FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20426
October 2, 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 2 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.

In our June 12, 2015, Scoping Document 1 (SD1), we disclosed our preliminary view of the scope of environmental issues associated with County Line Project. Based on verbal comments that we received at the scoping meetings which were held on July 8 and 9, 2015, near the proposed project, and written comments we received throughout the scoping process, we prepared the enclosed Scoping Document 2 (SD2). We appreciate the participation of government agencies, non-government organizations, Indian tribes, and the general public in the scoping process. The enclosed SD2 serves as a guide to the issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA. ***Key changes from SD1 to SD2 are identified in bold and italicized type.***

SD2 is being distributed to the Commission's mailing list for this project. SD2 is also available from our Public Reference Room by calling (202) 502-8371 and can be accessed online at: http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp.

The enclosed SD2 supersedes the June 12, 2015, SD1. SD2 is issued for informational use by all interested entities; no response is required. Please direct any questions about the scoping process to Matt Cutlip at (503) 552-2762 or matt.cutlip@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the County Line Road Project may be obtained from our website, www.ferc.gov.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 2

cc: Mailing List
Public Files

SCOPING DOCUMENT 2

COUNTY LINE ROAD HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

IDAHO

PROJECT NO. 14513-001

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

October 2015

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),[1] 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

[1] 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

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.

