

comments. Comments and protests may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

For further information, please contact Patti Leppert at (202) 219-2767.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2471-005—Michigan]

#### Wisconsin Electric Power Company; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

November 9, 2000.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application to surrender license for the Sturgeon Plant Project located on the Sturgeon River, a tributary of the Menominee River, in Dickinson County, Michigan, and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project. In the EA, the Commission staff has analyzed the potential environmental effects of the proposed action and has concluded that accepting surrender of the license, with appropriate environmental measures, 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 Commission's Public Reference Branch, Room 2A, located at 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. The EA may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm>. Please call (202) 208-2222 for assistance.

Any comments should be filed by December 1, 2000, and should be addressed to David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. Please affix Project No. 2471-005 to all comments. Comments and protests may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

For further information, please contact Patti Leppert at (202) 219-2767.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Notice of Scoping Meetings and Site Visits and Soliciting Scoping Comments

November 9, 2000.

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

a. *Type of Application:* A New Major License.

b. *Project Nos.:* 2597-018 and 2576-023.

c. *Date filed:* August 31, 1999.

d. *Applicant:* Northeast Generation Company.

e. *Names of Projects:* Falls Village Project and Housatonic Project which are filed as a single application under the designation "The Housatonic River Project."

f. *Location:* On the Housatonic River, near the towns of Canaan, North Canaan, Salisbury, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, Monroe, Newtown, New Fairfield, New Milford, Oxford, Roxbury Sherman and Southbury, in Fairfield, New Haven and Litchfield counties, Connecticut. Approximately 74 acres of federal land are within project boundaries.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 USC 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Robert A. Gates, Project Manager, Northeast Generating Services, 143 West Street, New Milford, Connecticut 06776 (860) 354-8840. [Gatesr@nu.com](mailto:Gatesr@nu.com)

i. *FERC Contact:* James T. Griffin, (202) 219-2799.

j. *Deadline for filing scoping comments:* 60 days from the issuance of this Notice.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Agency Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. Comments and protests may be filed electronically via the internet in lieu of paper. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/efi/doorbell.htm>.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors

filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. *Status of environmental analysis:* This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. *Description of the projects:*

The two projects represented in the Housatonic River Project Application comprise five developments: the Falls Village, Bulls Bridge, Shepaug, Rocky River and Stevenson developments are located on the Housatonic River, 76.2 miles, 52.9 miles, 44.1 miles, 30.0 and 19.3 miles respectively from its mouth.

1. *The Falls Village* development consists of the following existing facilities: (a) A 300-foot-long, 14-foot-high concrete gravity dam with two spillways having a combined overflow length of approximately 280 feet, and a crest elevation of 631.5 feet National Geodetic Vertical Distance (NGVD); (b) an impoundment 3.8 miles long containing 1,135 acre-feet when at elevation 633.2 feet NGVD; (c) a dam-integral powerhouse with a total installed capacity of 9.0 megawatts (MW) producing approximately 39,733,500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually; and (d) a switch yard connected to the project via a 69 kilovolt (kV) interconnected transmission line.

2. *The Bulls Bridge* development consists of: (a) A 203-foot-long, 24-foot-high stone and concrete gravity dam with a dam crest of 354 feet NGVD; (b) a two-mile-long power canal; (c) a 156-foot-long, 17-foot-high rock fill gravity weir dam; (d) a 2.25-mile-long reservoir with an 1,800 acre-feet storage capacity and a surface area of approximately 120 acres at normal elevation of 354 feet NGVD; (e) a powerhouse with a capacity of 7.2 MW, developing an average of 44,079,300 kWh annually; and (f) a 69 kV line which connects the development to the Rocky River development.

3. *The Rocky River Pumped Storage* development consists of: (a) A 952-foot-long earth-filled core wall dam, a 2,500-foot-long earthen canal dike that forms the north bank of the power canal to the intake structure, two earthen and one concrete Lanesville dike, Recreation Point and Danbury dikes, a dam crest elevation averaging 440.1 feet NGVD, and an intake canal 3,190 feet in length; (b) the seven mile-long Candlewood