

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 156 FERC ¶ 62,011
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Columbia Basin Hydropower

Project No. 14329-001

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF TERM FOR
PRELIMINARY PERMIT

(Issued July 5, 2016)

On June 29, 2016, Columbia Basin Hydropower¹ filed an application for a two-year extension of its existing preliminary permit for the proposed Banks Lake Pumped Storage Project, issued on August 22, 2013, and expiring on July 31, 2016.² The proposed project would be located on Banks Lake and Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake (Lake Roosevelt), near the town of Grand Coulee in Grant County, Washington. The project would be located on federal lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation).

Section 5(b) of the Federal Power Act states that a preliminary permit term can be extended once for not more than two additional years if the Commission finds that the permittee has carried out activities under the permit in good faith and with reasonable diligence.³

In its progress reports, Columbia Basin Hydropower indicated that it had: (1) assessed the feasibility of the project; (2) developed preliminary estimates of costs and revenue for the proposed project; (3) conducted meetings with interested stakeholders; and (4) consulted with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies and Indian tribes.

In its extension application, Columbia Basin Hydropower stated that Alternative 2 in the original permit application is no longer feasible and it has no plans to conduct further investigations or evaluation of this alternative. On June 27, 2016, Columbia Basin Hydropower filed a Notice of Intent, Request to Use the Traditional Licensing Process, and a Pre-Application Document (PAD) for the Banks Lake Pumped Storage Project.

¹ At the time the original permit was issued, Columbia Basin Hydropower was called the Grand Coulee Project Hydroelectric Authority.

² See 144 FERC ¶ 62,156 (2013).

³ See Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, Pub. L. No. 113-23, § 5, 127 Stat. 495 (codified as amended at 16 U.S.C. 798(b)).

Upon review of the application for extension, the progress reports submitted under the preliminary permit⁴, and the PAD, Columbia Basin Hydropower has demonstrated that it has carried out activities under the permit in good faith and with reasonable diligence. Therefore, the request for extension of the preliminary permit term is granted. It is expected that during the remaining term of the permit, as extended, agency consultation will continue, studies will be completed, and a development application will be prepared.

The Director orders:

(A) Ordering paragraph (A) of the preliminary permit for the Banks Lake Pumped Storage Project No. 14329 is amended to read as follows:

(A) A preliminary permit is issued for the Banks Lake Pumped Storage Project No. 14329 to the Columbia Basin Hydropower for a period effective the first day of the month in which this permit is issued, and ending either 60 months from the effective date or on the date that a development application submitted by the permittee has been accepted for filing, whichever occurs first.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Any party may file a request for rehearing of this order within 30 days of the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. § 8251 (2012), and section 385.713 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2016). The filing of a request for rehearing does not operate as a stay of any date specified in this order.

David Turner, Chief
Northwest Branch
Division of Hydropower Licensing

⁴ Pursuant to Article 4 of the extended preliminary permit, Columbia Basin Hydropower is required to file the three additional progress reports that are due no later than the last day of each six-month period from the effective date of the permit, i.e., by January 31, 2017; July 31, 2017; and January 31, 2018.

Document Content(s)

P-14329-001Order.DOC.....1-2