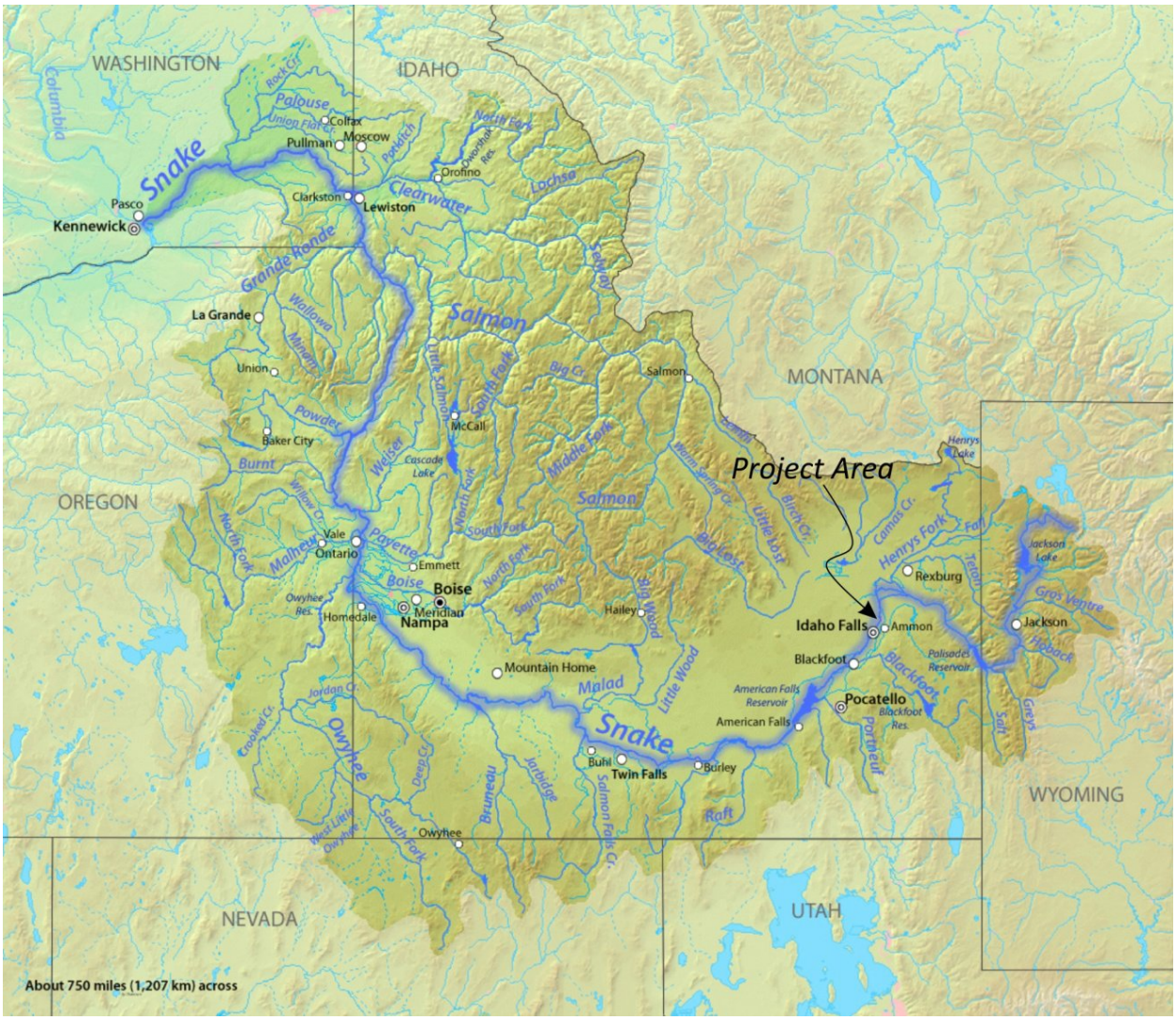

Figure 1. Location of the County Line Project (Source: Pre-Application Document).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969,[2] 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

[2] National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370(f) (2006).

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 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 2 (SD2) 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 AND SCOPING MEETINGS

Commission staff issued Scoping Document 1 (SD1) on June 12, 2015. On July 8 and 9, 2015, respectively, staff conducted an evening and daytime scoping meeting in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Notices of the meetings were published in local newspapers and in the Federal Register. A court reporter recorded and transcribed both of the scoping meetings.

The Commission received comments on the Districts' PAD and staff's SD1 during the scoping meetings. Written comments were also received from the following agencies and entities:

COMMENTING ENTITY	***FILING DATE***
David and Christine Crandall	***July 13, 2015***
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	***August 5, 2015***
National Park Service	***August 7, 2015***
Richard E. Rice	***August 12, 2015***
Bear Island Water Association, Inc.	***August 17, 2015***
Idaho Conservation League	***August 18, 2015***
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation	***August 18, 2015***
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	***August 18, 2015***
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	***August 18, 2015***
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	***August 19, 2015***
Snake River Cutthroats	***August 19, 2015***
U.S. Bureau of Land Management	***August 19, 2015***
Shelly Sailer Seimer	***August 19, 2015***
Amy R. Lientz	***August 19, 2015***
Daryl Siemer	***August 19, 2015***

Key changes to SD1 are identified in bold, italic type.

COMMENTS

General Comments

A large number of the comments expressed concerns about the proposed bypassed reach minimum flow and other potential protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures. Note that the primary purpose of SD2 is to identify issues to be analyzed in the EA, not to identify all proposed and recommended PM&E measures. All proposed and recommended PM&E measures will be analyzed in the EA.

A number of the comments expressed strong concerns about or opposition to the project, often referring to project effects on Snake River streamflows in the proposed bypassed reach; changes in ice formation in the bypassed reach; boating and river access; recreation; fish and wildlife; and cumulative effects generally. Most of these concerns fall within the scope of issues identified in SD1 and will be addressed as part of the environmental analysis of the proposed project. However, several issues were raised that were not specified in SD1 and we have modified SD2 accordingly. We summarize below those comments where we did not make the requested change or to address comments about the licensing process.

Studies

Comment: Many commenters provide general comments about the need for the applicant to conduct studies to address the project's potential effects on fish habitat, canal entrainment, icing, waterfowl, recreation, socioeconomics, and other environmental resources of the project area.

Response: The Commission will make a determination on the scope of environmental studies for affected resources during the ILP study planning process.

Purpose and Need

Comment: EPA states that the EA should include a clear and concise statement of the underlying purpose and need for the proposed project. EPA indicates this should reflect not only on FERC's purpose, but also the broader public interest and need, and should include a discussion of the proposed project in the context of regional energy market and infrastructure. EPA also suggests that FERC should explore whether the needed power could be obtained from other sources such as wind and solar.

