

presented the analysis in Section 5 and Appendix K of the Final EIS.

EPA also commented that the Final EIS could have been “improved with a discussion of the environmental effects that would be avoided through potential reductions in the need to operate power plants with significant cooling water needs.” DOE notes that such a discussion might be beneficial but would be premised on substantial uncertainty.

In regard to environmental justice, EPA acknowledged that analysis in the Final EIS identifies low-income populations and minority populations at the census tract level but commented that it “does not differentiate between the overland and lake segments.” EPA further commented that, “This is significant in that populations likely to be affected by the project will be in the overland section, and the proximity of the project to those populations would be useful to examine.” DOE notes that its analysis did include potential impacts to low-income populations and minority populations in communities throughout the potentially affected area.

EPA also recommended that DOE and TDI-NE conduct public outreach during the construction phase of the project to keep environmental justice populations informed about the project’s progress and potential impacts, even those anticipated to be minor in nature. DOE notes that in addition to the four public meetings held during DOE’s NEPA process, TDI-NE conducted comprehensive outreach throughout the development of the project using town offices, Front Porch Forums, and targeted letters to landowners in the vicinity of the project route to communicate project information. TDI-NE conducted six local open house meetings in several communities along the project route. TDI-NE plans to continue to use these forums to communicate with local citizens along the project route.

The construction phase of the NECPL project including stipulations, mitigation measures, and public outreach efforts, would be under the jurisdiction of the USACE, VT-ANR, VTTrans, the VT Public Service Board, and the Towns of Alburgh, Benson and Ludlow.

#### Decision

DOE has decided to issue Presidential Permit PP-400 to authorize TDI-NE to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a 1,000-MW HVDC transmission line across the U.S./Canada international border. The permit will include a condition requiring TDI-NE to implement the Applicant-

proposed avoidance and minimization measures identified in the EIS.

#### Basis for Decision

DOE’s decision to grant this Presidential permit is based on consideration of environmental impacts, impacts on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system under normal and contingency conditions, and the favorable recommendations of the U.S. Departments of State and Defense (which were provided, respectively, in July and August of 2015).

DOE determined that the proposed international electric transmission line would not have an adverse impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. In reaching this determination, DOE reviewed the System Impact Study produced by the Independent System Operator New England Inc. (ISO-NE) in October 2016 and a November 1, 2016, letter from ISO-NE. Based on the information available, DOE staff has determined that the 1000 MW of incremental north-to-south transfer, which represents south-bound transmission service requests from Quebec to the United States, will not have a negative impact on the reliability of the United States electric grid if operated consistent with both ISO-New England and North American Electric Reliability Corporation policies and standards, terms and conditions of the Presidential Permit and other regulatory and statutory requirements. Neither DOE nor ISO-NE has studied a south-to-north transfer, so the permit does not authorize such a transfer.

#### Mitigation

All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been, or will be, adopted. TDI-NE’s proposed measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts are described in the EIS, the BA, and the PA. TDI-NE will be responsible for implementing these avoidance and minimization measures. Additional measures will be required as a result of ongoing consultations (e.g., regarding Clean Water Act Section 404, the Cultural Resources Management Plan) between TDI-NE and state and federal agencies as part of approval and permitting processes.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 5, 2016.

#### Meghan Conklin,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.*

[FR Doc. 2016-29700 Filed 12-9-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2242-078]

#### Eugene Water and Electric Board; Notice of Settlement Agreement and Soliciting Comments

Take notice that the following settlement agreement has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* Settlement agreement (amending settlement agreement filed October 23, 2008).

b. *Project No.:* 2242-078.

c. *Date filed:* November 30, 2016.

d. *Applicant:* Eugene Water and Electric Board.

e. *Name of Project:* Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On the McKenzie River in Lane and Linn counties, near the town of McKenzie Bridge, Oregon. The project occupies approximately 560 acres of the Willamette National Forest.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Rule 602 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.602.

h. *Applicant Contact:* Frank Lawson, General Manager, Eugene Water and Electric Board, 500 East 4th Avenue, P.O. Box 10148, Eugene, Oregon 97440-2148; (541) 685-7000.

i. *FERC Contact:* Dianne Rodman; (202) 502-6077 or [dianne.rodman@ferc.gov](mailto:dianne.rodman@ferc.gov).

j. *Deadline for Filing Comments:* January 2, 2017. Reply comments due January 17, 2017.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments using the Commission’s eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-2242-078.

The Commission’s Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person 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. Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) filed the settlement agreement on behalf of itself and the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, McKenzie Flyfishers, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Inc., and Trout Unlimited. The purpose of the settlement agreement is to resolve among the signatories all issues associated with issuance of a new license for the project regarding water quality, instream flows, fish passage and habitat, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, and cultural resources. EWEB requests that the Commission accept and incorporate into any new license for the project the protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures stated in the amended settlement agreement.

l. A copy of the settlement agreement is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/>

[esubscription.asp](#) to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: December 2, 2016.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

Secretary.

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**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket Nos. TS17-1-000]

**Northern California Power Agency; Notice of Filing**

Take notice that on November 29, 2016, Northern California Power Agency filed a notice of potential change in material facts and a request for continued waiver of the Standards of Conduct.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). 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 proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. On or before the comment date, it is not necessary to serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the

"eFiling" link at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 5 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link and is available for review in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an "eSubscription" link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), or call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Comment Date: 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on December 20, 2016.

Dated: December 6, 2016.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016-29699 Filed 12-9-16; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project Nos. 1855-049, 1892-029, 1904-077, 2077-106, 2323-214]

**TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.; TC Hydro Inc.; Notice of Application for Transfer of Licenses and Soliciting Comments and Motions To Intervene**

On November 18, 2016, the above mentioned transferor and TC Hydro Inc. (transferee) filed an application for transfer of licenses for the following projects.

Project No.	Project name	Location
P-1855-049	Bellows Falls Project .....	Connecticut River, Cheshire and Sullivan counties, NH and Windham and Windsor counties, VT.
P-1892-029	Wilder Project .....	Connecticut River, Windsor and Orange counties, VT and Grafton County, NH.
P-1904-077	Vernon Project .....	Connecticut River, Grafton County, NH and Caledonia County, VT.
P-2077-106	Mile Falls Hydroelectric Project .....	Connecticut River, Grafton County, NH and Caledonia County, VT.
P-2323-214	Deerfield River Project .....	Windham and Bennington, counties, VT and Franklin and Berkshire counties, MA.

The transferor and transferee seek Commission approval to transfer the licenses for the above mentioned projects from the transferor to the transferee.

*Applicant Contacts:* For Transferor and Transferee: Ms. Erin A. O'Dea, Legal Counsel, TransCanada U.S. Northeast, 110 Turnpike Road, Suite 300,

Westborough, MA 01581, Phone: 508-599-1434, Email: [erin\\_odea@transcanada.com](mailto:erin_odea@transcanada.com). And John A. Whittaker, IV, Winston & Strawn LLP, and 1700 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20006-3817, Phone: 202-282-5766, Email: [jwhittaker@winston.com](mailto:jwhittaker@winston.com).

*FERC Contact:* Patricia W. Gillis, (202) 502-8735.

Deadline for filing comments and motions to intervene: 30 days from the issuance date of this notice, by the Commission. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and comments using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit