

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20426

June 12, 2015

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 14513-001 – Idaho  
County Line Road Hydroelectric Project  
Idaho Irrigation District  
New Sweden Irrigation District

**Subject: Scoping Document 1 for County Line Road Hydroelectric Project, P-14513**

To the Party Addressed:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is currently reviewing the Pre-Application Document submitted by the Idaho Irrigation District and New Sweden Irrigation District (the Districts) for the original licensing of the County Line Road Hydroelectric Project (County Line Project) (FERC No. 14513). The County Line Project would be located on two existing irrigation canals and the Snake River in Bonneville and Jefferson Counties, Idaho about 7 miles north of Idaho Falls. The project would occupy federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and private lands owned by the applicant and others.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, Commission staff intends to prepare an environmental assessment (EA), which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue a license for the project. To support and assist our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed, and that the EA is thorough and balanced.

We invite your participation in the scoping process, and are circulating the attached Scoping Document 1 (SD1) to provide you with information on the County Line Project. We are also soliciting your comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA. We are also requesting that you identify any studies that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the EA for the project.

We will hold two scoping meetings for the County Line Project to receive input on the scope of the EA. An evening meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, at the Shilo Inn Suites Hotel, 780 Lindsay Boulevard, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402. A

daytime meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2015, at the Shilo Inn Suites Hotel, 780 Lindsay Boulevard, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402. We will also visit the project facilities on Wednesday, July 8 starting at 1:00 p.m.

We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to attend one or all of these meetings. Further information on our environmental site review and scoping meetings is available in the enclosed SD1.

SD1 is being distributed to both the District's distribution list and the Commission's official mailing list (see section 9.0 of the attached SD1). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by email to [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov) or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written or emailed requests must specify your wish to be removed from or added to the mailing list and must clearly identify the following on the first page: **County Line Road Hydroelectric Project No. 14513-001.**

Please review the SD1 and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 6.0, *Request for Information and Studies*. If you have any questions about SD1, the scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the EA for this project, please contact Matt Cutlip at (503) 552-2762 or [matt.cutlip@ferc.gov](mailto:matt.cutlip@ferc.gov). Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the County Line Project may be obtained from our website, [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov).

Enclosure: Scoping Document 1

cc: Mailing List  
Public Files

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SCOPING DOCUMENT 1  
COUNTY LINE ROAD HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

IDAHO

PROJECT NO. 14513-001

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Office of Energy Projects  
Division of Hydropower Licensing  
Washington, DC

June 2015

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# SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

## County Line Road Hydroelectric Project, No. 14513-001

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),<sup>1</sup> may issue licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydroelectric projects. On April 20, 2015, the Idaho Irrigation District and New Sweden Irrigation District (the Districts) filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD) and Notice of Intent to seek an original license for the County Line Road Hydroelectric Project (County Line Project or project) (FERC Project No. 14513).

The proposed project is located on the Snake River in Jefferson and Bonneville Counties, Idaho, about 7 miles north of Idaho Falls (figure 1). The project would occupy federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and private lands owned by the applicant and others.

The proposed project would utilize water diverted from the Snake River at an existing diversion dam located 10 miles upstream of Idaho Falls. Currently the diversion dam diverts irrigation water for agricultural purposes into the existing Idaho Canal on the east side of the river and Great Western Canal on the west side of the river. Under the proposed project, the Districts would enlarge the canals by raising the banks of each by an additional 1 to 3 feet to increase their capacity and then divert up to 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of additional flow into each canal for power generation. On the east side of the Snake River, flows for power generation would be diverted into the Idaho Canal and conveyed about 3.1 miles to a new East Side Powerhouse and then discharged back to the Snake River. On the west side of the Snake River, flows for power generation would be diverted into the Great Western Canal and conveyed about 3.5 miles to a new West Side Powerhouse and then discharged back to the Snake River. The Districts propose to maintain a 1,000-cfs minimum flow in the 3.5-mile-long segment of the Snake River bypassed by the project whenever the project is operating. The total capacity of both powerhouses is expected to be 2.49 megawatts (MW), with a 1.23-MW capacity for the single Kaplan turbine in the East Side Powerhouse and a 1.26-MW capacity for the single Kaplan turbine in the West Side Powerhouse. The average annual generation is expected to be 18.3 gigawatt-hours. A detailed description of the project is provided in section 3.0.