Response: The EA will evaluate the regional need for power using the most recent forecasts for the energy market in which the project would be located. The scope of the need for power analysis encompasses such factors as whether there is a regional need for power, displacement of non-renewable fossil fuels, and

diversification of generation mix. Future power demand and supply, alternative sources of power, the protection of fish and wildlife, and the protection of recreational opportunities are examples of the factors that will be considered in the Commission's broader public interest finding of whether to license the project or not, and if so, under what conditions.

Range of Alternatives

Comment: Idaho DFG recommends that FERC develop a third alternative that ensures the proposed project is protective of natural resources and associated recreational opportunities and specifically maintains instream flow connectivity of all side channel habitats. BLM requests the EA include additional alternatives to include increasing water levels in the bypassed reach and seasonal shutdown during the winter when water levels are naturally low. EPA states that the EA should include a range of reasonable alternatives that meet the stated purpose and need, and are responsive to the issues identified during the scoping process. EPA indicates that FERC should consider other project designs, such as having construction of a powerhouse on the Snake River and using a run-of-river system that would return flows immediately to the river downstream of the powerhouse.

Response: The EA will evaluate all reasonable, foreseeable alternatives to the proposed project, including proposed and recommended environmental measures that are reasonable in the circumstances of the case. Furthermore, our regulations require the Districts to consider and conduct an analysis of all environmental measures recommended by a resource agency, Indian tribe, or member of the public, and explain its reasons for not adopting an environmental measure based on project-specific information.[3] At this time, we have no basis for dismissing consideration of additional alternatives that would include higher minimum flows, seasonal project shutdown, or alternative powerhouse locations or operations as reasonable alternatives to the proposed project and would expect the Districts to gather sufficient information to address these alternatives in their application.

Comment: EPA also suggests that the EA should fully describe any transmission line that would be associated with the project and analyze related impacts to environmental resources within the transmission line corridor and vicinity.

Response: The Districts will be required to describe the proposed transmission lines in their license application. We revised SD2 to include consideration of the

[3] *See* 18 C.F.R. § 5.18(b)(5) (2012).

effects of construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission lines on terrestrial and aesthetic resources.

Environmental Effects

Comment: EPA states that the EA should include environmental effects and mitigation measures. EPA states this would involve delineation and description of the affected environment, indication of impacted resources, the nature of the impacts, and measures to avoid, reduce, and mitigate potential impacts.

Response: The EA will describe the affected environment for each of the resources specified in section 4.2 of the SD2. It will also analyze the effects of the project on each of these resources and the need for, costs, and benefits of any specific recommended protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures for these resources filed in response to the notice identifying the Districts' application as Ready for Environmental Analysis.

Water Quality

Comment: EPA recommends that FERC require a baseline analysis of water quality, including dissolved oxygen, temperature, metals, and other parameters that are considered naturally occurring.

Response: The SD2 already identifies water temperature and dissolved oxygen as parameters of concern that could be affected by the project. However, there is no information in the project record or any other available information that suggests that the Snake River in the proposed project area is contaminated with metals or that the project would cause an increase in metals concentrations.

Comment: EPA states that the EA should address potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of hazardous waste from construction and operation of the proposed project. EPA states that this should include an identification of projected hazardous waste types and volumes, and expected storage, disposal, and management plans. EPA also states this should identify any hazardous materials sites within the project's study area and evaluate whether those sites would impact the project in any way.

Response: We revised SD2 to clarify that the EA will examine potential effects of hazardous waste from project construction and operation. However, with regard to the recommended cumulative effects analysis for hazardous waste, the EPA did not identify the geographic scope for such an analysis, nor did it specify any other

hazardous waste sites or other actions that have or would contribute to cumulative effects on hazardous waste near the project. Further, there is no information in the project record suggesting that hazardous materials sites occur in the project area and could affect the project. We therefore see no need to evaluate the project's potential contribution to cumulative effects on hazardous waste and we see no need to evaluate the effects of hazardous materials sites on the project in the EA unless new information is made available suggesting that the project would affect or be affected by hazardous materials sites.

