

149 FERC ¶ 62,160
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County,
Washington

Project No. 2145-121

ORDER APPROVING REVISED HISTORIC PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Issued December 4, 2014)

1. On June 30, 2014, Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington (licensee) filed an historic properties management plan (plan) pursuant to article 405 of the license for the Rocky Reach Project.¹ The project is located on the mid-Columbia River in Chelan County, Washington, and occupies about 1,500 acres, of which about 164 acres are Federal lands managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

3. Article 405 of the project license requires the licensee to implement the “Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer for Managing Historic Properties that may be Affected by a License Issuing to Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County for the Continued Operation of the Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project in Chelan County, Washington (FERC No. 2145-060),” executed on April 22, 2006, including but not limited to the plan for the Project. In the event that the Programmatic Agreement is terminated, the licensee must continue to implement the provisions of its approved plan. The approved plan, made part of the license by article 405, contains provisions for periodic review of the plan to reflect updates in standards and procedures.

4. The revised plan includes provisions for the continued protection of historic properties and cultural resources within the area of potential effect in and around the project. Specifically, the plan discusses: 1) coordination and consultation with the appropriate agencies; 2) employee education and public interpretation; 3) inadvertent discoveries and emergency situations; 4) management and consultation standards for Traditional Cultural Properties; 5) categorical exclusions; 6) periodic updates to accommodate for environmental and regulatory changes; 7) curation and document management; and 8) a schedule for implementation. The licensee has appointed and trained a Cultural Resources Coordinator responsible for implementing the revised plan.

¹ 126 FERC ¶ 61,138 (issued February 19, 2009).

The revised plan addresses identified cultural sites, National Register of Historic Places eligibility, and ongoing treatment plans. Finally, the revised plan provides documentation of consultation with the Rocky Reach Cultural Forum.

5. The revised plan includes documentation of consultation. The licensee provided the members of the Rocky Reach Cultural Forum with a copy of the revised plan via email on April 16, 2014, included in the filing, for review and comment. The Rocky Reach Cultural Forum includes the U.S. Forest Service, BLM, Bureau of Indian Affairs, SHPO, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the Yakama Nation. The licensee states that no responses were received.

6. The proposed revised plan addresses the stipulations in the Programmatic Agreement and fulfills the requirements of article 405. Implementation of the revised plan would ensure that any potential effects of the project on historic properties are adequately addressed. The revised plan should be approved. The licensee states that the plan would be reviewed for any possible needed revisions in 2019.

The Director orders:

(A) The revised historic properties management plan for the Rocky Reach Project (FERC No. 2145), filed on June 30, 2014, by the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, is approved.

(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. § 825l (2012), and the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2014). The filing of a request for rehearing 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.

Robert J. Fletcher
Chief, Land Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower
Administration and Compliance