153 FERC ¶ 62,151 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington

Project No. 2145-107

ORDER APPROVING WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 403

(Issued December 1, 2015)

1. On September 17, 2015, Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington (licensee) filed a wildlife habitat management plan (plan) update, pursuant to article 403 of its license for the Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project.¹ Article 403 requires that the plan be updated for Commission approval at a minimum of every five years. The project is located on the mid-Columbia River, in Chelan County, Washington, and occupies federal land managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

2. As required by article 403, the licensee's plan update includes a summary of the measures implemented pursuant to the plan from 2010-2015, and measures proposed to protect and enhance wildlife habitat for 2016-2020. The proposed measures include: (1) a detailed description of the habitat improvement measures, including methods to be used; (2) a detailed description of any annual or periodic maintenance and monitoring needed to ensure the success of the measures; (3) a detailed description of the location where the improvements will occur, including maps and drawings; and (4) a detailed implementation schedule. The measures proposed for 2016-2020 are primarily a continuation of work approved in the original plan, without any major changes. The plan update was prepared in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, U.S. Forest Service, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The licensee appropriately addressed a minor comment received from the WDFW regarding funding.

3. The implementation of the licensee's plan update will continue to improve and enhance wildlife habitat within and immediately adjacent to the project reservoir. The plan update satisfies the requirements of article 403, and it should be approved.

¹ 123 FERC ¶ 61,049

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The Director orders:

(A) The wildlife habitat management plan update, filed September 17, 2015, pursuant to article 403 of the license for the Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project, is approved.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Any party may file a request for rehearing of this order within 30 days of the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 825*l* (2012), and the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2015). 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 licensees' 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

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