

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County

Project No. 637-037

ORDER ISSUING EXTENSION OF TIME

(Issued June 5, 2015)

1. On May 1, 2015, Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (licensee) filed an extension of time request for filing its final Chelan River Water Temperature Modeling Study Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Report for the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 637. The project is located on the Chelan River in Chelan County, Washington. The project occupies federal lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

REQUIREMENTS

2. Article 401 of the project license¹ requires various plans to be filed for Commission approval. Condition V.B. of the Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for the project requires the licensee to prepare and implement a QAPP for water quality and temperature modeling. The licensee filed its QAPP on May 4, 2007, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) approved the plan on November 30, 2007.² As a part of the initial QAPP, the licensee proposed to file a separate QAPP for its temperature modeling study, due to the complexity of the water temperature modeling. The plan was filed on April 11, 2014 and subsequently approved by the Commission's September 4, 2014 Order Approving Chelan River Water Temperature Modeling Study Quality Assurance Project Plan.³

¹ Order on Offer of Settlement and Issuing New License. 117 FERC ¶ 62,129 (issued November 6, 2006).

² Order Modifying and Approving Quality Assurance Project Plan under License Article 401 and Water Quality Certification Condition V.B. 121 FERC ¶ 62,154 (issued November 6, 2006).

³ 148 FERC ¶ 62,177.

3. Pursuant to ordering paragraph (B) of the approving order, the licensee is required to file a Chelan River Water Temperature Modeling Study QAPP Report with the Commission by August 1, 2015. The report must include the results of the temperature modeling study and a record of consultation with Ecology.

LICENSE'S REQUEST

4. In its filing, the licensee indicates that it is revising the initial QAPP and is undergoing more extensive consultation with Ecology than anticipated. The licensee explains that the consultation, regarding the development of the water temperature model and the revised QAPP, has affected its intended reporting deadlines. The licensee does not anticipate being able to comply with the August 1, 2015 deadline and, therefore, requests that the Commission approve an extended deadline of February 15, 2016.

CONCLUSION

5. The licensee's request is to extend the deadlines for filing its Chelan River Water Temperature Modeling Study QAPP Report with the Commission from August 1, 2015 to February 15, 2016 in order to allow for further model development in consultation with Ecology. The licensee has demonstrated a commitment to including Ecology in the development and execution of the water temperature model. Moreover, the proposed deadline should provide the Commission with sufficient time to review the filing prior to low flows and warm water associated with summer weather conditions. As such, the licensee's request for an extension of time should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County's (licensee) May 1, 2015 request to extend the deadline for filing its Chelan River Water Temperature Modeling Study Quality Assurance Project Plan Report for the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 637, is approved. The extended deadline for filing the report with the Commission is February 15, 2016.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Any party may file a request for rehearing of this order within 30 days from the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 8251 (2012), and the Commission's regulations at 18 CFR § 385.713 (2014). The filing of a request for hearing does not operate as a stay of the effective date of this order, or of any other date specified in this order. The licensee's failure to file a request for rehearing shall constitute acceptance of this order.

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and Compliance