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<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

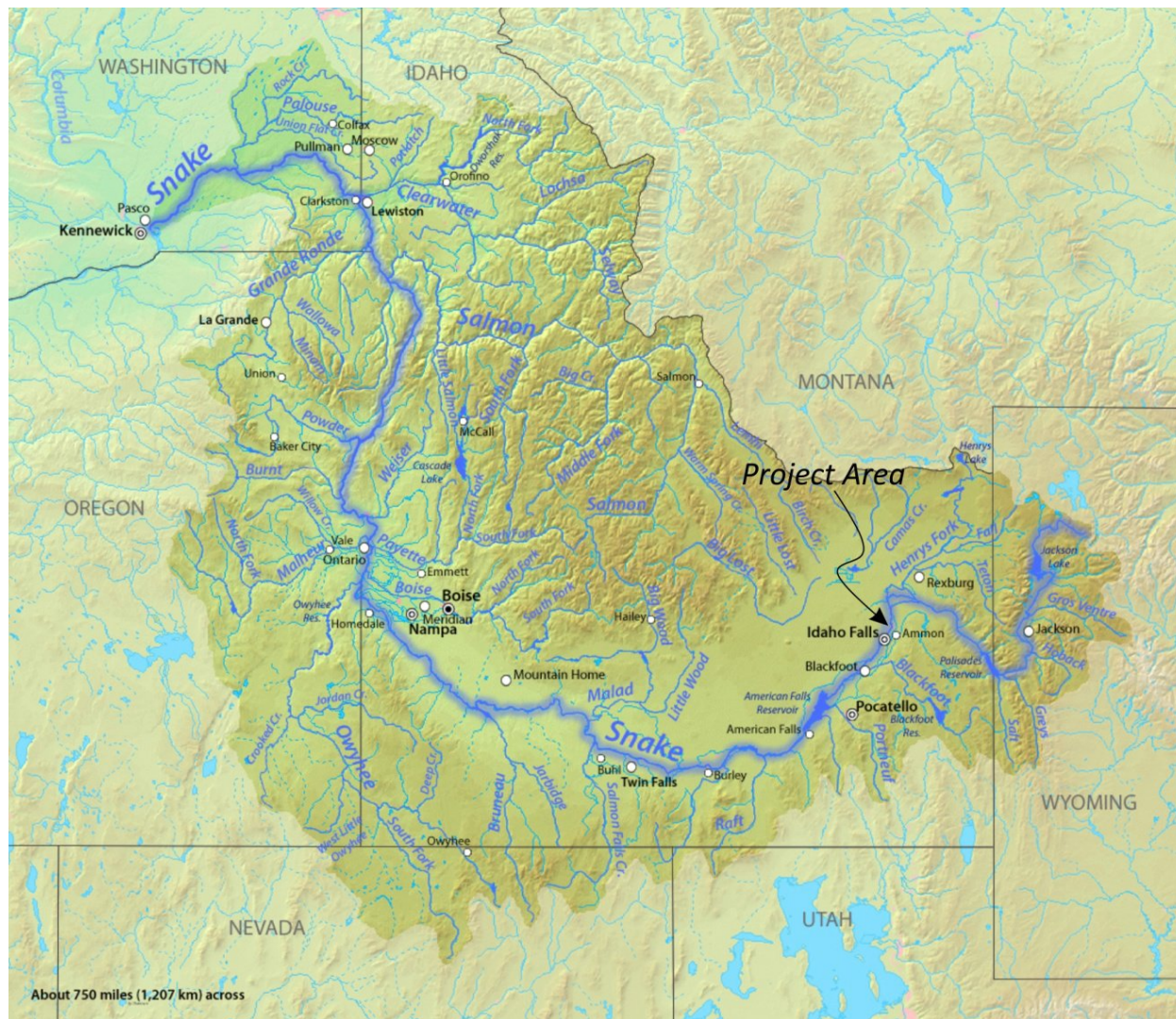


Figure 1. Location of the County Line Project (Source: Pre-Application Document).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969,<sup>2</sup> the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require that we independently evaluate the environmental effects of licensing the County Line Project as proposed, and also consider reasonable alternatives to the District's proposed action. At this time, we intend to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects, if any, of the

<sup>2</sup> National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370(f) (2006).

proposed action and alternatives. The EA preparation will be supported by a scoping process to ensure identification and analysis of all pertinent issues. Although our current intent is to prepare an EA, there is a possibility that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be required. The scoping process will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission issues an EA or an EIS.

## **2.0 SCOPING**

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the EA and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and schedule for the development of the EA; (2) a description of the proposed action and alternatives; (3) a preliminary identification of environmental issues and proposed studies; (4) a request for comments and information; (5) a proposed EA outline; and (6) a preliminary list of comprehensive plans that are applicable to the project.

### **2.1 PURPOSES OF SCOPING**

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. In general, scoping should be conducted during the early planning stages of a project. The purposes of the scoping process are as follows:

- invite participation of federal, state and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;
- determine the resource issues, depth of analysis, and significance of issues to be addressed in the EA;
- identify how the project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects in the project area;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that should be evaluated in the EA;
- solicit, from participants, available information on the resources at issue, including existing information and study needs; and



- determine the resource areas and potential issues that do not require detailed analysis during review of the project.

