§ 292.208 Special requirements for hydropower facilities located at a new dam or diversion.

(a) A hydropower facility that impounds or diverts the water of a natural watercourse by means of a new dam or diversion (as that term is defined in §292.202(p)) is a qualifying facility only if it meets the requirements of:

(1) Paragraph (b) of this section;

(2) Section 292.203(c); and

(3) Part 4 of this chapter.

(b) A hydropower facility described in paragraph (a) is a qualifying facility only if:

(1) The Commission finds, at the time it issues the license or exemption, that the project will not have a substantial adverse effect on the environment (as that term is defined in §292.202(q)), including recreation and water quality;

(2) The Commission finds, at the time the application for the license or exemption is accepted for filing under §4.32 of this chapter, that the project is not located on any segment of a natural watercourse which:

(i) Is included, or designated for potential inclusion in, a State or National wild and scenic river system; or

(ii) The State has determined, in accordance with applicable State law, to possess unique natural, recreational, cultural or scenic attributes which does not meet the applicable requirements for qualifying facilities.

(2) Prior to undertaking any substantial alteration or modification of a qualifying facility which has been certified under paragraph (b) of this section, a small power producer or cogenerator may apply to the Commission for a determination that the proposed alteration or modification will not result in a revocation of qualifying status. This application for Commission recertification of qualifying status should be submitted in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

[45 FR 17972, Mar. 20, 1980]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For Federal Register citations affecting §292.207, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and at www.fdsys.gov.
would be adversely affected by hydroelectric development; and

(3) The project meets the terms and conditions set by the appropriate fish and wildlife agencies under the same procedures as provided for under section 30(c) of the Federal Power Act.

(c) For the Commission to make the findings in paragraph (b) of this section an applicant must:

(1) Comply with the applicable hydroelectric licensing requirements in Part 4 of this chapter, including:

(i) Completing the pre-filing consultation process under § 4.38 of this chapter, including performing any environmental studies which may be required under §§ 4.38(b)(2)(i)(D) through (F) of this chapter; and

(ii) Submitting with its application an environmental report that meets the requirements of § 4.41(f) of this chapter, regardless of project size;

(2) State whether the project is located on any segment of a natural watercourse which:

(i) Is included in or designated for potential inclusion in:


(B) A State wild and scenic river system;

(ii) Crosses an area designated or recommended for designation under the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1132) as:

(A) A wilderness area; or

(B) Wilderness study area; or

(iii) The State, either by or pursuant to an act of the State legislature, has determined to possess unique, natural, recreational, cultural, or scenic attributes that would be adversely affected by hydroelectric development.

(d) If the project is located on any segment of a natural watercourse that meets any of the conditions in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the applicant must provide the following information in its application:

(1) The date on which the natural watercourse was protected;

(2) The statutory authority under which the natural watercourse was protected; and

(3) The Federal or state agency, or political subdivision of the state, that is in charge of administering the natural watercourse.

[Order 499, 53 FR 27003, July 18, 1988]

§ 292.209 Exceptions from requirements for hydroelectric small power production facilities located at a new dam or diversion.

(a) The requirements in §§ 292.208(b)(1) through (3) do not apply if:

(1) An application for license or exemption is filed for a project located at a Government dam, as defined in section 3(10) of the Federal Power Act, at which non-Federal hydroelectric development is permissible; or

(2) An application for license or exemption was filed and accepted before October 16, 1986.

(b) The requirements in §§ 292.208(b)(1) and (3) do not apply if an application for license or exemption was filed before October 16, 1986, and is accepted for filing by the Commission before October 16, 1989.

(c) The requirements in §§ 292.208(b)(3) do not apply to an applicant for license or exemption if:

(1) The applicant files a petition pursuant to § 292.210; and

(2) The Commission grants the petition.

(d) Any application covered by paragraph (a), (b), or (c) of this section is excepted from the moratorium imposed by section 8(e) of the Electric Consumers Protection Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99–485.

[Order 499, 53 FR 27003, July 18, 1988]


(a) An applicant covered by § 292.203(c) whose application for license or exemption was filed on or after October 16, 1986, but before April 16, 1988, may file a petition for exception from the requirement in § 292.208(b)(3) and the moratorium described in § 292.203(c)(2). The petition must show that prior to October 16, 1986, the applicant committed substantial monetary resources (as that term is defined in § 292.202(r)) to the development of the project.

(b) Subject to rebuttal under paragraph (d)(7)(ii) of this section, a showing of the commitment of substantial

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