

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all interveners 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 intervener 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.

Protests, comments on filings, comments on environmental assessments and environmental impact statements, and reply comments 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>.

j. Description of the Project: The peaking project consists of an 2,583-foot-long, 148-foot-high concrete dam; a 92-mile-long, 55,000-acre impoundment at a full pool elevation of 660 feet mean sea level; a powerhouse containing eight main and two in-house generating units, having a total installed capacity of 176,200 kilowatts; and appurtenant facilities. The project generates approximately 675,000 megawatt-hours of electricity annually.

k. Scoping Process: Ameren/UE intends to utilize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) alternative licensing process (ALP). Under the ALP, Ameren/UE will prepare an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA) and license application for the Osage Hydroelectric Project. Ameren/UE expects to file with the Commission, the APEA and the license application for the Osage Hydroelectric Project by February 28, 2004.

The purpose of this notice is to inform you of the opportunity to participate in the upcoming scoping meetings identified below, and to solicit your scoping comments.

Scoping Meetings

Ameren/UE and the Commission staff will hold two scoping meetings, one in the daytime and one in the evening, to help us identify the scope of issues to be addressed in the APEA.

The daytime scoping meeting will focus on resource agency concerns, while the evening scoping meeting is primarily for public input. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist the staff in identifying the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the

APEA. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Daytime Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2001, 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m., Marriott's Tan-Tar-A Resort, Suite G, Building D, State Road KK, Osage Beach, MO 65065

Evening Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2001, 7 p.m.–9 p.m., Marriott's Tan-Tar-A Resort, Suite G, Building D, State Road KK, Osage Beach, MO 65065

To help focus discussions, Scoping Document 1 (SD1), which outlines the subject areas to be addressed in the APEA, was mailed to the parties on the mailing list on January 12, 2001. Copies of the SD1 also will be available at the scoping meeting. Based will include a revised list of issues, based on the scoping sessions.

Site Visit

The Applicant (Ameren/UE) and FERC will conduct a project site visit beginning at 10 a.m. on February 22, 2001. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend. All participants should meet at the Osage Power Plant in the town of Lakeside, Missouri. All participants are responsible for their own transportation to the site. Anyone with questions about the site visit should contact Mr. Jerry Hogg of Ameren/UE at 573-365-9315.

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will: (1) summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the APEA; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the APEA, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views; (4) determine the resource issues to be addressed in the APEA; and (5) identify those issues that require a detailed analysis, as well as those issues that do not require a detailed analysis.

Procedures

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and will become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the scoping meetings and site visit, and to assist Ameren/UE in defining and

clarifying the issues to be addressed in the APES

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM98-1-000]

Regulations Governing Off-the-Road Communications; Public Notice

January 26, 2001.

This constitutes notice, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2201(h), of the receipt of exempt and prohibited off-the-record communications.

Order No. 607 (64 FR 51222, September 22, 1999) requires Commission decisional employees, who make or receive an exempt or a prohibited off-the-record communication relevant to the merits of a contested on-the-record proceeding, to delivery a copy of the communication, if written, or a summary of the substance of any oral communication, to the Secretary.

Prohibited communications will be included in a public, non-decisional file associated with, but not part of, the decisional record of the proceeding. Unless the Commission determines that the prohibited communication and any responses thereto should become part of the decisional record, the prohibit off-the-record communication will not be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision. Parties to a proceeding may seek the opportunity to respond to any facts or contentions made in a prohibited off-the-record communication, and may request that the Commission place the prohibited communication and responses thereto in the decisional record. The Commission will grant such requests only when it determines that fairness so requires. Any person identified below as having made a prohibited off-the-record communication should serve the document on all parties listed on the official service list for the applicable proceeding in accordance with Rule 2010, 18 CFR 385.2010.

Exempt off-the-record communications will be included in the decisional record of the proceeding, unless the communication was with a cooperating agency as described by 40 CFR 1501.6, made under 18 CFR 385.2201(e)(1)(v).