## **2.2 COMMENTS, SCOPING MEETINGS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW**

During preparation of the EA, there will be several opportunities for the resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to provide input. These opportunities occur:

- during the public scoping process and study plan meetings, when we solicit oral and written comments regarding the scope of issues and analysis for the EA;
- in response to the Commission's notice that the project is ready for environmental analysis; and
- after issuance of the EA when we solicit written comments on the EA.

In addition to written comments solicited by this SD1, we will hold two public scoping meetings and an environmental site review in the vicinity of the project. A daytime meeting will focus on concerns of the resource agencies, NGOs, and Indian tribes, and an evening meeting will focus on receiving input from the public. We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both of the meetings to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. All interested parties are also invited to participate in the environmental site review site visit. The times and locations of the meetings and environmental site review are as follows:

### **Evening Scoping Meeting**

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 7:00 p.m. (MDT)  
 Location: Shilo Inn Suites Hotel, 780 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls, ID  
 Phone Number: (208) 523-0088

### **Daytime Scoping Meeting**

Date and Time: Thursday, July 9, 2015, 9:30 a.m. (MDT)  
 Location: Shilo Inn Suites Hotel, 780 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls, ID  
 Phone Number: (208) 523-0088

## **Environmental Site Review**

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 1:00 p.m. (MDT)  
Location: West River Road Boat Ramp, 9924 North River Road, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402.

Directions: From the junction of Highway 20 and Lindsay Boulevard in Idaho Falls, go north on Lindsay Boulevard for 2 miles, continue onto North River Road for 3.5 miles to the public boat launch and picnic area on the west side of the Snake River.

Please notify Nick Josten at [gsense@cableone.net](mailto:gsense@cableone.net) by July 2, 2015, if you plan to attend the environmental site review.

The scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (verbal and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the project. Before each meeting, all individuals who attend, especially those who intend to make statements, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record. Interested parties who choose not to speak or who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide written comments and information to the Commission as described in section 6.0. These meetings are posted on the Commission's calendar located on the internet at [www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx](http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx), along with other related information.

Meeting participants should come prepared to discuss their issues and/or concerns as they pertain to the licensing of the County Line Project. It is advised that participants review the PAD in preparation for the scoping meetings. Copies of the PAD are available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, P-14513, to access the documents. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCONlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCONlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Following the scoping meetings and comment period, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made as to the level of analysis needed. If preliminary analysis indicates that any issues presented in this scoping document have little potential for causing significant effects, the issue(s) will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be given in the EA.

If we receive no substantive comments on SD1, then we will not prepare a Scoping Document 2 (SD2). Otherwise, we will issue SD2 to address any substantive comments received. The SD2 will be issued for informational purposes only; no response will be required. The EA will address recommendations and input received during the scoping process.

### **3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

In accordance with NEPA, the environmental analysis will consider the following alternatives, at a minimum: (1) the no-action alternative, (2) the applicant's proposed action, and (3) alternatives to the proposed action.

#### **3.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

The no-action alternative is license denial. Under the no-action alternative, the project would not be built and environmental resources in the project area would not be affected.

#### **3.2 PROPOSED ACTION**

##### **3.2.1 Existing Facilities**

The proposed project would utilize water impounded by the District's existing 850-foot-long, 10-foot-high concrete diversion dam on the Snake River and diverted into the existing Idaho Canal and Great Western Canal, located along the east and west sides of the Snake River, respectively, about 10 miles upstream of Idaho Falls.

The diversion dam creates a small impoundment on the Snake River that extends about 0.5 mile above the dam and has a surface area of 30 acres and a storage capacity of 250-acre-feet at a maximum surface elevation of 4,765 feet mean sea level.

The project would also utilize the following existing canal facilities:

##### Idaho Canal

3.1 miles of the existing approximately 65- to 70-foot-wide, 8- to 10-foot-deep Idaho Canal extending between the canal headgates located adjacent to the diversion dam to the proposed East Side Powerhouse location.

##### Great Western Canal

3.5 miles of the existing approximately 50- to 100-foot-wide, 8- to 10-foot-deep Great Western Canal extending between the canal headgates located 0.25 mile upstream of the diversion dam to the proposed West Side Powerhouse location.

