

owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed pumped storage hydropower project would consist of: (1) the existing Whiskeytown Lake as a lower reservoir; (2) a new upper reservoir with a surface area of 36 acres and a storage volume of 3,600 acre-feet at a maximum water-surface elevation of 2,550 feet mean sea level (msl); (3) six 14,000-foot-long, 10-foot-diameter steel-lined penstocks to connect the reservoir to the powerhouse; (4) a 250-foot-long, 75-foot-wide, 100-foot-high, steel-reinforced concrete powerhouse constructed 100 feet below ground level, with six 200-megawatt (MW) reversible variable-speed pump-turbines, with a combined installed capacity of 1,200-MW; (5) a 100-foot-high, 30-foot-wide vertical access tunnel from ground level to the powerhouse; (6) a vertical intake structure to lead to the tailrace 100 feet below msl; (7) a 350-foot-long, 300-foot-wide concrete-lined tailrace; and (7) a 1.5-mile-long, 230-kilovolt line extending from the powerhouse to a planned AC-DC converter station. The estimated annual energy production of the project would be approximately 3,500,000 megawatt-hours.

Applicant Contact: Mr. Wayne Krouse, HGE Energy Storage 4 LLC, 2901 4th Avenue South #B 253, Birmingham, AL 35233; email: wayne@hgenergy.com; phone: (877) 556-6566.

FERC Contact: Shannon Archuleta; email: shannon.archuleta@ferc.gov; phone (503) 552-2739.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on March 30, 2026. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

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 <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERC.aspx>.

Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters without prior registration using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). Instead of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions

sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-15392-000.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number (P-15392) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, do not hesitate to get in touch with FERC Online Support.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: January 27, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026-01925 Filed 1-29-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2373-016]

Midwest Hydro, LLC; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR part 380, the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed the application for a subsequent license to continue to operate and maintain the Rockton Hydroelectric Project No. 2373 (project). The project is located on the Rock River in Winnebago County, Illinois. Commission staff has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project.¹

The EA contains the staff's analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the project and concludes that licensing the project, with appropriate environmental protective measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The Commission provides all interested persons with an opportunity

to view and/or print the EA 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. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or at (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), 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.

Any comments should be filed on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on February 26, 2026.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FEROnline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/Quick.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support. In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-2373-016.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

For further information, contact Laura Washington at (202) 502-6072 or by email at laura.washington@ferc.gov.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: January 27, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026-01922 Filed 1-29-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

¹ For tracking purposes under the National Environmental Policy Act, the unique identification number for documents relating to this environmental review is EAXX-019-20-000-1740141426.