DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 14827–000]

Merchant Hydro Developers, LLC; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications

On January 18, 2017, Merchant Hydro Developers, LLC, filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of the Lookout Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project to be located in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbance activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners’ express permission.

The proposed project would consist of the following: (1) A new upper reservoir with a surface area of 44 acres and a storage capacity of 660 acre-feet at a surface elevation of approximately 2,850 feet above mean sea level (msl) created through construction of a new roller-compacted concrete or rock-filled dam and/or dike; (2) excavating a new lower reservoir with a surface area of 30 acres and a total storage capacity of 792 acre-feet at a surface elevation of 2,200 feet at a surface elevation of 2,200 feet and a total storage capacity of 792 acre-feet at a surface elevation of approximately 2,850 feet above msl; (3) a new 3,500-foot-long, 48-inch-diameter penstock connecting the upper and lower reservoirs; (4) a new 150-foot-long, 50-foot-wide powerhouse containing two turbine-generator units with a total rated capacity of 35 megawatts; (5) a new transmission line connecting the powerhouse to a nearby electric grid interconnection point at the Lookout Wind Farm; and (6) appurtenant facilities. Possible initial fill water and make-up water would come from the nearby Wills Creek, including groundwater. The proposed project would have an annual generation of 128,372 megawatt-hours.

Applicant Contact: Adam Rousselle, Merchant Hydro Developers, LLC, 5710 Oak Crest Drive, Doylestown, PA 18902; phone: 267–254–6107.

FERC Contact: Monir Chowdhury; phone: (202) 502–6736.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications 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, (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–14827–000.

More information about the proposed project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the “eLibrary” link of the Commission’s Web site at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/eLibrary.asp. Enter the docket number (P–14827) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: June 1, 2017.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 2017–11762 Filed 6–6–17; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP16–028–000]

National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Line QP, Line Q, and Queen Storage Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Line QP, Line Q, and Queen Storage Project (Project), proposed by National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Fuel) in the above-referenced docket. National Fuel requests authorization to construct and operate facilities in Forest and Warren Counties, Pennsylvania. National Fuel would abandon capacity by sale a natural gas storage system and associated pipeline no longer needed by the company and would provide that capacity to other gathering system suppliers in Pennsylvania. Additionally, National Fuel proposes to replace a compromised portion of the pipeline associated with the storage system and install new pipeline to maintain National Fuel’s distribution capability.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service (USDA–FS), and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission participated as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EA. Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to resources potentially affected by the proposal and participate in the NEPA analysis. The USDA–FS may adopt and use the EA to consider the issuance of a special use permit for the portion of the project on USDA–FS lands.

The Project includes the following facilities:

- Abandon by sale the existing Queen Storage Field and Queen Compressor Station, property interests related thereto, and approximately 5.5 miles of the 6-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline (Line Q) from