### **3.2.2 Proposed Project Facilities**

The Districts propose to upgrade the existing canals by raising the banks by 1 to 3 feet in each canal to increase the capacity of each by an additional 1,000 cfs for power generation. In addition, the Districts propose to construct the following new project facilities:

#### Idaho Canal and East Side Powerhouse

(1) a new intake structure on the canal at the powerhouse location, consisting of four 20-foot-high by 10-foot-wide gates to control flow into the powerhouse and maintain irrigation flow in the remainder of the canal; (2) a 34-foot-long, 34-foot-high East Side Powerhouse containing a 1.23-megawatt (MW) Kaplan turbine; (3) a riprap-lined tailrace channel to convey powerhouse flow back to the Snake River; (4) a 250-foot-long overflow spillway to bypass flow around the powerhouse and ensure flow continuation to the Snake River in the event of powerhouse shutdown; (5) a switchyard; (6) a 2,500-foot-long, 12.5-kilovolt (kV) transmission line; (7) about 350 feet of access road; and (8) appurtenant facilities;

#### Great Western Canal and West Side Powerhouse

(1) a new intake structure on the canal at the powerhouse location, consisting of four 20-foot-high by 10-foot-wide gates to control flow into the powerhouse and maintain irrigation flow in the remainder of the canal; (2) a 34-foot-long, 34-foot-high West Side Powerhouse containing a 1.26-MW Kaplan turbine; (3) a riprap-lined tailrace channel to convey powerhouse flow back to the Snake River; (4) a 260-foot-long overflow spillway to bypass flow around the powerhouse and ensure flow continuation to the Snake River in the event of powerhouse shutdown; (5) a switchyard; (6) a 400-foot-long, 12.5-kV transmission line; (7) about 550 feet of access road; and (8) appurtenant facilities.

### **3.2.3 Existing Operation**

The Districts manually adjust the existing canal headgates to divert flow from the Snake River into the canals to meet summer irrigation needs. Irrigation flow in the canal is measured at gages located 1.7 miles and 4.1 miles downstream of the Idaho Canal and

Great Western Canal headgates, respectively. Average monthly flows in the Idaho Canal as measured at the canal gage range from 0 to about 1,200 cfs; average monthly flows in the Great Western Canal as measured at the canal gage range from 0 to about 600 cfs. Any flows in excess of irrigation requirements are returned to the Snake River via spillback gates in the canals. Adjustments to canal flows are made on an as needed basis during the irrigation season.

### **3.2.4 Proposed Project Operation**

Flow to meet both irrigation and hydropower generation would be diverted into the Idaho Canal using the existing manually operated canal headgates and would flow for 3.1 miles to the new intake at the East Side Powerhouse. At the new intake, four new gates would be installed to segregate the canal flow. Two of the gates would be installed across the canal to regulate the portion of flow designated for irrigation, which would pass downstream through these canal gates for distribution into the canal network. The other two gates would be installed along the canal wall, perpendicular to the canal flow, and control the portion of flow designated for power generation. The portion of flow designated for power generation would pass through one of the two canal-wall gates into the powerhouse, while the other gate would be used to pass flow into the overflow spillway during powerhouse shutdown. Similarly, flow would be diverted into the Great Western Canal using the existing manually operated canal headgates and flow for 3.5 miles to the new intake at the West Side Powerhouse, where two new canal gates would regulate the portion of flow designated for irrigation downstream into the canal network, while the other two new canal-wall gates would regulate the portion of flow designated for power generation into the powerhouse or overflow spillway. The project would bypass approximately 3.5 miles of the Snake River.

Flows available for power generation would be based on irrigation demands and flow in the Snake River. Additional flow diversion into the canals for power generation would only occur when Snake River flows exceed the required irrigation flows and the proposed minimum flow of 1,000 cfs at the diversion dam. Flow diversion into each canal for project operation would therefore be subject to water availability based on the following priorities: (1) divert flow for irrigation, (2) provide 1,000 cfs bypassed reach minimum flow, and (3) divert additional flow ranging from 300 cfs (minimum turbine capacity) to 1,000 cfs (maximum turbine capacity) into each canal for power generation.

The project would generate about 18,300 MW-hours annually.

### **3.2.5 Proposed Environmental Measures**

The Districts propose several measures to protect and enhance environmental resources of the project area.

### **Geologic and Soil Resources**

- Develop an Erosion Control Plan that includes industry standard erosion control measures.

### **Aquatic Resources**

- Develop a Spill Management Plan to address potential effects a hazardous or oil spill on water quality during construction.
- Maintain a minimum flow of 1,000 cfs in the Snake River bypassed reach below the diversion dam at all times when the project is operating.
- Design the project to include an automatic bypass to reroute water around the powerhouses during turbine shut down, assuring no diminishment of irrigation water or return flows to the Snake River.
- Establish an Osgood Reach Watershed Commission with representatives from resource agencies and homeowners in the project area to facilitate improvements to fish, wildlife, and public recreation along the project reach of the Snake River.
- Provide \$10,000 annually to fund projects supported by the Osgood Reach Watershed Commission.

### **Terrestrial Resources**

- Design and construct transmission lines to comply with current avian protection standards as set forth in the document entitled, *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006*.
- As part of the Erosion Control Plan, recontour all areas disturbed by construction and reseed using a seed mixture that is beneficial to wildlife, and restore all disturbed wetland areas.

### **Recreation and Land Use**

- Establish a permanent conservation easement over a 1,200-foot-long section of riverbank adjacent to the East Side Powerhouse to be managed for wildlife habitat and public recreation.
- Provide public access to applicant-owned land along the riverfront at County Line Road.
- Contribute funds to recreation enhancement projects, including public access improvements.

