

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission****Notice of Scoping Meetings and Site Visit and Soliciting Scoping Comments**

April 1, 1999.

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

- a. *Type of Application:* Major New License.
- b. *Project No.:* P-2661-012.
- c. *Date filed:* September 24, 1998.
- d. *Applicant:* Pacific Gas and Electric Company.
- e. *Name of Project:* Hat Creek Hydroelectric Project.
- f. *Location:* On Hat Creek in Shasta County, California. About 6.57 acres of the project occupy lands of the U.S. Forest Service, Shasta National Forest.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).
- h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Terry Morford, Manager, Hydro Generation, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, P.O. Box 770000, N11C, San Francisco, California 94177, (415) 973-4603.
- i. *FERC Contact:* David Turner, David.Turner@FERC.FED.US, (202) 219-2844.
- j. *Deadline for filing scoping comments:* June 7, 1999:

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears 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. *Status of Environmental Analysis:* This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. *Description of Project:* The run-of-river project consists of two developments: Hat Creek No. 1 and Hat Creek No. 2.

Hat Creek No. 1 consists of: (1) A 12-foot-high, 231-foot-long concrete buttress overflow diversion dam impounding a 13-acre reservoir at a water surface elevation of 3,188 feet (referred to as Cassel Pond); (2) a 2,270-foot-long, 9-foot-deep, 30-foot-wide

canal with a hydraulic capacity of about 600 cfs; (3) a 14-foot-high, 750-foot-long shotcreted earthfill forebay with an overflow spillway, having a surface area of about 2 acres; (4) a 1,600-foot-long, riveted steel penstock that varies in inside diameter from 12 feet at the intake to 7 feet-six inches at the powerhouse; (5) a 43 foot by 56.5 foot reinforced concrete powerhouse containing a Francis/Vertical shaft turbine with a generating capacity of 10,000 kilowatt (kW).

Hat Creek No. 2 consists of: (1) Crystal Lake, a natural lake with a surface area of 115 acres at a water surface elevation of 2,980 feet; (2) a 29-foot-high, 120-foot-long concrete gravity overflow diversion dam impounding an 89-acre reservoir at a water surface elevation of 2,975 feet (referred to as Baum Lake); (3) a 4,520 foot-long, 7-foot-deep, 18-foot-wide reinforced concrete flume, with a hydraulic capacity of 600 cfs; (4) a 414-foot-long riveted steel penstock with an inside diameter varying from 14 feet at the intake to 7 feet-six inches at the powerhouse; and (5) a 43 foot by 56.5 foot reinforced concrete powerhouse containing a Francis/Vertical shaft turbine with a generating capacity of 10,000 kW.

m. *Locations of Application:* A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, D.C. 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. This filing may be viewed on <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

n. *Scoping Process:* The Commission intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the project in accordance the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA will consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action.

**Scoping Meetings**

The Commission will hold scoping meetings, one in the daytime and one in the evening, to help us identify the scope of issues to be addressed in the EA.

The daytime scoping meeting will focus on resource agency concerns, while the evening scoping meeting is primarily for public input. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist the staff in identifying the scope of the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. The times and

locations of these meetings are as follows:

*Evening Meeting*

Wednesday May 5, 1999, 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., Burney Senior Center, 20635 Roff Way, Burney, California 96013

*Daytime Meeting*

Thursday, May 6, 1999, 9 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., Redding Senior Center, 2290 Benton Drive, Redding, California 96003-2152

To help focus discussions, we will distribute a Scoping Document (SD1) outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the EA to the parties on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of the SD1 also will be available at the scoping meetings.

**Site Visit**

The applicant and Commission staff will conduct a project site visit on Wednesday, May 5, 1999. We will meet at the Hat Creek No. 1 powerhouse parking lot at 9 a.m.

**Objectives**

At the scoping meetings, the staff will: (1) summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views; (4) determine the resource issues to be addressed in the EA; and (5) identify those issues that require a detailed analysis, as well as those issues that do not require a detailed analysis.

**Procedures**

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and will become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to sign in before the meeting starts and to clearly identify themselves for the record.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the EA.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-8524 Filed 4-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M