

would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the EA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington, D.C. 20426, and may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (please call (202) 208-2222 for assistance).

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-8060 Filed 3-31-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 1121-052]

Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

March 28, 2000.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) regulations, the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application requesting the Commission's authorization to amend Article 33 (f) of the existing license and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action.

Flashboards are needed to raise the existing North Battle Creek Reservoir to its full capacity, 1,039-acre-feet, for the recreation season. The proposed amendment to article 33(f) would allow the licensee to delay up to one month (from June 1 to July 1) the placement of flashboards at North Battle Creek dam when late runoff or heavy snow pack precludes road access to the dam by truck. During such years, the licensee would install flashboards as soon as roads are passable by truck; and would notify the Forest Supervisor of Lassen National Forest five business days prior to June 1 and, subsequently, once the reservoir is at or above 1,039-acre-feet.

In the EA, Commission staff does not identify any significant impacts that would result from Commission's approval of the proposed modification to Article 33(f). Thus, staff concludes that approval of the proposed amendment of license would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA has been attached to and made part of an Order Amending Article

33(f), issued March 22, 2000, for the Battle Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 1121-052. See 90 FERC ¶ 62,201. Also, the EA is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Reference Room, Room 2A, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. Further, the document may be viewed on the Web at www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm. Call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

For further information, please contact Jim Haimes at (202) 219-2780.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Temporary Variance Request and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests

March 28, 2000.

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

- a. *Type of Application:* Request To Amend Language of Article 29.
- b. *Project No.:* 2210-047.
- c. *Date filed:* February 22, 2000.
- d. *Applicant:* Appalachian Power Company.

e. *Name of Project:* Smith Mountain Project.

f. *Location:* On the Roanoke River, Bedford, Franklin, Campbell, Pittsylvania, and Roanoke Counties, Virginia. The project does not utilize federal or tribal lands.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* 18 CFR 4.200.

h. *Applicant Contact:* Frank M. Simms, American Electric Power, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, OH 43215-2373, (614) 223-2918.

i. *FERC Contact:* Robert Fletcher, robert.fletcher@ferc.fed.us, 202-219-1206.

j. *Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene and protest:* 30 days from the issuance date of this notice. Please include the project number (2210-047) on any comments or motions filed. All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

k. *Description of Application:* Article 29 of the Smith Mountain Project currently read as follows: "Except as provided for in Article 30, the Licensee shall release from the Lower

development a minimum average weekly flow of 650 cubic feet per second."

It should be noted that Article 30 addresses flows during the initial filling of the project reservoir. Conditions contained under license articles for other projects issued by the Commission address temporary modifications to project flow. The language generally reads as follows: "These flows may be temporarily modified if required by operating emergencies beyond the control of the licensee, or for short periods upon mutual agreement between the licensee and the appropriate agencies. If the flows are so modified, the licensee shall notify the Commission as soon as possible, but not later than 10 days after each such incident."

The licensee has consulted with the Virginia Department of Fish and Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to develop the following language to replace the currently contained language of Article 29: "Except as provided in Article 30, the licensee shall release from the Lower Development a minimum average weekly flow of 650 cubic feet per second. These flows may be temporarily modified if required by operating emergencies beyond the control of the licensee, and/or for short periods of time (up to 45 days) during drought and/or low inflow conditions, upon mutual agreement between the licensee and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in consultation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, following appropriate public input as determined by the DEQ. If the flows are so modified, the licensee shall notify the Commission no later than 10 days after each such incident."

l. *Locations of the application:* A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, D.C. 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. This filing may be viewed on <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call (202) 208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

Protests or Motions to Intervene— Anyone may submit a protest or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210,

385.211, and 385.214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any protests or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular application.

Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title “COMMENTS”, “RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS”, “PROTEST”, or “MOTION TO INTERVENE”, as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

Agency Comments—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If any agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-8064 Filed 3-31-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6565-8]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Training Requirements for Authorization of Compliance Monitoring Inspectors

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Training Requirements for

Authorization of Compliance Monitoring Inspectors, EPA ICR number 1960.01. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before July 3, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Jonathan S. Binder (2224A), U.S. EPA, 401 M St., S.W., Washington D.C. 20460. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by calling Jonathan S. Binder at (202) 564-2516.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jonathan S. Binder, (202) 564-2516. Facsimile number: (202) 564-0009.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Affected entities:* Entities potentially affected by this action are federally-recognized Indian tribes (tribes), states, and territories, as well as inter-tribal consortia who maintain a cooperative agreement with the EPA, whose environment inspectors are nominated for authorization or are currently authorized to conduct federal inspections on behalf of EPA. The request for information from these affected entities is voluntary and based upon the desire of tribes, states, territories, or inter-tribal consortia to enable their employees to receive federal inspector credentials.

Title: Training Requirements for Authorization of Compliance Monitoring Inspectors.

Abstract: This will be a collection of information on the training background of employees of tribes, states, territories, and inter-tribal consortia who are nominated for authorization or are currently authorized to conduct federal inspections on behalf of EPA.

Various federal environmental laws authorize the Administrator of EPA or her designee to monitor the regulated communities' compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements. Through the development of standard procedures, EPA is planning to “authorize” or “duly designate” inspectors employed by tribes, states, territories, and inter-tribal consortia to conduct environmental compliance inspections (inspections) with federal credentials on behalf of EPA. The standard procedures will be designed to facilitate a partnership between EPA and tribes, states, territories, and inter-tribal consortia to protect human health and the environment.

With this initiative, EPA strives to build the capacity of regulating agencies and/or departments for more effective compliance monitoring of the regulated community. Under the draft national

procedures, EPA retains sole responsibility for authorizing inspectors and issuing, replacing, renewing, and revoking federal credentials. EPA also retains decision-making authority for all federal enforcement and compliance assistance activities related to inspections conducted by authorized inspectors using federal credentials. As such, neither tribes, states, nor territories, nor authorized inspectors could take a federal enforcement action with information gathered during an inspection conducted with a federal credential unless otherwise authorized to do so by EPA.

The draft national standards seek to ensure the quality of inspectors who receive or retain authorization to conduct inspections on behalf of EPA. EPA needs to collect certain information that is currently not collected and which does not exist in our current databases. To meet this need, EPA designed a training requirements form that will make it easy for EPA, tribes, states, territories, and their employees to assess the qualifications of inspectors who receive or retain authorization to conduct inspections on EPA's behalf. There are three components to the collection of information on training taken by individual inspectors. First, the “title of the training” is required. Second, the “completion date” of the training is required. Third and finally, the “training sponsor” is required. To ensure that the courses meet the requirements of the draft Inspector Credentials Authorization Procedures, EPA may also request the outline or other information on training courses sponsored by non-EPA entities; tribes, states, territories, and inter-tribal consortium are encouraged to attach this information when sending this form to EPA.

The training requirements form can be completed electronically and E-mailed to the appropriate Agency contact or sent in hardcopy via the postal service or express mail. Moreover, the training requirements form will be available via the Internet.

A Department or agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR Part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

The EPA is soliciting comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;