#### **Aesthetic Resources**

- Choose colors for the powerhouse buildings to blend in with the rural character of the area.

#### **Cultural Resources**

- Stop construction and consult with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes if cultural resources or human remains are inadvertently discovered during construction.

### **3.3 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION**

Commission staff will consider and assess all alternative recommendations for operational or facility modifications, as well as protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures identified by the Commission, the agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public.

## **4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES**

### **4.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. 1508.7), a cumulative effect is the effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

### **4.1.1 Resources that could be Cumulatively Affected**

Based on information in the PAD and preliminary staff analysis, we have not identified any resources that would be cumulatively affected by the project.

## **4.2 RESOURCE ISSUES**

In this section, we present a preliminary list of environmental issues to be addressed in the EA. We identified these issues, which are listed by resource area, by reviewing the PAD and the Commission's record for the County Line Project. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but contains those issues raised to date that could have substantial effects. After the scoping process is complete, we will review the list and determine the appropriate level of analysis needed to address each issue in the EA.

### **4.2.1 Geologic and Soils Resources**

- Effects of project construction and maintenance activities on soil erosion and sedimentation.

### **4.2.2 Water Resources**

- Effects of increased canal capacities on the quantity of flow diverted into the Idaho Canal and Great Western Canal from the Snake River for consumptive irrigation use.
- Effects of project construction on turbidity and suspended sediment in the Snake River.
- Effects of project operation on water temperature and dissolved oxygen in the Snake River.

### **4.2.3 Fisheries Resources**

- Effects of project construction on fish and aquatic habitat in the Snake River.
- Effects of project operation on fish passage, including turbine entrainment and mortality.



- Effects of project operation on instream flow and aquatic habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates, including mollusks, in the Snake River.
- Effects of project operation on icing and corresponding effects on fish and aquatic habitat in the bypassed reach.

#### **4.2.4 Terrestrial Resources**

- Effects of project construction and operation on botanical communities, particularly riparian and wetland habitat, and wildlife in the project area.
- Effects of project construction and operation on the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive species in the project area.
- Effects of transmission line construction and maintenance on vegetation and wildlife, particularly raptors and waterfowl, at the project.

#### **4.2.5 Threatened and Endangered Species**

- Effects of project construction and operation on threatened and endangered species and their habitat within the project vicinity, including the threatened Ute ladies' -tresses and Bliss Rapids Snail, and endangered Banbury Springs Limpet.

#### **4.2.6 Recreation and Land Use**

- Effects of improving public access on recreational opportunities in the project-affected reach of the Snake River.
- Effects of reduced flows and water depth on boating in the bypassed reach of the Snake River.

#### **4.2.7 Aesthetic Resources**

- Effects of project construction and operation on visual resources in the project vicinity, including the effects of reduced flows in the bypassed reach.

- Effects of noise from project construction and operation on residential and recreational use in the vicinity of the project.

#### **4.2.8 Cultural Resources**

- Effects of project construction and operation on cultural and archaeological resources and potential historic properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

### **5.0 PROPOSED STUDIES**

The PAD states that the Districts already completed studies on instream flow, canal entrainment, turbine mortality, recreation, and water quality. Additional study proposals are identified by resource area in table 2. Detailed information on the Districts' initial study proposals can be found in the PAD. Further studies may need to be added to this list based on comments provided to the Commission and the Districts from interested participants, including Indian tribes.

Table 2. Districts' Initial Study Proposals (Source: Pre-Application Document).

<b>Resource Area and Issue</b>	<b>Proposed Study/Information Need</b>
<b>Aquatic Resources</b>	
Project effects on macroinvertebrates in the bypassed reach?	Collect data according to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality standard protocol
Project effects on icing and corresponding effects on fish and aquatic habitat in the bypassed reach	Review existing information to assess project effects on icing and corresponding effects on fish and aquatic habitat
<b>Terrestrial Resources</b>	
Project effects on botanical resources and suitable habitat for federally listed species.	Conduct land-cover mapping of riparian vegetation in the project area to identify potential habitat for federally listed species, and if warranted, conduct surveys for the listed species.
<b>Recreation Resources</b>	
Effects of reduced flows and water depth on boating in the bypassed reach.	Conduct a boat access analysis using information from the instream flow study.