Aquatic Resources

Comment: EPA states that the EA should describe all waters of the U.S. including wetlands that could be affected by the project alternatives, and include maps that clearly identify all waters within the planning area. EPA contends that the document should include data on acreages and channel lengths, habitat types, values, and functions of these waters, and states that projects affecting waters of the U.S. and may result in discharges of dredged or fill material into these waters must comply with section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Response: We have already identified the potential effects of the project on water resources and wetlands in the project area in the SD2. As part of that analysis, the EA will include a description of the affected environment for surface waters and wetlands and project effects on these resources, as required by NEPA. However, compliance with section 404 of the Clean Water Act is within the purview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, not the Commission. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain any permits or authorizations needed to comply with section 404, and is not a prerequisite to receiving a Commission license.

Seismic Risk

Comment: EPA states that construction and operation of the project may cause or be affected by increased earthquake activity in tectonically active zones. EPA states that it will be important to discuss the potential for seismic risk and approaches to evaluate, monitor, and manage the risk. EPA contends that the EA should describe geologic faults and include a seismic map or a reference to it. EPA also states that construction of the project should use appropriate seismic designs, construction standards, and practices to minimize impacts.

Response: We revised SD2 to clarify that the EA will include examination of site geologic conditions and seismology.

The Commission's regulations require that the applicant file a supporting design report with any license application demonstrating that proposed structures are safe and adequate to fulfill their stated functions.[4] The Commission's Division of Dam Safety and Inspections will also oversee a comprehensive review of all proposed structures and may require the applicant to convene an independent Board of Consultants to perform a peer review of the project's design.

Climate Change

Comment: EPA states that the EA should consider how resources affected by climate change could potentially influence the proposed project. EPA also states that the EA should quantify and disclose greenhouse gas emission from the project and discuss mitigation measures to reduce emissions. EPA also contends that the EA should consider the revised draft guidance on consideration of greenhouse gas emissions and effects of climate change in NEPA review by the Council on Environmental Quality in FERC's analysis.

Response: We have added the effects of air emissions (e.g., carbon monoxide) from construction activities and operation and maintenance of the project on air quality to the SD2. This information could be used to assess the project's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. However, we are not aware of any way to accurately predict the potential effects of future climate change on the project or on the environmental resources of the project area, given the current state of the science.

Federal, State, or Local Resource Plans

Comment: David and Christine Crandall indicate that the EA should consider the document entitled, Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) prepared by the Idaho Water Resource Board. The Idaho Conservation League states that the Idaho DFG established a 2013 - 2018 Fisheries Management Plan and should the project be licensed, it should be in compliance with the Idaho DFG Fisheries Management Plan.

Response: The CAMP and the 2013-2018 Fisheries Management Plan are approved comprehensive plans filed under section 10(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Power Act. The scoping document already identifies the 2013-2018 Fisheries Management Plan as a relevant plan to be considered. We revised SD2 to include the CAMP. The Commission will review these comprehensive plans and include a discussion of the

[4] *See* 18 C.F.R. §4.41(g)(3) (2015).

proposed project's consistency or inconsistency with the plans as part of our environmental analysis.

Permits and Other Authorizations

Comment: EPA states that the EA should include a list of all permits/authorizations the proposed project already has and will need including modifications to any existing permits, what activities are regulated by the permits, entities that will issue each permit, when each will expire, and conditions to assure protection of human health and the environment.

Response: The EA will include a description of how the Commission will comply with the additional regulatory requirements or authorizations that are needed by the Commission prior to license issuance (e.g., section 401 of the Clean Water Act, section 7 of the Endangered Species Act); however, we see no reason to discuss all potential permits the Districts may need to obtain from other entities because such permits and approvals are outside of the Commission's licensing purview.

Cumulative Effects

Comment: EPA states that the EA should include a detailed discussion of the cumulative effects of the proposed project and other projects on the hydrologic conditions of the project area and vicinity. EPA states that EA should also clearly depict reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to groundwater and surface water resources. EPA contends that, for groundwater, FERC should identify potentially affected groundwater basins and any potential for subsidence, and analyze impacts to springs or other open water bodies and biological resources.

David Crandall states that the groundwater aquifer is declining and Great Western Canal has been identified as a resource that could be used for aquifer recharge. He contends that recharge is currently significantly hindered by current water rights allocated to hydropower, and the proposed project would contribute to cumulative effects on the declining aquifer by allocating water to the project that could otherwise be used for recharge.

