

EIA undertakes a complete redesign of a particular data collection methodology or when EIA undertakes data collection in new areas, such as greenhouse gases or alternative fueled motor vehicle transportation system studies.

**Respondent Debriefings.** Respondent debriefings conducted under this clearance will generally be methodological studies of 500 cases or less, involving either purposive or statistically representative samples. The debriefing form is administered after a respondent completes a questionnaire either in paper form, electronically, or through in-person interviews. The debriefings contain questions that probe to determine how respondents interpret the questions and whether they have problems in completing the survey/questionnaire. Respondent debriefings also are useful in determining potential issues with data quality and in determining a more accurate respondent burden measure. This structured approach to debriefing enables both quantitative and qualitative analyses of data when administered to a statistically representative sample and allows EIA to improve its understanding of variance for the items in the questionnaire.

**Cognitive Interviews.** Cognitive interviews are typically one-on-one interviews in which the respondent is usually asked to “think aloud” or is asked “retrospective questions” as he or she answers survey questions, reads survey materials, or completes other activities as part of a survey process. A number of different techniques may be involved, including asking respondents to paraphrase questions, asking respondents probing questions to determine how they come up with their answers, and so on. The objective is to identify problems of ambiguity or misunderstanding, or other difficulties respondents have answering questions, and reduce measurement error in a survey.

**Usability Interviews.** Usability interviews are similar to cognitive interviews in which a respondent is typically asked to “think aloud” or asked “retrospective questions” as he or she reviews an electronic questionnaire, Web site and/or associated materials. The object of a usability interview is to make sure that electronic questionnaires, Web sites and other associated materials are user-friendly, allowing respondents to easily and intuitively navigate the electronic item and find the information that they seek.

**Focus Groups.** Focus groups involve group sessions guided by a moderator who follows a topic guide containing questions or topics focused on a particular issue, rather than adhering to

a standardized questionnaire. Focus groups are useful for identifying and exploring issues with populations of interest, e.g., from a specific group of stakeholders.

(5) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,000;

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses:* 1,000;

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours:* 1,000;

(8) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden:* There are no costs associated with these survey methods other than the burden hours.

**Statutory Authority:** Section 13(b) of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93–275, codified at 15 U.S.C. 772(b).

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 6, 2012.

**Stephanie Brown,**

*Director, Office of Survey Development and Statistical Integration, U. S. Energy Information Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2012–6154 Filed 3–13–12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2351–017]

#### Public Service Company of Colorado;

Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Licensing and Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments

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

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

b. *Project No.:* 2351–017.

c. *Date Filed:* February 27, 2012.

d. *Applicant:* Excel Energy Services, Inc. on behalf of Public Service Company of Colorado.

e. *Name of Project:* Cabin Creek Pumped Storage Project.

f. *Location:* The existing project is located on the South Clear Creek and its tributary Cabin Creek in Clear Creek County, Colorado. The project, as currently licensed, is located on 267 acres of U.S. Forest Service lands within the Arapahoe National Forest.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Christine E. Johnston, Xcel Energy, 4653 Table Mountain Drive, Golden, CO 80403; (720) 497–2156.

i. *FERC Contact:* David Turner, (202) 502–6091.

j. This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

k. *The Project Description:* The existing project includes the following facilities: (1) A 210-foot-high, 1,458-foot-long concrete-faced rockfill Upper Dam across Cabin Creek; (2) a 25.4 acre upper reservoir with 1,087 acre-feet of usable storage between the maximum operating elevation of 11,196 feet mean sea level (msl) and the minimum operating elevation of 11,140 feet msl; (3) a 95-foot-high, 1,195-foot-long earthfill and rockfill Lower Dam across South Clear Creek; (4) a 44.8-acre lower reservoir with 1,221 acre-feet of usable storage between the maximum operating elevation of 10,002 feet msl and 9,975 feet msl; (5) a 145-foot-long auxiliary spillway constructed in the embankment of the lower reservoir with a crest elevation of 10,013 feet; (6) an intake structure located near the bottom of the upper reservoir; (7) a 12 to 15-foot-diameter, 4,143-foot-long power tunnel; (8) two 75-foot-long, 8.5-foot-diameter penstocks directing flow from the power tunnel to the powerhouse turbines; (9) a powerhouse installed at the lower reservoir containing two reversible turbine-generator units rated at 150 megawatts (nameplate capacity) each; (10) a switchyard located next to the powerhouse; (11) three miles of gravel access roads; and (12) appurtenant facilities.