## 6.0 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND STUDIES

We are asking federal, state, and local resource agencies; Indian tribes; NGOs; and the public to forward to the Commission any information that will assist us in conducting an accurate and thorough analysis of the project-specific and cumulative effects associated with the proposed licensing of the County Line Project. The types of information requested include, but are not limited to:

- information, quantitative data, or professional opinions that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis (both site-specific and cumulative effects), and that helps identify significant environmental issues;
- identification of, and information from, any other EA, EIS, or similar environmental study (previous, on-going, or planned) relevant to the proposed licensing of the County Line Project;

- existing information and any data that would help to describe the past and present actions and effects of the project and other developmental activities on environmental and socioeconomic resources;
- information that would help characterize the existing environmental conditions and habitats;
- the identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected resource area (e.g., proposals to construct or operate water treatment facilities, recreation areas, water diversions, timber harvest activities, or fish management programs), along with any implementation schedules);
- documentation that the proposed project would or would not contribute to cumulative adverse or beneficial effects on any resources. Documentation can include, but need not be limited to, how the project would interact with other projects in the area and other developmental activities; study results; resource management policies; and reports from federal and state agencies, local agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public;
- documentation showing why any resources should be excluded from further study or consideration; and
- study requests by federal and state agencies, local agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the EA for the project.

All requests for studies filed with the Commission must meet the criteria found in Appendix A, *Study Plan Criteria*.

The requested information, comments, and study requests should be submitted to the Commission no later than August 18, 2015. All filings must clearly identify the following on the first page: **County Line Road Project (P-14513-001)**. Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website <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 at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of

your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at: FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426.

Register online at [www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx](http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx) to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support.

Any questions concerning the scoping meetings, site visits, or how to file written comments with the Commission should be directed to Matt Cutlip at (503) 552-2762 or [matt.cutlip@ferc.gov](mailto:matt.cutlip@ferc.gov). Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the County Line Project may be obtained from the Commission's website, [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov).

## **7.0 EA PREPARATION**

At this time, we anticipate the need to prepare a draft and final EA. The draft EA will be sent to all persons and entities on the Commission's service and mailing lists for the County Line Project. The EA will include our recommendations for operating procedures, as well as PM&E measures that should be part of any license issued by the Commission. All recipients will then have 30 days to review the EA and file written comments with the Commission. All comments on the draft EA filed with the Commission will be considered in preparing the final EA. A schedule for the EA preparation will be provided after a license application is filed.

A copy of the pre-filing portion of the process plan, which has a complete list of milestones for developing the license application for the County Line Project, is attached as Appendix B to this SD1.

## **8.0 PROPOSED EA OUTLINE**

The preliminary outline for the County Line Project EA is as follows:

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS FORMAT FOR AN EA**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**LIST OF FIGURES**

**LIST OF TABLES**

**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Application

1.2 Purpose of Action and Need for Power

1.3 Statutory and Regulatory Requirements

1.3.1 Federal Power Act

1.3.1.1 Section 18 Fishway Prescriptions

1.3.1.2 Section 4(e) Conditions

1.3.1.3 Section 10(j) Recommendations

1.3.2 Clean Water Act

1.3.3 Endangered Species Act

1.3.4 Coastal Zone Management Act

1.3.5 National Historic Preservation Act

1.3.6 Pacific Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act

Other statutes as applicable

1.4 Public Review and Comment

1.4.1 Scoping

1.4.2 Interventions

1.4.3 Comments on the Application

1.4.4 Comments on Draft EA

### **2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

2.1 No-action Alternative

2.2 Proposed Action

2.2.1 Proposed Project Facilities

2.2.2 Project Safety

2.2.3 Proposed Project Operation

2.2.4 Proposed Environmental Measures

2.2.5 Modifications to Applicant's Proposal—Mandatory Conditions

- 2.3 Staff Alternative
- 2.4 Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions
- 2.5 Other Alternatives (as appropriate)
- 2.6. Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study
- 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
  - 3.1 General Description of the River Basin
  - 3.2 Scope of Cumulative Effects Analysis
    - 3.2.1 Geographic Scope
    - 3.2.2 Temporal Scope
  - 3.3 Proposed Action and Action Alternatives
    - 3.3.1 Geologic and Soil Resources
    - 3.3.2 Aquatic Resources
    - 3.3.3 Terrestrial Resources
    - 3.3.4 Threatened and Endangered Species
    - 3.3.5 Recreation and Land Use
    - 3.3.6 Cultural Resources
    - 3.3.7 Aesthetic Resources
  - 3.4 No-action Alternative
- 4.0 DEVELOPMENTAL ANALYSIS
  - 4.1 Power and Economic Benefits of the Project
  - 4.2 Comparison of Alternatives
  - 4.3 Cost of Environmental Measures
- 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
  - 5.1 Comparison of Alternatives
  - 5.2 Comprehensive Development and Recommended Alternative
  - 5.3 Unavoidable Adverse Effects
  - 5.4 Recommendations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
  - 5.5 Consistency with Comprehensive Plans
- 6.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
- 7.0 LITERATURE CITED
- 8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

## APPENDICES

- A—License Conditions Recommended by Staff
- B—Response to Comments on Draft EA

## 9.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal and state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. Staff has preliminarily identified and reviewed the plans listed below that may be relevant to the County Line Project. Agencies are requested to review this list and inform Commission staff of any changes. If there are other comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission, or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed for consideration with the Commission according to 18 CFR 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing/complan.pdf>.