Response: We identify project effects on surface waters, groundwater, and aquifer recharge as issues in the SD2. Further, we have added fisheries and groundwater resources as cumulatively affected resources in the SD2, and note that the cumulative effects analysis for fisheries and groundwater resources would include consideration of all actions affecting these resources within the geographic scope of analysis, including surface and groundwater withdrawals and groundwater recharge.

Comment: BLM states that the proposed power lines would pose a collision hazard for birds, particularly ducks, geese, and swans, which in addition to existing power lines in the region, would contribute to cumulative effects on birds. BLM also states that the proposed power lines would provide additional perching opportunities for raptors that may prey on fish and wildlife in the area, and therefore, contribute to cumulative effects on fish and wildlife through the resulting loss in prey species.

Response: The lengths of the proposed transmission lines to interconnect to the distribution system owned by Rocky Mountain Power are 2,500 and 500 feet for the east and west side sites, respectively. Considering there are many miles of distribution lines already in existence to serve the 73,871 customers of Rocky Mountain Power's customers in the eastern Idaho service area (according to the company's website), the project's potential contribution is minimal and any analysis of the cumulative effects too small to be meaningful. Effects to birds and other wildlife from the project's transmission lines will be analyzed in the EA.

Comment: BLM states the new infrastructure proposed by the project would cumulatively contribute to the loss of native vegetation communities and fragmentation of wildlife habitat when project effects are combined with existing infrastructure in the region that has degraded or fragmented similar habitat.

Response: We have added riparian/wetland habitat as a cumulatively affected resource in the SD2. Furthermore, we have added project effects on ecological connectivity as an issue in the SD2.

Comment: BLM, Bear Island Water Association, and Jeff Armstrong state that the proposed minimum flows would cause a drop in water levels that could encourage inappropriate use of the exposed river bed by all terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles and contribute to cumulative effects. BLM states such use would be inconsistent with the management plan for the area.

Response: Reduced flows from project operation could increase the accessibility of the river bed to off-road vehicle use and potentially result in indirect effects on aquatic, terrestrial, recreation, and aesthetic resources. However, these effects would be confined to the reach of the river affected by flow diversions (i.e., the bypassed reach between the diversion dam and the powerhouses). We therefore we see no need to evaluate this potential action for cumulative effects at this time. If study results or other data indicate cumulative effects are likely, they will be evaluated in the EA. We have revised section 4.2.6 of the SD2 to include the potential indirect effects of off-road vehicle use of the river bed during minimum flows.

Comment: BLM states that raising the canal banks could cumulatively contribute to visual and aesthetic obstructions that currently exist in the region.

Response: BLM does not describe how project features might cumulatively contribute to other activities/obstructions that are affecting visual resources, or what particular geographic region may be affected. Therefore, we do not have sufficient information to determine how the project might cumulatively affect visual resources beyond the direct effects at the site. We have clarified in SD2 that the visual effects of the raised canal banks and other project features will be evaluated in the EA. If study results or other information indicate that cumulative effects are likely, the EA would also consider those effects.

Coordination with Tribal Governments

Comment: EPA states that the EA should describe the process and outcome of government to government consultation between FERC and Indian tribes that would be affected by the project, issues that were raised, if any, and how those issues were addressed.

Response: We initiated tribal consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Eastern Shoshone Tribe by letter dated May 8, 2015. Commission staff and the Districts will continue to work with the tribes to identify issues and resources of importance to the tribes. If any such resources are identified, the EA will address potential project effects on those resources.

Socioeconomic and Developmental Resources

Comment: Richard Rice states that it's not possible to determine if the project would have a positive or negative socioeconomic impact on the area and that the EA should consider the effects of the project on socioeconomic resources. Specifically, he states that relevant information should include: expected cost of the power plants, financing approaches, probable customers for the generated electricity, sale price expected for the power, total revenues received, and annual operating expenses. Richard Rice is concerned that the socioeconomic impact of the region could be significant if farmers are required to pay more for their water because higher water costs would introduce a hardship on many individuals and quite possibly affect the economy of the entire region where income from agriculture is a major factor.