Cabin Creek is a pumped storage project. The normal daily operation cycle involves pumping water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir during off-peak periods of energy demand and generating electricity with water released from the upper reservoir during the high energy demand part of the day. Under the current license, the applicant is required to provide a continuous release from the lower reservoir of three cubic feet per second or inflow, whichever is less, to South Clear Creek.

The applicant proposes the following changes to the project: (1) Upgrade the pump-generation equipment; (2) raise the usable storage capacity of the upper reservoir 75 acre-feet by raising the height of the dam 4.5 feet; and (3) increase the project boundary by 59 acres.

l. *Locations of the Application:* A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <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 toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item (h) above.

m. You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/>

*esubscription.asp* to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. *Procedural Schedule:*

The application will be processed according to the following preliminary Hydro Licensing Schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

Milestone	Target date
Notice of Acceptance/Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis .....	April 27, 2012.
Filing of recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and fishway prescriptions .....	June 26, 2012.
Commission issues Non-Draft EA .....	October 24, 2012.
Comments on EA .....	November 23, 2012.
Modified terms and conditions .....	January 22, 2012.

o. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of the notice of ready for environmental analysis.

Dated: March 7, 2012.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-6107 Filed 3-13-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 9611-013]

#### **Sawatt Hydroelectric, LLC; Notice of Application for Amendment of Exemption and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests**

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

a. *Type of Application:* Amendment of Exemption.

b. *Project No:* 9611-013.

c. *Date Filed:* January 11, 2012.

d. *Applicant:* Sawatt Hydroelectric, LLC.

e. *Name of Project:* Mechanicsville Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* The project is located on French River, near Thompson, in Windham County, Connecticut.

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

h. *Applicant Contact:* Rolland Zeleny, 18 Washington St. PMB #18, Canton, MA 02021. Tel: (603) 498-8089. Email: [indigoharbor@yahoo.com](mailto:indigoharbor@yahoo.com).

i. *FERC Contact:* Any questions on this notice should be addressed to Kim Carter at (202) 502-6486 or [Kim.Carter@ferc.gov](mailto:Kim.Carter@ferc.gov).

j. *Deadline for Filing Comments and or Motions:* March 22, 2012.

Comments, protests, and interventions may be filed electronically

via the Internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>). Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system (<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>) and must include name and contact information at the end of comments. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

All documents (original and seven copies) filed by paper should be sent to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Please include the project number (P-9611-013) on any comments or motions filed.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all interveners 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 intervener 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. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

k. *Description of Application:* The exemptee proposes to: (1) Change the authorized configuration of the project from one generating unit with an installed capacity of 325 kilowatts (kW) with a maximum hydraulic capacity of 331 cubic feet per second (cfs), to two generating units with a total installed capacity of 321 kW and a maximum hydraulic capacity of 333 cfs. The two units are: One existing unit rated at 225 kW with a maximum hydraulic capacity of 233 cfs and one proposed unit to be installed with a rated capacity of 96 kW and a maximum hydraulic capacity of

100 cfs; (2) amend the Flashboard Operation; and (3) amend the minimum project starting flow due to the lower minimum hydraulic capacity of the proposed generating unit.

l. *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) 502-8371. This filing may also be viewed on the Commission's Web site using the "eLibrary" link at <http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp>. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits (P-9611) in the docket number field to access the document. You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676 or email [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), for TTY, call (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item (h) above.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

n. *Comments, Protests, or Motions To Intervene:* Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments 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 comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.