

S.W. Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97204.

### Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on PGE's proposal to use the alternative procedures to file an application for the Oak Grove and North Fork Hydroelectric Projects.

### Filing Requirements

Any comments must be filed by providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, Dockets—Room 1A, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All comment filings must bear the heading "Comments on the Alternative Procedure," and include the project names and numbers (Oak Grove hydroelectric Project No. 135 and North Fork Hydroelectric Project No. 2195). For further information, please contact John Blair at (202) 219-2845.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 477]

#### Portland General Electric Company, Portland, Oregon; Notice of Portland General Electric Company's Request to Use Alternative Procedures in Filing a License Application

September 30, 1998.

By letter dated September 1, 1998, Portland General Electric Company (PGE) of Portland, Oregon asked to use an alternative procedure in filing an application for a new license for its Bull Run Project No. 477.<sup>1</sup> PGE has demonstrated that they made a reasonable effort to contact the resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and others who may be affected by their proposal, and has submitted a communication protocol governing how participants in the proposed process may communicate with each other. PGE

<sup>1</sup> The 22-megawatt Bull Run project consists of a 57-foot-high diversion dam on the Sandy River and a 18-foot-high diversion dam on the Little Sandy River. A powerhouse is located on the Bull Run River near the confluence with the Sandy River. The Bull Run project is located on U.S. Forest Service land and Bureau of Land Management land.

has also submitted evidence of support for their proposal, and it appears that a consensus exists that the use of an alternative procedure is appropriate in this case.

The purpose of this notice is to invite any additional comments on PGE's request to use the alternative procedure, as required under the final rule for Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects.<sup>2</sup> Additional notices seeking comments on the specific project proposal, interventions and protests, and recommended terms and conditions will be issued at a later date.

The alternative procedure being requested here combines the pre-filing consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing the applicant to file a Third Party Contractor prepared Environmental Impact Statement (TPC-EIS) in lieu of Exhibit E of the license application. This differs from the traditional process, in which the applicant consults with agencies, Indian tribes, and NGOs during preparation of the application for the license and before filing it, but the Commission staff performs the environmental review after the application is filed. The alternative procedure is intended to simplify and expedite the licensing process by combining the pre-filing consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants. The alternative procedure can be tailored to the particular project under consideration.

#### TPC-EIS Process and the Bull Run Project Schedule

PGE has begun working collaboratively with the various interested entities to identify issues that will need to be addressed and studies that will need to be conducted in relicensing the project. An initial information package will be disseminated to all interested parties in December 1998. Site visits of the project will be conducted in March 1999. Identification of issues and issuance of Scoping Document 1 will occur December 1999. A Public Scoping Meeting will be held January 2000. Notice of the scoping meeting will be published at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Studies will be conducted beginning April 1999, and continue through 2001. Opportunities for requesting additional studies will be noticed at least 30 days prior to any study request deadline. A

<sup>2</sup> 81 FERC 61,103 (1997).

draft license application with preliminary EIS would be distributed for comment in November 2001. The final license application and EIS must be filed with the Commission on or before November 16, 2002, two years before the expiration date of the existing license. A more detailed schedule and project description was distributed by PGE on September 1, 1998, to all parties expressing interest in the proceeding. Copies of the schedule and project description may be obtained from Portland General Electric, Hydro Licensing and Water Rights Office, 121 SW Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97204.

### Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on PGE's proposal to use the alternative procedures to file an application for the Bull Run Hydroelectric Project.

### Filing Requirements

Any comments must be filed by providing an original and 8 copies as required by the Commission's regulations to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, Dockets—Room 1A, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All comment filings must bear the heading "Comments on the Alternative Procedure," and include the project name and number (Bull Run Hydroelectric Project No. 477). For further information, please contact John Blair at (202) 219-2845.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP94-161-007]

#### U-T Offshore System; Notice of Motion for Extension of Time

September 30, 1998.

Take notice that on September 18, 1998, U-T Offshore System (U-TOS), pursuant to Rules 212 and 2008 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Commission, 18 CFR 385.212 and 385.2008, tendered for filing a request for an extension of time for the filing of its next general rate case pursuant to Section 4(e) of the Natural Gas Act.

U-TOS states that by Letter Order issued September 11, 1995, the Commission approved an uncontested settlement in the captioned rate