Response: We have added socioeconomic resources to the SD2, and the EA will include an evaluation of the effects of the project on local economies. Additionally, the

Commission's regulations require the applicant to provide a detailed statement of project costs and financing with its license application. This information would be used in the EA to describe the costs of constructing and operating the project (including the cost of the power plants), the estimated sale price of the power at the time of licensing, estimated annual operating expenses, and estimated total annual revenue. However, while the EA will consider the regional demand for project power in describing the purpose and need for the project, it is up to the applicant to decide which entity will purchase project power and this information may not be available until after licensing, and therefore, wouldn't be considered in the EA.

Environmental Justice

Comment: EPA states that the EA should include an evaluation of environmental justice populations within the geographic scope of the project. EPA states that if the project area includes such populations, the EA would need to address the potential for disproportionate adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations, and approaches used to foster public participation by these populations.

Response: There is no evidence that the project would have an adverse economic effect on minority or low-income populations. However, as noted, we have added socioeconomics as an issue to the SD2, and the economic impacts of the project on surrounding communities will be analyzed in the EA.

Environmental Impact Statement

Comment: Idaho DFG states that the proposed 1,000-cfs minimum flow has historically occurred less than 1% of the time under existing conditions, and a deviation of this magnitude from existing flow conditions may warrant preparation of an EIS rather than an EA.

Response: Based on our experiences with projects of similar size and scope, and in consideration of all scoping comments received from state and federal agencies and the public to date, we find that an EA would be sufficient at this time. However, consistent with NEPA and its implementing regulations, if we determine in the EA or at a point in time thereafter that the project would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, then we would prepare an EIS.

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-***wide*** 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-***wide*** 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, preliminary staff analysis, ***and comments received, we have identified fisheries resources, riparian and wetland habitat, and wintering waterfowl as resources that could be cumulatively affected by the proposed construction and operation of the project***.

4.1.2 Geographic Scope

Our geographic scope of analysis for cumulatively affected resources is defined by the physical limits or boundaries of: (1) the proposed action's effect on the resources, and (2) contributing effects from other hydropower and non-hydropower activities within the Snake River Basin. Because the proposed action would affect the resources differently, the geographic scope for each resource may vary.

At this time, we have tentatively identified the geographic scope of analysis for riparian/wetland habitat, wintering waterfowl, and fisheries resources as the Snake River from the American Falls Dam at river mile 714 upstream to the confluence of the Henry's Fork and the South Fork Snake River at river mile 837. We chose this geographic scope for these resources because operation of other hydroelectric projects and irrigation water diversions within this segment of the Snake River have adversely affected these resources through streamflow modifications and corresponding losses in physical habitat (riparian/wetland habitat, fisheries, and waterfowl), changes in ice formation and corresponding effects on open water habitat during the winter (riparian/wetland habitat, fisheries, and waterfowl), and canal and powerhouse entrainment losses (fisheries).

At this time, we have tentatively identified the entire Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer as our geographic scope of analysis for groundwater resources. We chose this geographic scope because project operation, in combination with other non-consumptive surface water diversion or storage projects, and consumptive surface and groundwater uses for irrigation, municipal and domestic water supplies, and industrial needs may affect the distribution and supply, including recharge and discharge rates, of groundwater in the aquifer.

4.1.3 Temporal Scope

The temporal scope of our cumulative effects analysis in the EA will include a discussion of past, present, and future actions and their effects on each resource that could be cumulatively affected. Based on the potential term of a license, the temporal scope will look 30-50 years into the future, concentrating on the effect to the resources from reasonably foreseeable future actions. The historical discussion will, by necessity, be limited to the amount of available information for each resource. The quality and quantity of information, however, diminishes as we analyze resources further away in time from the present.

Those issues identified by an asterisk (*) in section 4.2 below will be analyzed for both cumulative and site-specific effects.

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.

