

(A) A description of the upland habitat(s) within and around the project area, including the area within the transmission line corridor or right-of-way, and a listing of plant and animal species that use the habitat(s); and

(B) The temporal or spacial distribution of species considered important because of their commercial or recreational value.

(vi) *Wetlands and Riparian Habitat.* A description of the floodplain, wetlands and riparian habitats, including invasive species, of the proposed project and surrounding area, to the extent known and available, including a listing of plant and animal species, including invasive species, that use the habitat.

(vii) *Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species.* A description of any Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species that may be present in the vicinity or surrounding area of the proposed project, to the extent known and available, include:

(A) A listing of both Federal- and state-listed, or proposed to be listed, threatened and endangered species present in the project area;

(B) Identification of habitat requirements;

(C) A reference to any known biological opinion, status reports, or recovery plans pertaining to listed species; and

(D) The extent and location of any critical habitat, or other habitat for listed species in the project area;

(vii) *Recreation and Land Use.* A description of the recreation uses (including public use), facilities or measures as well as land uses, ownership and management of the proposed project and surrounding area. This section should address recreation opportunities associated with the reservoir(s), river, and project lands; conservation of shore lands and riparian areas; and public access, flow, facilities, aesthetics, reservoir levels, and safety measures. In preparing this section the applicant should consider the needs of persons with disabilities. The section should distinguish between different kinds of recreational opportunities (e.g., various types of boating—challenge white water or scenic canoeing or power boating; and fishing activities—drift boat fishing or wading or bank fishing). To the extent known and available, this section should include:

(A) A consideration of whether the river on which the project is located is:

(1) Within the same basin, as a designated part of, or under study for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic River System;

(2) Listed on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI); and/or

(3) Part of a state river protection program;

(B) A consideration of whether any project lands are designated as part of, or under study for inclusion in, the National Trails System or designated as, or under study for inclusion as, a Wilderness Area;

(C) A detailed description of the existing recreational facilities (i.e. type, location, capacity, usage, condition, ownership and management) within the project vicinity;

(D) A detailed description of other recreational uses of project lands, waters, and riparian areas (i.e. types number, locations capacity information);

(E) Any provision for a shoreline buffer zone around the reservoir and/or river shoreline that must be within the project boundary, above the normal maximum surface elevation of the project reservoir, and of sufficient width to allow public access to project lands and waters and to protect the scenic, public recreational, cultural, and other environmental values of the reservoir and river shoreline;

(F) Any existing measures required by any local, State, Tribal, or Federal permit or license, any measure voluntarily constructed, operated or maintained, by the applicant, to protect recreation opportunities or land uses of the proposed project and surrounding area;

(G) Any future recreation needs identified in the current State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans, other plans on file with the Commission, or other relevant local, State, and regional conservation and recreation plans and activities; and

(H) A description of the applicant's policy, if any, with regard to permitting development of piers, docks, boat landings, bulkheads, and other shoreline facilities on project lands and waters.

(ix) *Aesthetic Resources.* A description of the visual characteristics of the lands and waters affected by the project. To the extent known and available, this section should include a description of the dam, natural water features, and other scenic attractions of the project and surrounding vicinity.

(x) *Cultural Resources.* A description of the known cultural or historical resources of the proposed project and surrounding area, to the extent known and available, including:

(A) An identification of any historic or archaeological site in the proposed project area, with particular emphasis on sites or properties either listed in, or recommended by the State Historic Preservation Officer or Tribal Historic

Preservation Officer for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places that could be affected by the construction or operation of the proposed project; and

(B) A description of any existing discovery measures, such as surveys, inventories, and limited subsurface testing work, for the purpose of locating, identifying, and assessing the significance of historic and archaeological resources that have been undertaken at the project or on project lands; and

(C) Identification of Indian tribes that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the project boundary or in the surrounding area; as well as available information on Indian traditional cultural and religious properties. (Note: National Historic Preservation Act regulations include a reminder that tribal concerns relating to cultural and historic properties are not limited to reservation lands. Frequently, historic properties of religious and cultural significance are located on ancestral, aboriginal or ceded lands of Indian Tribes.) An applicant must delete from any information made available under this section, specific site or property locations the disclosure of which would create a risk of harm, theft, or destruction of archaeological or Native American cultural resources or to the site at which the resources are located, or would violate any Federal law, including the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, 16 U.S.C. 470w-3, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 U.S.C. 470hh.

(xi) *Socio-economic Resources.* A description of the socio-economic resources of the proposed project and surrounding area, to the extent known and available, including:

(A) A description of the employment, population, housing, personal income, local governmental services, local tax revenues and other factors within the towns and counties in the vicinity of the proposed project;

(B) A description of employment, population and personal income trends in the project vicinity; and

(C) Identification of any environmental justice issues.

(xii) *Tribal Resources.* This section should include information on Indian tribes, tribal lands, resources, and interests that may be affected by the project, to the extent known. Tribal resources to be addressed here will generally include some or all of the resources discussed or listed in the other resource related sections. For example, erosion affecting tribal cultural sites may be discussed in multiple