

of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-260-000]

East Tennessee Natural Gas Company; Notice of Cashout Report

March 8, 1999.

Take notice that on March 3, 1999, East Tennessee Natural Gas Company (East Tennessee), tendered for filing its third annual cashout report for the November 1995 through October 1996 period.

East Tennessee states that the cashout report reflects a net cashout loss during this period of \$366,462. East Tennessee states that it will roll forward this loss into its next annual cashout report.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. 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 in the Public Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11659]

Gustavus Electric Company; Notice of Request to Use Alternative Procedures in Filing a License Application

March 9, 1999.

By letter dated February 8, 1999, Gustavus Electric Company (GEC) requested to use an alternative procedure in filing an application for an original license for the Kahtaheena River (Falls Creek) Project No. 11659.¹ No preliminary permit has been issued for this project. Federal legislation signed by President Clinton on October 30, 1998, authorized the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) to process an application for a hydropower license from GEC.²

GEC has demonstrated that they have made a reasonable effort to contact the resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and others who may be affected by their proposal. GEC has submitted several letters of support for their proposal, and it appears that the use of alternative procedures in filing the license application may be appropriate in this case. GEC has also submitted a communication protocol that is supported by most interested entities.

The purpose of this notice is to invite comments on GEC's request to use alternative filing procedures, as required under the final rule for Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects.³ Additional notices seeking comments on specific project proposals, interventions and protests, and recommended terms and conditions will be issued at a later date.

The alternative procedures being requested here would combine the pre-filing consultation process with the environmental review process, allowing GEC to file an applicant-prepared Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA) in lieu of Exhibit E of the traditional license application. This alternative filing procedure differs from the traditional application process. Pursuant to the traditional filing process, 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 reduce redundancies in 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 procedures can be tailored to the particular project under consideration.

Alternative Procedures and the Kahtaheena River (Falls Creek) Project Schedule

On December 7, 1998, GEC distributed an Initial Stage Consultation Document for the proposed project to state and federal resource agencies, Indian tribes, and NGOs. GEC conducted an initial consultation meeting and site visit for all interested parties on January 19, and 20, 1999. Notices announcing the meeting and site visit were published locally, as required by Commission regulations. Public scoping meetings are planned for April 1999. Notice of the scoping meetings will be published at least 15 days prior to the meetings.

Any studies agreed upon by GEC and the collaborative group would be conducted during 1999 and 2000, if necessary. Opportunities for requesting additional studies will be noticed at least 30 days prior to any study request deadline. GEC has tentatively proposed to distribute a draft license application and PDEA for comment in August 2000; however, the need for and timing of any additional studies may affect the timing of this distribution. The final license application and PDEA must be filed with the Commission no later than October 30, 2001.⁴

Comments

Interested parties have 30 days from the date of this notice to file with the Commission, any comments on GEC's proposal to use the alternative procedures in filing a license application for the Kahtaheena River (Falls Creek) Project. GEC's request to use alternative procedures may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

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

¹The proposed project would be located near Gustavus, Alaska, partially within the boundaries of Glacier Bay National Park.

²Glacier Bay National Park Boundary Act of 1998, 105 Pub. L. 317; 112 Stat. 3002 (1998).

³81 FERC 61,103 (1997).

⁴As established in Glacier Bay National Park Boundary Act of 1998.