Relicensing Process Overview

Stakeholder Meeting
March 9, 2017

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Relicensing Process Overview

- Purpose of Relicensing
- Relicensing Process and Schedule
- Where to Find out More About Relicensing
Purpose of Relicensing

• Process of an applicant obtaining a new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to continue operating an existing hydroelectric project after the end of the project’s current license term

• Establishes new license conditions which balance the beneficial uses of project-affected resources consistent with current social priorities
Relicensing Process and Schedule

- The relicensing process and requirements are codified in the Federal Power Act and other laws.
- The environmental review process is under FERC jurisdiction. Other state and federal agencies and Tribes have key roles.
- Relicensing takes a statutory minimum of 5 years to complete.
Relicensing Process and Schedule

• Before formal start of relicensing proceeding, the Applicant:
  – Sends out PAD Questionnaire (distributed September 23, 2016)
  – Compiles, reviews, and summarizes existing, relevant, and reasonably available information
  – Identifies potential issues
  – Prepares Notice of Intent (NOI) and Pre-Application Document (PAD)
  – Determines potentially interested parties and initiates consultation

• Formal start of relicensing proceeding:
  – When the Applicant files NOI and PAD
Relicensing Process and Schedule
Relicensing Process and Schedule

• Year 1: FERC performs scoping, Applicant and Relicensing Participants discuss study plans, FERC issues Study Plan Determination, and Applicant may begin performing studies

• Year 2 & 3: Applicant gathers information, performs studies, and prepares and files license application with input from Relicensing Participants

• Year 4 & 5: FERC and State perform environmental analyses (NEPA and CEQA), regulatory agencies file recommendations and mandatory conditions, Federal fish and wildlife agencies issue Biological Opinion under ESA, SHPO completes Section 106 compliance

• Year 5+: FERC issues new license with new conditions
Relicensing Process and Schedule

- PG&E selected FERC’s Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) to relicense the Potter Valley Project
- NOI/PAD filing deadline is no later than April 14, 2017
- Final License Application deadline is no later than April 14, 2020
- Current license expires on April 14, 2022
Relicensing Process and Schedule

• Key Characteristics of the ILP
  – Developed to streamline the licensing process by providing a predictable, efficient, and timely process
  – Early issue identification and resolution of studies
  – Integration of resource agency and Tribal consultation processes, including:
    • State Water Board 401 Certification
    • USFWS and NMFS ESA consultation
    • SHPO Section 106 consultation
Relicensing Process and Schedule

• PAD Contents
  – Relicensing process plan and schedule
  – Project description
  – Description of existing environment
  – Preliminary issues, identification of data gaps, and potential studies list
  – Existing and proposed measures
  – Relevant comprehensive plans
  – Consultation documentation
Relicensing Process and Schedule

Pre-Application Document

April 2017

FERC Scoping
- Scoping Document 1
- Scoping Meeting/Site Visit
  May/June 2017

120 Days

Stakeholder Comments Due
- PAD
- Scoping Document 1
- Study Requests
  July 2017
Relicensing Process and Schedule

• Study Plan Development
  – Critical element of ILP
  – Important to ensure timely and informed decisions
  – FERC-defined study criteria
  – Based on information provided in the PAD and during scoping
Relicensing Process and Schedule

- FERC Study Plan Development Process
  - Applicant includes list of potential studies in PAD
  - Participants file study requests in response to FERC’s scoping notice
  - Applicant files proposed study plan
  - Parties meet to resolve any study disputes
  - Applicant files revised study plan
  - FERC issues study plan determination

Process takes approximately 10-14 months
Relicensing Process and Schedule

Questions