarding preliminary comments on the Draft Terrestrial TES/Noxious Weeds Study Plan.

DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables were submitted to the FERC during this six-month period:

- Scoping Document 1 was finalized during this six-month period and was filed with the FERC on September 4, 2015. Because only minor comments from one agency were received during the scoping period, no Scoping Document 2 was required.
- Draft Study Plans for Water Quality (now Water Resources); Fisheries; Recreation; Terrestrial TES Species/Noxious Weeds; and Cultural Resources were filed with the FERC on November 18, 2015.

STUDY PLAN SCHEDULE

Study plan development began prior to the period covered in this report with the development of preliminary study plans. A field review of the project area, focused on terrestrial TES species and noxious weeds, was held on July 2, 2015. The field review was conducted by Eve Davies, PacifiCorp and Lindsey Kester, SWCA and attended by Paul Abate, USFWS; Paul Chase, Anne Hansen, Charlie Rosier, and Michael Duncan, U.S. Forest Service; and Ivan Ray, manager, Davis-Weber Canal Company. The group reviewed the project area and TES protocols for target species, and also reviewed plans to survey and manage noxious weeds. Later in July, preliminary study plans were distributed to the stakeholder group for 30-day comment. An initial study plan meeting was held on October 7, 2015, in conjunction with the public scoping meetings.

Draft study plans were prepared and filed with the FERC on November 18, 2015. Two of the draft study plans, Recreation and Cultural Resources, are now complete. Comments were received from USFWS on the Water Quality (now Water Resources), Terrestrial TES Species/Noxious Weeds, and Fisheries study plans. Revisions were subsequently made to the Water Resources and Terrestrial TES/Noxious Weeds study plans, and later to the Fisheries study plan. The Water Resources study plan is currently under review by USFWS. Once concurrence is received from USFWS, these three draft study plans will be redistributed to the stakeholder group (expected within the next 30 days) for approval of all revisions. Final study plans for all five resources will then be formally submitted to the FERC for 30-day public review.

NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

As discussed above, revisions to the Water Resources, Terrestrial TES Species/Noxious Weeds, and Fisheries study plans will be approved by the stakeholder group. Final study plans will then

be filed with FERC for a 30-day public comment period, likely in March 2016, with completion of the final study plan process planned during the next reporting period. A water resources contractor was selected and just initiated the first water quality sampling period in early February 2016. Water quality monitoring will continue monthly throughout 2016. Contractor selection is expected for fish passage design work in March 2016. The fish passage design work group plans to meet with the contractor as soon as possible after PacifiCorp's bid award. The selection for a recreation contractor is currently underway, and work will start with that contractor by the end of February 2016, with plans to convene a whitewater boater focus group in March 2016.