

additional notice will be provided so that the relevant agencies are kept informed of the Project's progress.

Project Description

The NESE Project consists of 10.2 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline loop¹ in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (the Quarryville Loop); 3.4 miles of 26-inch-diameter pipeline loop in Middlesex County, New Jersey (the Madison Loop); 23.5 miles of 26-inch-diameter pipeline loop in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties, New Jersey, and Queens and Richmond Counties, New York (the Raritan Bay Loop²); modification of existing Compressor Station 200 in Chester County, Pennsylvania; construction of new Compressor Station 206 in Somerset County, New Jersey; and appurtenant facilities.

Background

On August 24, 2016, the Commission issued a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Planned Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Sessions (NOI)*. The NOI was issued during the pre-filing review of the Project in Docket No. PF16-5 and was sent to federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; affected landowners; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes and regional organizations; commentors and other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. The majority of environmental issues raised during scoping were related to proposed Compressor Station 206, including air quality and noise impacts; impacts on nearby residences, schools, and churches; socioeconomic impacts, including environmental justice; safety; and impacts related to activities at the nearby existing Trap Rock Quarry. Other major issues raised during scoping related to the Project include purpose and need; surface water and groundwater impacts; impacts on wildlife and aquatic resources; traffic; and alternatives.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the City of New York are cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS.

¹A loop is a segment of pipe that is installed adjacent to an existing pipeline and connected to it at both ends. A loop generally allows more gas to move through the system.

²Except for 0.2 mile of pipe in onshore Middlesex County, New Jersey, the Raritan Bay Loop would occur in offshore New Jersey waters (6.0 miles) and offshore New York waters (17.3 miles).

Additional Information

In order to receive notification of the issuance of the EIS and to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

Additional information about the Project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (866) 208-FERC or on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov). Using the eLibrary link, select General Search from the eLibrary menu, enter the selected date range and Docket Number excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP17-101), and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to eLibrary, the helpline can be reached at (866) 208-3676, TTY (202) 502-8659, or at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. The eLibrary link on the FERC website also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rule makings.

Dated: January 3, 2018.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2685-029]

New York Power Authority; Notice of Application Ready for Environmental Analysis, and Soliciting Comments, Recommendations, Preliminary Terms and Conditions, and Preliminary Fishway Prescriptions

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

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

b. *Project No.:* 2685-029.

c. *Date filed:* April 27, 2017.

d. *Applicant:* New York Power Authority (NYPA).

e. *Name of Project:* Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project.

f. *Location:* The existing project is located on Schoharie Creek, in the Towns of Blenheim and Gilboa in

Schoharie County, New York. The project does not affect federal lands.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Robert Daly, Licensing Manager, New York Power Authority 123 Main Street, White Plains, New York 10601. Telephone: (914) 681-6564, Email: Rob.Daly@nypa.gov.

i. *FERC Contact:* Andy Bernick at (202) 502-8660, and email andrew.bernick@ferc.gov.

j. Deadline for filing comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions: 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions 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-2685-029.

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. This application has been accepted for filing and is now ready for environmental analysis.

l. The existing Blenheim-Gilboa Project consists of the following: (1) A 2.25-mile-long, 30-foot-wide earth and rock fill embankment dike with a maximum height of 110 feet, constructed at Brown Mountain and forming the 399-acre Upper Reservoir (operating at the maximum and extreme minimum elevations of 2,003 feet and 1,955 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 [NGVD 29], respectively)

with 15,085 acre-feet of usable storage and dead storage of 3,706 acre-feet below elevation 1,955 feet NGVD 29; (2) a 655-foot-long emergency spillway with a 25-foot-wide asphaltic concrete crest at elevation 2,005 feet NGVD 29 and a capacity of 10,200 cubic feet per second (cfs); (3) an intake system that includes: (i) A 125-foot-wide hexagonal-shaped intake cover with trash racks with a clear spacing of 5.25 inches; (ii) a 1,042-foot-long, 28-foot-diameter, concrete-lined vertical shaft in the bottom of the Upper Reservoir; (iii) a 906-foot-long horizontal, concrete-lined rock tunnel; and (iv) a 460-foot-long concrete-lined manifold that distributes flow to four 12-foot-diameter steel-lined penstocks, each with a maximum length of about 1,960 feet, to four pump-turbines located at the powerhouse; (4) a 526-foot-long, 172-foot-wide, and 132-foot-high multi-level powerhouse located along the east bank of the Lower Reservoir at the base of Brown Mountain, containing four reversible pump turbines that each produce approximately 290 megawatts (MW) in generation mode, and have a total maximum discharge of 12,800 cfs during generation and 10,200 cfs during pumping; (5) a bottom trash rack with a clear spacing of 5.625 inches, and four upper trash racks with a clear spacing of 5.25 inches; (6) an 1,800-foot-long central core, rock-filled lower dam with a maximum height of 100 feet that impounds Schoharie Creek to form the 413-acre Lower Reservoir (operating at the maximum and minimum elevations of 900 feet and 860 feet NGVD 29, respectively) with 12,422 acre-feet of usable storage and dead storage of 3,745 acre-feet below 860 feet NGVD 29; (7) three 38-foot-wide by 45.5-foot-high Tainter gates at the left end of the lower dam; (8) a 425-foot-long, 134-foot-wide concrete spillway structure with a crest

elevation of 855 feet NGVD 29; (9) a 238-foot-long, 68.5-foot-deep concrete stilling basin; (10) a low level outlet with four discharge valves of 4, 6, 8, and 10 inches for release of 5 to 25 cfs, and two 36-inch-diameter Howell-Bunger valves to release a combined flow of 25 to 700 cfs; (11) a switchyard on the eastern bank of Schoharie Creek adjacent to the powerhouse; and (12) appurtenant facilities.