The following is a list of comprehensive plans currently on file with the Commission that may be relevant to the County Line Project.

Bureau of Land Management. Forest Service. Snake River final activity/operations plan. Department of the Interior, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Department of Agriculture, Idaho Falls, Idaho. February 1991.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Bonneville Power Administration. Pacific Northwest rivers study. Final report: Idaho. Boise, Idaho. 1986.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Idaho comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy. Boise, Idaho. September 2005.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Management plan for the conservation of Yellowstone cutthroat trout in Idaho. Boise, Idaho. April 2007.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Idaho mule deer management plan: 2008-2017. Boise, Idaho. March 2008.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Management plan for the conservation of Snake River white sturgeon in Idaho. Boise, Idaho. September 2008.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Mule deer initiative action plan. Boise, Idaho. 2010.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Fisheries management plan: 2013-2018.



Boise, Idaho. 2013.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Idaho Elk management plan: 2014-2024. Boise, Idaho. June 2014.

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. 1992. Idaho water quality standards and wastewater treatment requirements. Boise, Idaho. January 1992.

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. Idaho Outside: Idaho's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan: 2013-2017. Boise, Idaho.

Idaho Water Resource Board. 2012. Idaho State water plan. Boise, Idaho. November 2012.

National Park Service. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1993.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Protected areas amendments and response to comments. Portland, Oregon. Council Document 88-22. September 14, 1988.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Mainstem amendments to the Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife program. Portland, Oregon. Council Document 2003-11. 2003.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife program. Portland, Oregon. Council Document 2009-09. October 2009.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council. The Sixth Northwest conservation and electric power plan. Portland, Oregon. Council Document 2010-09. February 2010.

State of Idaho. State of Oregon. State of Washington. Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Nez Perce Tribe. Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Indian Nation. Settlement Agreement pursuant to the September 1, 1983, Order of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon in Case No. 68-5113. Columbia River fish management plan. Portland, Oregon. November 1987.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fisheries USA: the recreational fisheries policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C. Undated.

## 10.0 MAILING LIST

The list below is the Commission's official mailing list for the County Line Project (FERC No. 14513). If you want to receive future mailings for the County Line Project and are not included in the list below, please send your request by email to [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov) or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written and emailed requests to be added to the mailing list must clearly identify the following on the first page: County Line Road Project No. 14513-001. You may use the same method if requesting removal from the mailing list below.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

### Mailing List

Amy Lientz 15 N. 3192 E. Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401	Lynda Brighton 68 N. 3167 E. Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402	David Crandall 11040 N. River Rd. Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
Richard Rice 1801 W. 145 N. Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402	Ward Whitmore President, Bear Island Water Association 54 N. 3167 E. Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402	Lionel Q. Boyer Chairman Fort Hall Business Council P.O. Box 306 Fort Hall, Idaho 83203
Andrea Santarsiere Idaho Conservation Associate Greater Yellowstone Coalition 162 North Woodruff Avenue, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Director 1410 N. Hilton St Boise, Idaho 83706	Idaho Department of Lands Director P.O. Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720

Idaho Irrigation District Alan Kelsch Chairman 496 E. 14th Street Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404	Idaho Irrigation District Ted Sorenson Sorenson Engineering 5203 S. 11th E. Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404	Idaho Irrigation District Nicholas E Josten GEOSENSE 2742 St. Charles Ave. Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404
Idaho Office of Attorney General State House Boise, Idaho 83720	Idaho Office of the Governor Matt Wiggs 304 North 8th Street Boise, Idaho 83706	Idaho State Preservation Office 210 W. Main St. Boise, Idaho 83702
Steven Bale 16 N. 3192 E. Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401	Louis Thiel Chairman New Sweden Irrigation District 2350 W. 1700 Street Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402	Kail Sheppard Manager New Sweden Irrigation District 2350 W. 1700 S. Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
Nez Perce Tribe P.O. Box 305 Lapwai, Idaho 83540	Nez Perce Water Resource Department P.O. Box 365 Lapwai, Idaho 83540	Shoshone Bannock Tribe Carolyn Smith P.O. Box 306 Fort Hall, Idaho 83203
Arthur Armstrong Snake River Cutthroats 2155 E. Olympic Avenue Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404	Soil Conservation Commission State House Boise, Idaho 83720	Kristina Fugate Deputy Attorney General Idaho Office of Attorney General 700 W. State St. P.O. Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720
Kathryn Miller Trout Unlimited 227 SW Pine Street, Suite 200 Portland, Oregon 97204	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commander P.O. Box 2946 Portland, Oregon 97208	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Wall District 201 N. 3rd Ave., Walla Walla, Washington 99362

