

RELICENSING

OVERVIEW



The Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (Chelan PUD) is the licensee, owner, and operator of the Rock Island Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) No. 943). The Rock Island Hydroelectric Project is located approximately 12 miles downstream of the city of Wenatchee, and 20 miles downstream of Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2145). The Project spans the Columbia River and includes lands in Chelan and Douglas counties. Presently, the Project has a total FERC-authorized generating capacity of approximately 400 megawatts (MW), and a total installed generator nameplate capacity rated at approximately 630 MW.



Aerial image of the Rock Island Hydroelectric Project.

Most non-federal hydroelectric projects in the United States operate under licenses issued by the FERC. An original hydropower license authorizes the construction and operation of a project for a term of up to 50 years. Relicensing is the process to renew an existing (previously licensed) project. The license term upon relicensing is 30 to 50 years.

Chelan PUD has an existing license for the Rock Island Project that expires in 2028. The next license will be the Project's third license. Obtaining a new operating license requires Chelan PUD to complete a multi-year application process and file a final license application on or before December 31, 2026. The official relicensing process begins with Chelan PUD filing a Notice of Intent and Pre-Application Document (PAD) no later than December 31, 2023. Chelan PUD will use the [Integrated Licensing Process \(ILP\)](#) in the Rock Island Project relicensing.

A relicensing process requires licensees and FERC to evaluate impacts on an array of resources related to a licensed hydropower project, including both developmental (e.g., power generation, irrigation, flood control, and water supply) and non-developmental resources (e.g., fish and wildlife resources, cultural, and other environmental resources).

In late 2021, Chelan PUD initiated an early and voluntary stakeholder engagement process in support of the Rock Island Project relicensing process. Chelan PUD is working closely with relicensing participants, including federal and state resource agencies, Native American Tribes, local governmental entities, conservation advocates, and other stakeholders (including individuals), in an effort to help inform Chelan PUD's development of the PAD and identify issues and data gaps that may require study during relicensing. Three Technical Working Groups (TWGs) were convened in early 2022: Fish & Aquatic Resources, Recreation & Land Use, and Wildlife & Botanical Resources. Input from the TWGs during early engagement has resulted in Chelan PUD identifying and implementing a number of studies prior to the official FERC relicensing process to inform the PAD and support the official FERC relicensing process. An additional TWG for Cultural and Historical Resources will be convened in 2024. The TWGs will continue to meet throughout the formal relicensing process as needed.

Contact Information

- Email Us
 - » RIRelicensing@chelanpud.org
- On The Web
 - » www.chelanpud.org/NewLicense

The Rock Island Relicensing webpage includes facts about the Rock Island Hydropower Project, including its history, operations, facilities, and location. The webpage also features important dates, access to relicensing documents and associated links to provide comments, and contact information for Chelan PUD relicensing staff.



Chelan PUD encourages all stakeholders to participate in the Rock Island Project relicensing process. Please subscribe to the FERC docket to receive notifications about documents filed, meetings scheduled, and other FERC licensing updates.

To subscribe:

- Visit <https://ferconline.ferc.gov>
- Click “eSubscription”
- The FERC Project docket number is P-943.

