

prior license until a new license is issued, or the project is otherwise disposed of as provided in Section 15 or any other applicable section of the FPA. If the project's prior license waived the applicability of Section 15 of the FPA, then, based on Section 9(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 558(c), and as set forth at CFR 16.21(a); if the licensee of such project has filed an application of a subsequent license, the licensee may continue to operate the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license after the minor or minor part license expires, until the Commission acts on its application. If the licensee of such a project has not filed an application for a subsequent license, then it may be required, pursuant to the 18 CFR 16.21(b), to continue project operations until the Commission issues someone else a license for the project or otherwise orders disposition of the project.

If the project is subject to Section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that an annual license for Project No. 2777 is issued to Idaho Power Company for a period effective November 1, 1998, through October 31, 1999, or until the issuance of a new license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first. If issuance of a new license (or other disposition) does not take place on or before October 31, 1999, notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.18(c), an annual license under Section 15(a)(1) of the FPA is renewed automatically without further order or notice by the Commission, unless the Commission orders otherwise.

If the project is not subject to Section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that Idaho Power Company is authorized to continue operation of the Upper Salmon Falls Project No. 2777 until such time as the Commission acts on its application for subsequent license.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2169, TN]

Tapoco, Inc.; Notice of Tapoco, Inc's Request To Use Alternative Procedures in Preparing a License Application

November 2, 1998.

This notice supersedes the NOTICE OF TAPOCO, INC'S REQUEST TO USE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES IN PREPARING A LICENSE

APPLICATION, dated October 28, 1998.

On October 1, 1998, the existing licensee, Tapoco, Inc. (Tapoco), filed a request to use alternative procedures for submitting an application for new license for the existing Tapoco Project No. 2169.¹ Tapoco has demonstrated that they have made an effort to contact resource agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organization (NGOs), and others affected by their proposal, and that a consensus exists that the use of an alternative procedure is appropriate in this case.

The purpose of this notice is to invite comments on Tapoco request to use the alternative procedure, pursuant to Section 4.34(i) of the Commission's regulations.² 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 procedures being requested here combine the prefiling consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing the applicant to complete and file an environmental document (NEPA document) 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 procedures are intended to simplify and expedite the licensing process by combining the prefiling consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants.

¹ The 326.5-megawatt Tapoco (originally known as the Tallasee project) project is located on the Little Tennessee and its tributary, the Cheoah River, in Blount and Monroe Counties, Tennessee, and Graham and Swain Counties, North Carolina. The project consists of four development; Chilhowee, Cheoah, Santeetlah, and Calderwood.

² Order No. 596, Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects, 81 FERC ¶ 61,103 (1997).

Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on Tapoco's proposal to use the alternative procedures to prepare an application to relicense the Tapoco Project.

Filing Requirements

The 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 (Tapoco Project, No. 2169).

For further information, please contact Ronald McKittrick of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at 770-452-2363 ext. 44 or E-mail at ronald.mckittrick@FERC.Fed.US.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-28-000]

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company; Notice of Application for Section 3 Authorization and Request for a Presidential Permit

November 2, 1998.

Take notice that on October 20, 1998, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee), P.O. Box 2511, Houston, Texas 77252, filed an application pursuant to Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), and Subpart B of Part 153 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Regulations under the NGA, for an order authorizing the siting, construction, and operation of pipeline facilities and the place of entry and exit for import and export of natural gas at the International Boundary between the United States and Mexico in Hidalgo County, Texas.

Additionally, Tennessee requests, pursuant to Subpart C of Part 153 of the Commission's Regulations under the NGA and in compliance with Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, issuance of a Presidential Permit for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of