During operation, the Blenheim-Gilboa Project's pump-turbines may be turned on or off several times throughout the day, but the project typically generates electricity during the day when consumer demand is high and other power resources are more expensive. Pumping usually occurs at night and on weekends when there is excess electricity in the system available for use. According to a July 30, 1975, settlement agreement, NYPA releases a minimum flow of 10 cubic feet per second (cfs) during low-flow periods when 1,500 acre-feet of water is in storage, and 7 cfs when less than 1,500 acre-feet is in storage. For the period 2007 through 2016, the project's average annual generation was about 374,854 megawatt-hours (MWh) and average annual energy consumption from pumping was about 540,217 MWh.

m. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website 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.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title COMMENTS, REPLY COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS,

PRELIMINARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS, or PRELIMINARY FISHWAY PRESCRIPTIONS; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. Each filing must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed on the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/subscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. A license applicant must file no later than 60 days following the date of issuance of this notice: (1) A copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of waiver of water quality certification.

o. Procedural Schedule

The application will be processed according to the following revised Hydro Licensing Schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

Milestone	Target date
Filing of recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions	March 5, 2018.
Reply comments due	April 19, 2018.
Commission Issues Draft EA	September 1, 2018.
Comments on Draft EA	October 1, 2018.
Modified terms and conditions due	November 30, 2018.
Commission issues Final EA	February 28, 2019.

p. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the

Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of this notice.

Dated: January 4, 2018.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-00281 Filed 1-9-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission**

[Project No. 14850-000]

**Covington Mountain Hydro, LLC.;
Notice of Preliminary Permit
Application Accepted for Filing and
Soliciting Comments, Motions To
Intervene, and Competing Applications**

On July 3, 2017, the Covington Mountain Hydro, 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 Bison Peak Pumped Storage Project (Bison Peak Project or project) to be located in the Tehachapi Mountains south of Tehachapi, Kern County, California. 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-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed project would be a closed-loop pumped storage project with an upper reservoir and the applicant has proposed three alternatives for the placement of a lower reservoir, termed South, Law, and Horsethief. Water for the initial fill of either of the alternatives would be obtained from local water agency infrastructure via a route that would be identified during studies.

A 35-foot ring dam and a perimeter of 4,900 feet would form the project's upper reservoir. The upper reservoir would have a total storage capacity of 1,300 acre-feet and a surface area of 20 acres at an elevation of 7,890 feet mean sea level (msl). The upper reservoir would be connected to one of the three proposed lower reservoir alternatives as described below.

The South lower reservoir alternative would consist of the following: (1) The upper reservoir; (2) a 19-acre lower reservoir at 4,920 feet msl created by a dam with a crest height of 160 feet, crest length of 610 feet, and a storage capacity of 1,300 acre-feet; (3) a 9.1-foot diameter, 9,700-foot-long penstock from the upper reservoir that bifurcates creating an additional 6.5-foot diameter, 700-foot-long penstock; (4) an underground powerhouse with three 120-megawatt (MW) reversible pump-

turbines and a surface powerhouse with a single 120-MW Pelton turbine; (5) an intake/tailrace facility; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual generation of the South lower reservoir alternative would be about 1,051 gigawatt-hours.

The Law lower reservoir alternative would consist of the following: (1) The upper reservoir; (2) a 19-acre lower reservoir at 5,370 feet msl created by a dam with a crest height of 145 feet, crest length of 750 feet, and a storage capacity of 1,300 acre-feet; (3) a 9.5-foot diameter, 9,900-foot-long penstock from the upper reservoir that bifurcates creating an additional 6.7-foot diameter, 1,300-foot-long penstock; (4) an underground powerhouse with three 110-MW reversible pump-turbines and a surface powerhouse with a single 110-MW Pelton turbine; (5) an intake/tailrace facility; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual generation of the Law lower reservoir alternative would be about 963 gigawatt-hours.

The Horsethief lower reservoir alternative would consist of the following: (1) The upper reservoir; (2) a 18-acre lower reservoir at 5,940 feet msl created by a dam with a crest height of 150 feet, crest length of 750 feet, and a storage capacity of 1,300 acre-feet; (3) a 9.5-foot-diameter, 9,000-foot-long penstock from the upper reservoir; (4) a mostly underground powerhouse with two 180-MW reversible pump-turbines; (5) an intake/tailrace facility; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual generation of the Horsethief lower reservoir alternative would be about 788.4 gigawatt-hours.

All alternatives would include a 220-kilovolt transmission line with a length of 10 to 12 miles.

Applicant Contact: Matthew Shapiro, Covington Mountain Hydro, LLC., 1210 West Franklin St., #2, Boise, ID 83702; phone: (208) 246-9925.

FERC Contact: Jim Fargo; phone: (202) 502-6095.

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: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-14850-000.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the eLibrary link of Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number (P-14850) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: January 4, 2018.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY**

[FRL-9972-88-ORD]

**Environmental Laboratory Advisory
Board Meeting Dates and Agenda**

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of teleconference and face-to-face meetings.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) holds teleconference meetings the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. ET and two face-to-face meetings each calendar year. For 2018, teleconference only meetings will be February 21; March 21; April 18; May 16; June 20; July 18; September 19; October 17; November 21; and December 19 to discuss the ideas and views presented at the previous ELAB meetings, as well as new business. Items to be discussed by ELAB over these coming meetings include: (1) Issues in continuing the expansion of national environmental