

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 637]

Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington; Notice of Scoping Meetings and Project Facilities Tour Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment

October 20, 1998.

The Commission's regulations allow applicants the option of preparing their own Environmental Assessment (EA) for hydropower projects, and filing the EA with their application as part of an alternative licensing procedure.¹ On July 6, 1998 the Commission approved the use of an alternative licensing procedure in the preparation of a new license application for Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County's (Chelan PUD), Lake Chelan Project, No. 637.

The alternative procedures include provisions for the distribution of an initial information package, and for the cooperative scoping of environmental issues and needed studies. On October 5, 1998, Chelan PUD distributed their initial information package which included an initial consultation document (ICD) and Scoping Document 1 (SD1).² Three public meetings will be held to discuss these documents.

ICD Meeting and Project Tour

Chelan PUD will hold a public meeting to discuss their ICD on November 18, 1998. In this meeting, Chelan PUD will give an overview of the existing project facilities and operation, discuss what is currently known about environmental resources at the project, and discuss how those resources are currently being managed. A project facilities tour will also be conducted on the same day. The tour will include stops at the dam, powerhouse, and the lower end of the project bypassed reach.

The times and locations of the ICD meeting and project facilities tour are:

Initial Information Meeting

November 18, 1998, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Carvel Resort, 322 West Woodin Avenue, Chelan, WA 98816, (509) 682-2582

Project Facilities Tour

November 18, 1998, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Meet at north side of the project dam (for more information call Gregg Carrington at (509) 663-8121)

Scoping Meetings

Chelan PUD will hold public scoping meetings on November 18 and 19, 1998, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. At the scoping meetings, Chelan PUD 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 Chelan PUD'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.

The times and locations of the scoping meetings are:

Evening Scoping Meeting

November 18, 1998, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Caravel Resort, 322 West Woodin Avenue, Chelan, WA 98816, (509) 682-2582

Morning Scoping Meeting

November 19, 1998, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Caravel Resort, 322 West Woodin Avenue, Chelan, WA 98816, (509) 682-2582

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.

Scoping 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 Chelan PUD's application and EA are filed with the Commission. Instead, Commission staff will attend the meetings on November 18 and 19, 1998.

Commenting Deadline

Both scoping meetings will be recorded by a stenographer, and the

transcripts 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 or e-mailed to: Mr. Gregg Carrington, Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington, P.O. Box 1231, Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231, gregg@chelanpud.org.

All correspondence should be postmarked no later than January 19, 1999. Comments should show the following caption on the first page: Scoping Comments, Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project, Project No. 637.

For further information please contact Gregg Carrington of Chelan PUD at (509) 663-8121 or Vince Yearick of the Commission at (202) 291-3073.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission****Notice of Intent To File Application for New License**

October 20, 1998.

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

a. *Type of filing:* Notice of Intent to File Application for New License.

b. *Project No.:* 637.

c. *Date filed:* October 5, 1998.

d. *Submitted By:* Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington, the current licensee.

e. *Name of Project:* Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On the Chelan River, near the City of Chelan in Lewis County, Washington. Federal lands within the project boundary include 361.42 acres of the Wenatchee National Forest, and 104.10 acres of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Section 15 of the Federal Power Act, 18 CFR 16.6 of the Commission's regulations.

h. *Effective date of current license:* May 1, 1981.

i. *Expiration date of current license:* March 31, 2004.

j. The 48-megawatt project consists of a 40-foot-high dam on the Chelan River at the lower end of Lake Chelan, a 2.2-mile-long steel and concrete tunnel, and a powerhouse located near the confluence of the Chelan and Columbia Rivers.

¹ 81 FERC ¶ 61,103 (1997).

² Copies of these documents can be obtained by calling Rosana Sokolowski at 509-663-8121 or via the Chelan PUD web site located at <http://www.chelanpud.org/relicense>.