<p>Stephen Bredthauer          Technical Review Program          Manager          U.S. Army Corps of          Engineers, NW Division          P. O. Box 2870          Portland, Oregon 97208</p>	<p>U.S. Bureau of Indian          Affairs          P.O. Box 28          Elko, NEVADA 89801</p>	<p>Bob Dach          Hydropower Program          Manager          U.S. Bureau of Indian          Affairs          Natural Resources          911 NE 11th Avenue          Portland, Oregon 97232</p>
<p>State Director          U.S. Bureau of Land          Management          Idaho State Office          1387 S. Vinnell Way          Boise, Idaho 83709</p>	<p>U.S. Environmental          Protection Agency          1435 N. Orchard St.          Boise, Idaho 83706</p>	<p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife          Service          Upper Columbia River          Basin Field Office 11103 E.          Montgomery Dr.          Spokane, Washington          99206</p>
<p>U.S Fish and Wildlife          Service          Boise Field Office          1387 S. Vinnell Way Room          368          Boise, Idaho 83709</p>	<p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife          Service          Regional Director          Attn: FERC Coordinator          911 NE 11th Ave          Portland, Oregon 97232</p>	<p>USDA Forest Service          Regional Hydropower          Coordinator          USDA Forest Service          Federal Building          324 25th St.          Ogden, Utah 84401</p>

**APPENDIX A**  
**STUDY PLAN CRITERIA**  
**18 CFR Section 5.9(b)**

Any information or study request must contain the following:

1. Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;
2. If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;
3. If the requester is not a resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study;
4. Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;
5. Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements;
6. Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate filed season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers relevant tribal values and knowledge; and
7. Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.

**APPENDIX B**  
**COUNTY LINE PROJECT PROCESS PLAN AND SCHEDULE**

This process plan establishes the deadlines for the pre-filing process. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is the following business day. Early filings or issuances will not result in changes to these deadlines. Shaded milestones are unnecessary if there are no study disputes.

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Pre-Filing Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>FERC Regulation</b>
Districts	Issue Public Notice for NOI/PAD	4/20/15	5.3(d)(2)
Districts	File NOI/PAD with FERC	4/20/15	5.5, 5.6
FERC	Initiate Tribal Consultation	5/20/15	5.7
FERC	Issue Notice of Commencement of Proceeding; Issue Scoping Document 1	6/19/15	5.8
FERC	County Line Project Environmental Site Review and Scoping Meetings	7/19/15	5.8(b)(viii)
All stakeholders	PAD/SD1 Comments and Study Requests Due	8/18/15	5.9
FERC	Issue Scoping Document 2	10/2/15	5.1
Districts	File Proposed Study Plan (PSP)	10/2/15	5.11(a)
All stakeholders	Proposed Study Plan Meeting	11/1/15	5.11(e)
All stakeholders	Proposed Study Plan Comments Due	12/31/15	5.12
Districts	File Revised Study Plan	1/30/16	5.13(a)
All stakeholders	Revised Study Plan Comments Due	2/14/16	5.13(b)
FERC	Director's Study Plan Determination	2/29/16	5.13(c)
Mandatory Conditioning Agencies	Any Study Disputes Due	3/20/16	5.14(a)
Dispute Panel	Third Dispute Panel Member Selected	4/4/16	5.14(d)
Dispute Panel	Dispute Resolution Panel Convenes	4/9/16	5.14(d)(3)
Districts	Applicant Comments on Study Disputes Due	4/14/16	5.14(j)

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Pre-Filing Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>FERC Regulation</b>
Dispute Panel	Dispute Resolution Panel Technical Conference	4/19/16	5.14(j)
Dispute Panel	Dispute Resolution Panel Findings Issued	5/9/16	5.14(k)
FERC	Director's Study Dispute Determination	5/29/16	5.14(l)
Districts	First Study Season	2016	5.15(a)
Districts	Initial Study Report	2/28/17	5.15(c)(1)
All stakeholders	Initial Study Report Meeting	3/15/17	5.15(c)(2)
Districts	Initial Study Report Meeting Summary	3/30/17	5.15(c)(3)
All stakeholders	Any Disputes/Requests to Amend Study Plan Due	4/29/17	5.15(c)(4)
All stakeholders	Responses to Disputes/Amendment Requests Due	5/29/17	5.15(c)(5)
FERC	Director's Determination on Disputes/Amendments	6/28/17	5.15(c)(6)
<i>Second study season if necessary. Schedule would be adjusted accordingly.</i>			
Districts	File Preliminary Licensing Proposal	11/30/17 <sup>1</sup>	5.16(a)
All stakeholders	Preliminary Licensing Proposal Comments Due	2/28/18	5.16(e)
Districts	File License Application	4/27/18 <sup>1</sup>	5.17

<sup>1</sup> Date for filing of the PLP and final license application is a staff estimate.

Document Content(s)

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