

taken, but will not serve to make Protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-15818 Filed 6-12-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project 2177, GA]

Georgia Power Company; Notice of Scoping Meeting Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment and a Site Visit

June 9, 1998.

The Commission's regulations allow applicants to prepare their own

Environmental Assessment (EA) for hydropower projects and file it with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) along with their license application as part of the applicant-prepared EA (APEA) process.¹ On May 26, 1998, the Commission approved the use of the APEA process in the preparation of license application for Georgia Power Companies' (GPC) Middle Chattahoochee Project, No. 2177.

GPC will hold two public meetings, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, to identify the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. At the scoping meetings, GPC will: (1) summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) outline any resources they believe would not require a detailed analysis; (3) identify reasonable alternatives to be addressed in the EA; (4) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantitative data, on the resources at issue; and (5) encourage statements from

experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

Although GPC's intent is to prepare an EA, there is the possibility that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required. Nevertheless, this meeting will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether an EA or EIS is issued by the Commission.

Scoping Meetings

The times and locations of the scoping meeting are:

Agency scoping meeting	Public scoping meeting
July 9, 1998, 8:30 am to Noon, The Columbus Hilton, Chattahoochee Room, 800 Front Street, Columbus GA 31901, (706) 324-1800.	July 9, 1998, 7:00 pm, Columbus State University, Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center, 4225 University Avenue, Columbus, GA 31907, (706) 568-2023.

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited and encouraged to attend any or all of the meetings to assist in identifying and clarifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

To help focus discussions, GPC prepared and distributed a scoping document on May 6, 1998. Copies of the Scoping Document can be obtained by calling George Martin, Georgia Power Company, at (404) 506-1357. Copies of the document will also be available at the scoping meetings.

Site Visit

GPC has also scheduled a site visit, for all interested individuals, to the Middle Chattahoochee Project on Thursday, July 9, 1998. The site visit participants will depart from the Columbus Hilton at 1:30 pm and will return to the Columbus Hilton at 5:00 pm.

Meeting Procedures

The meetings will be conducted according to the procedures used at Commission scoping meetings. Because this meeting will be a NEPA scoping

meeting under the APEA process, the Commission does not intend to conduct a NEPA scoping meeting after the application and draft EA are filed with the Commission. Instead, Commission staff will attend the meetings on July 9, 1998.

All the scoping meetings will be recorded by a stenographer or tape recorder, and will become part of the formal record of the proceedings for this project.

Those who choose not to speak during the scoping meetings may instead submit written comments on the project. Written comments should be mailed to: Mr. C.M. Hobson, Manager, Environmental Affairs, Georgia Power Company, 241 Ralph McGill Boulevard NE, BIN 10221, Atlanta, GA 30308-3374, Attn: George Martin, by September 8, 1998. All correspondence should show the following caption on the first page: Scoping Comments, Middle Chattahoochee Project Hydroelectric Project (2177).

For further information please contact George Martin at (404) 506-

1357 or Ronald McKittrick of the Commission at (404) 770-2363 ext. 44.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-15794 Filed 6-12-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission

June 9, 1998.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- a. *Type of Application:* New License.
- b. *Project No.:* 2731-020.
- c. *Date Filed:* May 27, 1998.
- d. *Applicant:* Central Vermont Public Service Corporation.
- e. *Name of Project:* Weybridge Hydroelectric Project.
- f. *Location:* On Otter Creek, which discharges into Lake Champlain, in the towns of Weybridge and New Haven, Addison County, Vermont.

¹ 81 FERC ¶ 61,103 (1997)