

States covered by the NVRA process the information from the form to register an applicant to vote. Neither EAC nor any other Federal agency processes or collects any information from the Federal form that a registration applicant submits to a state. Rather, EAC prescribes the Federal form, and states collect and record the information applicants submit. The Federal form is composed of the registration application, instructions for completing the application (General Instructions and Application Instructions), and State-specific instructions that identify each state's particular requirements. A copy of the current form in English and 14 additional translated languages is available on EAC's website, at <https://www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form>.

**Nichelle Williams,**

*Director of Research, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.*

[FR Doc. 2021-17733 Filed 8-17-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6820-KF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Assessing the National and International Standing of BER Basic Research

**AGENCY:** Office of Science, Biological and Environmental Research Program, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Request for information.

**SUMMARY:** The Biological and Environmental Research (BER) Program, as DOE's coordinating office for research on biological systems, bioenergy, environmental science, and Earth system science, is seeking input on technical and logistical pathways that would enhance the BER research portfolio in comparison to similar international research efforts.

**DATES:** Written comments and information are requested on or before October 31, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons may submit comments by email only. Comments must be sent to [BERACRFI@science.doe.gov](mailto:BERACRFI@science.doe.gov) with the subject line "BER research benchmarking".

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Tristram O. West, (301) 903-5155, [Tristram.west@science.doe.gov](mailto:Tristram.west@science.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A charge was issued from the Director of Office of Science on October 8, 2020, to the BER Advisory Committee (BERAC) to assess BER's standing in relation to related research efforts nationally and internationally, and to consider strategies that would increase BER's

ability to conduct world-class science in core BER research areas. The Director's charge letter may be found here: <https://science.osti.gov/ber/berac/Reports/Current-BERAC-Charges>.

The information collected through this request, in addition to other informational sources, may be used by BERAC to develop strategies to further strengthen BER's research capabilities. The conclusions drawn from BERAC's effort are expected to serve as a benchmark for BER's standing in core research areas and provide strategies for improvement where appropriate.

### Request for Information

The objective of this request for information is to gather information on BER's standing in relation to related research efforts occurring nationally and internationally, and how BER might increase its stature in conducting world-class basic science currently supported by BER (<https://science.osti.gov/ber/Research>). Supported research includes Atmospheric Science; Earth and Environmental System Modeling; Environmental Science; Bioenergy and Bioproducts; Plant and Microbial Genomics; Data Analytics and Management; and Scientific User-focused Infrastructure (*i.e.*, DOE User Facilities, Computational Knowledgebase Platforms, Community Observational and Analytical Resources). Information is specifically requested on the status of current capabilities, partnerships, funding mechanisms, and workforce development specific to one or more of the aforementioned research areas. Answers or information related, but not limited, to the following questions are specifically requested:

- Within the BER-supported topical research areas and facility capabilities, in which areas and capabilities, presently or in the foreseeable future, does BER lead in the international community, and in which areas does leadership require strengthening? In identifying these areas, please consider their critical mission relevance, recent history, the status quo, observable trends, and evidence-based projections.

- Are there key international partnerships that could strengthen BER science output and increase global visibility of BER?

- Is there a preferred optimization for organizing research, collaboration, and funding mechanisms among labs, universities, and other federal agencies to preserve and foster U.S. leadership with resource constraints? Are there other key efficiencies and balances that should be considered and modified to

improve U.S. leadership in BER research areas?

- How can BER programs and facilities be structured and managed to create incentives that will attract and retain talented people deciding whether to pursue a scientific career, as well as mid-career scientists considering whether to stay in the U.S.?

- What are the key opportunities for BER in attracting and enhancing careers in BER-supported scientific fields?

While the questions provided above can help guide thinking on this topic, any input is welcome which may help DOE assess BER's international standing in the core research areas. The information provided through this request should be presented as specific strategies which DOE Office of Science could implement and track.

### Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on August 11, 2021, by Dr. J. Stephen Binkley, Acting Director, Office of Science, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. The document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE **Federal Register** Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 12, 2021.

**Treena V. Garrett,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2021-17658 Filed 8-17-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 3562-026]

### KEI (Maine) Power Management (III) LLC; Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Soliciting Additional Study Requests and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Relicensing and a Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments

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

a. *Type of Application*: Subsequent Minor License.

b. *Project No.*: 3562–026.

c. *Date filed*: July 29, 2021.

d. *Applicant*: KEI (Maine) Power Management (III) LLC (KEI Power).

e. *Name of Project*: Barker Mill Upper Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location*: On the Little Androscoggin River, in the City of Auburn, Androscoggin County, Maine. The project does not occupy any federal land.