- ***Effects of reduced streamflows due to project operation on sediment accumulation (i.e., aggradation) in the bypassed reach.***

- ***Potential seismic effects on the proposed project facilities, including the potential for soil failure (e.g., liquefaction).***

- ***Effects of project operation during the winter months on the potential for icing in the canals and the potential for canal bank breaching and subsequent erosion of surrounding areas and sedimentation of the Snake River.***

4.2.2 Water Resources

- ***Effects of project operation during the winter months on the potential for icing in the canals and the Snake River and the risk to public, wildlife, livestock, and pet safety from icing effects (e.g., changes in ice cover, ice jamming, flooding).***

- 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 operation on groundwater and the potential use of***

project flow diversions for aquifer recharge.*

- ***Effects of reduced streamflows on the ability of landowners to operate existing irrigation suction lines within the bypassed reach.***

- ***Effects of project construction and operation on the water quality of the Snake River from inadvertent spills of hazardous materials.***

- ***Effects of the project on source water/drinking water protection areas, and identification of any potential measures to protect source water areas.***

- 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, ***including effects on any waterbodies listed on the Clean Water Act section 303(d) list***.

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 ***additional canal losses due to increased flow diversions and*** 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.*

- ***Effects of project construction and operation on the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout.***

- ***Effects of project operation on the ability to accurately measure streamflows in the bypassed reach, especially during the winter ice-cover period.***

- ***Effects of project operation including reduced streamflows on overwinter survival of naturally produced young-of-year and juvenile fish, especially brown trout eggs and larvae, and fingerling rainbow trout stocked by Idaho DFG.****

- ***Effects of project operation, primarily reduced streamflows, on the dessication of aquatic habitat during the low-flow period from October 1 to March 31.****

- ***Effects of project operation, primarily reduced streamflows, on submerged aquatic vegetation.***

4.2.4 Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of project construction and operation on botanical communities, particularly ***floodplain***, riparian, and wetland habitat ***that may be affected by reduced streamflows***, and wildlife in the project area.*

- ***Effects of project construction, operation, and maintenance on ecological connectivity of habitat, including wildlife travel corridors.***

- ***Effects of reduced streamflows during the winter and spring on ice formation and corresponding effects on habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.****

- 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 ***increased*** public access on ***neighboring land uses and*** recreational opportunities in the project-affected reach of the Snake River.

- Effects of reduced flows and water depth***, changes in ice formation, and proposed project facilities*** on boating ***(motorized and non-motorized), river access, fishing, wildlife watching, waterfowl hunting, trapping, swimming, and other recreational use*** in the bypassed reach of the Snake River.

- ***Effects of project construction and operation on public use and availability of BLM-managed recreation easements within the project reach.***

- ***Indirect effects on aquatic, terrestrial, recreation, and aesthetic resources from off-road vehicle use of the river bed during minimum flows.***

4.2.7 Aesthetic Resources

- Effects of project construction and operation on visual resources in the project vicinity, including the effects of ***new facilities (e.g., raised canal banks, weirs, powerhouses, transmission lines, and access roads) and*** 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 ***(e.g., existing dam, canals, and Eagle Rock Ferry National Historic District)***.

4.2.9 Socioeconomic Resources

- ***Effects of project operation on socioeconomic resources in the project vicinity.***

4.2.10 Air Quality

- ***Effects of air emissions (e.g., carbon monoxide) from construction activities and operation and maintenance of the project on air quality.***

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

Resource Area and Issue	Proposed Study/Information Need
Aquatic Resources	
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
Terrestrial Resources	
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.
Recreation Resources	
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 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.

7.0 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

8.0 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. Eastern Snake Plain aquifer comprehensive aquifer management plan. Boise, Idaho. January 2009.

Idaho Water Resource Board. 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.

9.0 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 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 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

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

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 prefiling 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.

Responsible Party	Pre-Filing Milestone	Date	FERC Regulation
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)

Responsible Party	Pre-Filing Milestone	Date	FERC Regulation
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)
Second study season if necessary. Schedule would be adjusted accordingly.			
Districts	File Preliminary Licensing Proposal	11/30/17[1]	5.16(a)
All stakeholders	Preliminary Licensing Proposal Comments Due	2/28/18	5.16(e)
Districts	File License Application	4/27/18[1]	5.17

[1] Date for filing of the PLP and final license application is a staff estimate.

Document Content(s)