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David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-32008 Filed 12-9-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application and Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment Accepted for Filing; Requesting Interventions and Protests; Establishing Procedural Schedule and Final Amendment Deadline; Requesting Comments, Final Terms and Conditions, Recommendations and Prescriptions; Requesting Reply Comments

December 6, 1999.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission. An Applicant-Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA) for the Upper Menominee River Basin Projects which includes the project below, has been filed with the Commission. Both documents are available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* Subsequent License.

b. *Project No.:* 2072-008.

c. *Date filed:* October 1, 1999.

d. *Applicant:* Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WE).

e. *Name of Project:* Lower Paint Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* The project is located on the Paint River, near Crystal Falls, in Iron County, Michigan. The project would not utilize any Federal lands or facilities.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Ms. Rita L. Hayen, P.E., Wisconsin Electric Power Company, 231 West Michigan Street, P.O. Box 2046, Milwaukee, WI 53201-2046.

i. *FERC Contact:* Any questions on this notice should be addressed to Patti Leppert-Slack, E-mail address patricia.leppertslack@ferc.fed.us, or telephone (202) 219-2767.

j. *Deadline for filing motions to intervene, protests, comments, final terms and conditions, recommendations, and prescriptions:* 60 days from the issuance date of this notice.

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

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure 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, the intervenor must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. *Status of Environmental Analysis:* On March 25, 1996, the Director, Office of Hydropower Licensing, approved WE's use of the Alternative Licensing Process. Scoping, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended, for the project was conducted through scoping documents issued in July 1996 and January 1997, and in public scoping meetings on September 16 and 17, 1996. The draft license application and APEA were distributed by the applicant for comment on October 20, 1998.

The Commission staff has reviewed the license application and APEA and has determined that the application is acceptable for processing and no additional information or studies are needed to prepare the Commission's environmental assessment. Comments, as indicated above, are being requested from interested parties. The applicant will have 45 days following the end of this period to respond to those comments, or may elect to seek a waiver of this deadline.

l. *Description of Project:* The project consists of the following: (1) A 128-foot-long, 6-foot-high left earth embankment; (2) a 101-foot-long concrete gated spillway with three 27-foot-long by 15-foot-high Taintor Gates; (3) a 150-foot-long, 25-foot-high uncontrolled concrete gravity spillway; (4) a 316-foot-long, 17-foot-high right earth embankment; (5) an impoundment with a 340-acre surface area at normal full pool elevation 1,285.5 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum; (6) a 1.4-mile-long, 89-foot-wide, 1,700 cubic feet per second capacity diversion canal; (7) a powerhouse containing a single generating unit rated at 100 kilowatts; and (8) appurtenant facilities.

The Lower Paint diversion canal diverts water from the Paint River to the reservoir of WE's Peavy Falls Project, located on the Michigamme River.

m. *Locations of the 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, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The application may be

viewed on the web at www.ferc.fed.us. Call (202) 208-2222 for assistance. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

n. *Protests or Motions to Intervene—* Anyone may submit a protest or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of the rules of Practice and Procedures, 18 CFR 385.210, 385.211, 385.214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any protests or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular application and APEA.

o. *Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—* The Commission is requesting comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, prescriptions, and reply comments.

The Commission directs, pursuant to 18 CFR 4.34(b) of the regulations, that all comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions concerning the application and APEA be filed with the Commission within 60 days from the issuance date of this notice. All reply comments must be filed with the Commission within 105 days from the date of this notice.

Anyone may obtain an extension of time for these deadlines from the Commission only upon a showing of good cause or extraordinary circumstances in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2008.

p. All filings must: (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST," "MOTION TO INTERVENE," "COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS," "TERMS AND CONDITIONS," "PRESCRIPTIONS," or "REPLY COMMENTS;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application and APEA to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). Agencies may obtain copies of the application and APEA directly from the applicant. Any of these documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies required by the Commission's regulations to: Secretary, Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. An additional copy must be sent to: Director, Division of Licensing and Compliance, Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, at the above address. Each filing must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed on the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-32045 Filed 12-9-99; 8:45 am]

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December 6, 1999.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission. An Applicant-Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA) for the Upper Menominee River Basin Projects, which includes the project below, has been filed with the Commission. Both documents are available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* Major New License.

b. *Project No.:* 1980-009.

c. *Date filed:* February 27, 1999.¹

d. *Applicant:* Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WE).

e. *Name of Project:* Big Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* The project is located on the Menominee River, near Niagara in Florence and Marinette Counties, Wisconsin and Dickinson County, Michigan. The project would not utilize any Federal lands or facilities.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act 16 USC 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Ms. Rita L. Hayen, P.E., Wisconsin Electric Power Company, 231 West Michigan Street,

P.O. Box 2046, Milwaukee, WI 53201-2046.

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k. *Status of Environmental Analysis:* On March 25, 1996, the Director, Office of Hydropower Licensing, approved WE's use of the Alternative Licensing Process. Scoping, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended, for the project was conducted through scoping documents issued in July 1996 and January 1997, and in public scoping meetings on September 16 and 17, 1996. The APEA was distributed by the applicant for comment on October 20, 1998.

The Commission staff has reviewed the license application and APEA and has determined that the application is acceptable for processing and no additional information or studies are needed to prepare the Commission's environmental assessment. Comments, as indicated above, are being requested from interested parties. The applicant will have 45 days following the end of this period to respond to those comments, or may elect to seek a waiver of this deadline.

l. *Description of Project:* The project consists of the following: (1) An existing dam, consisting of: (a) a concrete non-overflow section, about 157 feet long, equipped with two control gates, (b) an intake section, about 96 feet long, (c) a gated spillway section, about 229 feet long, equipped with seven 27-foot-wide by 15-foot-high Taintor gates, (d) a concrete non-overflow section, about 145 feet long, and (e) two earth dikes, with a combined length of about 200

feet; (2) an impoundment with a surface area of 272 acres and a 3,790 acre-feet storage capacity at summer pool elevation of 1,034.9 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD), and a surface area of 264 acres and a 3,650 acre-feet storage capacity at winter pool elevation of 1,034.4 feet NGVD; (3) a concrete forebay, about 100 feet by 245 feet; (5) two 65-foot-long, 12-foot-diameter steel penstocks; (6) a powerhouse, containing two generating units, each rated at 1,875 kilowatts (kW); (7) two 250-foot-long, 12-foot-diameter steel penstocks; (8) a powerhouse, containing two generating units, each rated at 8,000 kW; and (9) appurtenant facilities.

m. *Locations of the application:* A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The application may be viewed on the web at www.ferc.fed.us. Call (202) 208-2222 for assistance. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

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¹ Wisconsin Electric requested that the Big Quinnesec Project be included in the Alternative Licensing Process for the Upper Menominee River Basin Projects. The Commission approved the request.