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

h. *Applicant Contact*: Lewis C. Loon, General Manager, KEI (USA) Power Management Inc., 423 Brunswick Avenue, Gardiner, ME 04345; phone at (207) 203–3025; email at [LewisC.Loon@krueger.com](mailto:LewisC.Loon@krueger.com).

i. *FERC Contact*: John Matkowski at (202) 502–8576, or [john.matkowski@ferc.gov](mailto:john.matkowski@ferc.gov).

j. *Cooperating agencies*: Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues that wish to cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document should follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item l below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document cannot also intervene. *See*, 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).

k. Pursuant to section 4.32(b)(7) of 18 CFR of the Commission's regulations, if any resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person believes that an additional scientific study should be conducted in order to form an adequate factual basis for a complete analysis of the application on its merit, the resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person must file a request for a study with the Commission not later than 60 days from the date of filing of the application, and serve a copy of the request on the applicant.

l. Deadline for filing additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status: September 27, 2021.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FEROnline.aspx>.

For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FEROnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FEROnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208–3676 (toll free), or (202) 502–8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: Barker Mill Upper Project (P–3562–026).

m. The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

n. *Project Description*: The existing Barker Mill Upper Project consists of: (1) A 41-acre impoundment with a maximum storage capacity of 255 acre-feet at a normal maximum water surface elevation of 192 feet NAVD 88; (2) a dam consisting of (starting from the west bank): (a) 43-foot-long concrete abutment; (b) a 40-foot-long gated spillway structure consisting of two, 18-foot high, 15-foot-wide steel Tainter gates; (c) an 86-foot-long, 24-foot-high stone masonry with concrete overlay overflow spillway with 3-foot-high wooden flashboards and a crest elevation of 192 feet NAVD 88 at the top of the flashboards (189 feet NAVD 88 when the flashboards are lowered); (d) a 31-foot-long concrete intake structure; and, (e) a 27-foot-long underground abutment; (3) a powerhouse containing a single 950-killowatt turbine-generator unit; (4) a tailrace; (5) a 50-foot-long, 12.47-kilovolt transmission line; and (10) appurtenant facilities.

The Barker Mill Upper Project is operated in run-of-river mode. The average annual generation is estimated to be of 4,681 megawatt-hours.

o. In addition to publishing the full text of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this notice, as well as other documents in the proceeding (e.g., license application) via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<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 (P–3562). At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's Public Reference Room due to the proclamation declaring a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19) issued by the President on March 13, 2020. For assistance, contact FERC at [FEROnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FEROnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or call toll-free, (866) 208–3676 or (202) 502–8659 (TTY).

You may also register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FEROnline.aspx> to be notified via

email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

p. *Procedural schedule*: The application will be processed according to the following preliminary schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

Issue Deficiency Letter (if necessary)—September 2021

Request Additional Information (if needed)—September 2021

Issue Notice of Acceptance—December 2021

Issue Scoping Document 1 for comments—January 2022

Issue Scoping Document 2—March 2022  
Issue Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis—March 2022

q. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of the notice of ready for environmental analysis.

Dated: August 12, 2021.

**Kimberly D. Bose**,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2021–17701 Filed 8–17–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Combined Notice of Filings #1

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric corporate filings:

*Docket Numbers*: EC21–113–000.

*Applicants*: Covanta Holding Corporation, Covert Mergeco, Inc.

*Description*: Application for Authorization Under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act of Covanta Holding Corporation.

*Filed Date*: 8/11/21.

*Accession Number*: 20210811–5198.

*Comment Date*: 5 p.m. ET 9/1/21.

Take notice that the Commission received the following exempt wholesale generator filings:

*Docket Numbers*: EG21–216–000.

*Applicants*: Caddo Wind, LLC.

*Description*: Notice of Self-Certification of Exempt Wholesale Generator Status of Caddo Wind LLC.

*Filed Date*: 8/11/21.

*Accession Number*: 20210811–5092.

*Comment Date*: 5 p.m. ET 9/1/21.

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

*Docket Numbers*: ER20–1742–002.

*Applicants*: San Diego Gas & Electric Company.