The following is a list of exempt and prohibited off-the-record communications received in the Office of the Secretary within the preceding 14 days. The documents may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Exempt

1. CP98-150-000-01-17-01—Matthew J. Brower
2. CP01-141-000-01-17-01—Juan Polit
3. EL00-95-000-01-11-01—Jo Ann Sharp
4. Project No. 2042-01-22-01—Tim Bachellder
5. CP00-452-000-01-23-01—Bio-Resources, Inc.
6. Project No. 2197-044-01-22-01—John Schrull, Nancy Schrull, Leonard Hunsucker, Bob Thompson, Joe Masters, Pat Masters, Anita Hunsucker, Pat Thompson, Tom Stokum, Roxane Stokum, Carroll Tysinger, Bob McFarland, Claudia McFarland, Karen Tysinger

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Floodplain/Wetlands Statement of Findings for the Boyd-Valley 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild and Upgrade Project

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Floodplain/Wetlands statement of findings.

SUMMARY: This Floodplain/Wetlands Statement of Findings for the Boyd-Valley 115-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Rebuild and Upgrade Project was prepared following the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Floodplain/Wetland Review Requirements (10 CFR part 1022). Western Area Power Administration (Western) is the lead Federal agency rebuilding and upgrading 2 miles of Western's existing Boyd-Valley 115-kV transmission line, that is connected to Platte River Power Authority's (PRPA) Boyd and Valley 115-kV substations. This project is located in Loveland, Colorado. PRPA plans to replace Western's existing H-frame wood pole 115-kV single-circuit transmission line with two new circuits constructed on double-circuit single-pole steel structures. The rebuild and

upgrade will use the same right-of-way as the existing transmission line. This work falls within a class of action that normally does not require preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under the Department of Energy's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures (10 CFR part 1021).

Based on the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Flood Insurance Maps, the project area is within the 100-year floodplain (base flood) for the Big Thompson River. Approximately 1 mile of the project right-of-way is located within the designated 100-year floodplain.

Western prepared a floodplain/wetlands assessment describing the effects, alternatives, and measures designed to avoid or minimize potential harm to, or within, the affected floodplain and wetlands. Western will allow 15 days of public review after publication of this statement of findings before implementing the proposed action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rodney Jones, Environmental Specialist, Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 3700, Loveland, CO 80539-3003, telephone (970) 461-7371, e-mail rjones@wapa.gov. For further information on DOE Floodplain/Wetlands Environmental Review Requirements, contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This statement of findings for the proposal to rebuild and upgrade the Boyd-Valley transmission line was prepared following 10 CFR part 1022. A notice of floodplain involvement was published in the *Federal Register* on December 27, 2000 (65 FR 81858). No comments were received on the proposed floodplain/wetlands action. The proposal to rebuild and upgrade the Boyd-Valley transmission line would involve construction activities within the floodplain, including removal of 1 mile of the existing 115-kV wood pole H-frame transmission line and construction of 1 mile of new double-circuit single-pole steel transmission line. The floodplain/wetlands assessment examined the proposed rebuild and upgrade of the transmission line. The existing transmission line right-of-way is located within the 100-year floodplain. Previous stream bank stabilization and gravel mining

operations have modified the floodplain in the project area. New transmission line structures associated with the rebuild would be located in approximately the same locations as the existing structures. There are no alternatives that would avoid rebuilding the transmission line within the floodplain. No watercourses or drainage patterns would be affected by implementing the project. No construction will occur within the river. Flood storage volume will not be affected. The transmission will span both the Big Thompson River and Big Thompson Ditch at the same locations as the existing transmission line.

During construction, sediments might be added to local drainages due to soil runoff, and oil or fuel might spill from malfunctioning equipment. Standard construction practices will be used to avoid or minimize effects to floodplain areas in the project area. These procedures include minimizing the size of the disturbance area to install the new transmission line structures, stream bank erosion control, measures to avoid or minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, and minimizing the potential for spills during construction activities and long-term line maintenance.

The rebuilt transmission line will span wetlands and riparian areas associated with the Big Thompson River and the nearby ditches. No disturbances to the banks or channels of surface waters are planned. Bank stabilization and historic gravel mining operations have previously modified much of the wetland areas in the project area. During construction, temporary, short-term minor effects will occur to the existing wetland/riparian habitat in the areas where the new transmission line structures are constructed. Because the new structures will be located at the approximate locations of the existing structures, the amount of wetland/riparian habitat affected by implementation of the project will be negligible. The disturbance areas associated with the project have been previously disturbed by construction of the existing transmission line, and the ongoing maintenance activities within the existing transmission line right-of-way. Other than standard construction practices, no special mitigation measures are recommended. The action will conform to applicable State or local floodplain protection standards.

Dated: January 19, 2001.

Michael S. Hacsckaylo,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01-2764 Filed 1-31-01; 8:45 am]

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