

The relicensing application: A checklist of included documents

Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA)

The purpose of the Environmental Assessment is to provide a rationale for the protection, mitigation and enhancement measures (PMEs) which are implemented at the project over the life of the new license (in this case 50 years). It explores various alternatives presented for consideration and explains why the preferred alternative was chosen. It provides information on the cost of the various alternatives and uses information gathered during the study phase of the relicensing effort to support conclusions.

(Where are we: Second draft issued Oct. 21; final due June 30, 2004.)

License Application (LA)

The License Application contains background information on the existing project, including construction history, detailed drawings of the project components, an explanation of why the power is needed and how it is used.

(Where are we: First draft of Jan. 26, 2003, remains unchanged. Final due June 30, 2004)

License Terms and Conditions (also referred to as License Articles)

The License Articles contain specific language used to put the preferred alternatives from the PDEA into practice over the life of the license. They are the yardstick against which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) measures compliance by the licensee. The language of License Articles is intended to provide a clear determination of whether a licensee is complying with PMEs as intended, although the articles may also refer to other documents for further specific details (see comprehensive plans).

(Where are we: First draft expected after settlement negotiations commence in January, 2004. Goal for final: concurrent with submission of license application, June 30, 2004.)

Comprehensive Plans

These documents contain the specific descriptions of measures to be taken as part of the License Terms and Conditions. For example, if a License Article says fish stocking will be done in accordance with a comprehensive plan, the comprehensive plan will then describe what varieties of fish are to be planted at what times and by what agencies. Comprehensive plans are the place where the nitty-gritty details of license implementation are actually described.

(Where are we: First drafts of some plans and second drafts of others are being made available concurrently with the PDEA; two additional plan drafts are still under preparation; further comment on all is expected. Goal for final versions: concurrent with submission of license application, June 30, 2004.)

Agreement

This document can be a vehicle for allowing earlier implementation of license terms and conditions. Usually all parties with conditioning authority will sign an agreement before moving ahead on a licensee's implementation of PMEs. It can be a useful tool for getting faster implementation of new steps and will facilitate formal approval of the license by FERC.

(Where are we: An agreement can be reached at any time before FERC issues a license. Goal: to complete a settlement agreement in time to present to FERC along with the application.)