

m. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

You may also 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, contact FERC Online Support.

n. *Scoping Process*: The Commission intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the projects in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS will consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action.

Scoping Meetings

FERC staff will conduct one evening meeting and one daytime scoping meeting. The evening scoping meeting is primarily for public input, while the daytime scoping meeting will focus on resource agency and non-governmental organization (NGO) concerns. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend one or both of the meetings, and to assist the staff in identifying the scope of the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EIS. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Evening Scoping Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2003.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Stanislaus National Forest Office Building.

Address: 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, California.

Daytime Scoping Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 19, 2003.

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Stanislaus National Forest Office Building.

Address: 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, California.

Copies of the Scoping Document (SD1) outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the EIS are being distributed to the parties on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of the SD1 will be available at the scoping

meeting or may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link (*see* item m above).

Site Visit

Due to the logistics involved in traveling to some project locations, there is a need to know the number of attendees in advance. All individuals planning to attend need to call Susan O'Brien, FERC Team Leader, at (202) 502-8449, no later than Thursday, June 12, 2003.

FERC staff and the Applicants and will conduct a 2-day project site visit on June 17 and June 18, 2003, beginning at 7 a.m. each morning. Additionally, on Friday, June 20, 2003, some participants will hike up to Relief Reservoir. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend any or all three days of the site visit. All participants should meet each morning at the Best Western Sonora Oaks Hotel main entrance, 19551 Hess Ave, Sonora, CA. All participants need to bring their own lunch and are responsible for their own transportation, although we will try to carpool. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are needed to get to some locations.

Tentative schedule for site visit (times given are in Pacific Daylight Savings):

Tuesday June 17

7 am: Site Visit Group departs from Best Western Hotel in Sonora, CA
Morning: Pinecrest Lake, Donnell's Reservoir, Donnell's Dam
Afternoon: Hells Half Acre, Beardsley day use site, Beardsley Reservoir and Afterbay, Sand Bar diversion and Stanislaus Tunnel intake, Philadelphia Forebay, and Philadelphia Diversion

Wednesday, June 18

7 a.m.: Site Visit Group departs from Best Western Hotel in Sonora, CA
Morning: Stanislaus Power House via Columbia stopping at old Afterbay, continue to Power House. Split into 2 groups. Group 1: Stanislaus Power House, Tulloch via Angels Camp & Highway 4 stopping at Tulloch Resort Group 2: Stanislaus Forebay
Afternoon:-Group 1: Drive through of Conner Estates and Peninsula Estates then on to O'Byrne's Ferry Bridge, Tulloch Dam All: groups rejoin at Goodwin and Tulloch Reservoir, drive through of South Shore Marina and stop for view at Goodwin
5 p.m.: Return to Sonora for preparation of evening meeting.

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will:
(1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the

EIS; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EIS, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views; (4) determine the resource issues to be addressed in the EIS; and (5) identify those issues that require a detailed analysis, as well as those issues that do not require a detailed analysis.

Procedures

The meetings are recorded by a stenographer and become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meeting and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the EIS.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Motions To Intervene and Protests

May 21, 2003.

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

a. *Type of Application*: Application for new license.

b. *Project No.*: 2174-012.

c. *Date filed*: March 27, 2003.

d. *Applicant*: Southern California Edison.

e. *Name of Project*: Portal Project.

f. *Location*: On Rancheria Creek in Fresno County, near Big Creek, California. The project affects federal lands in the Sierra National Forest, covering a total of 77.67 acres.

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

h. *Applicant Contact*: R. W. Krieger, Vice President, Power Production, Southern California Edison Company, 300 N. Lone Hill Ave., San Dimas, California 91773, (909) 394-8667.

i. *FERC Contact*: Jim Fargo at (202) 219-2848; e-mail james.fargo@ferc.gov.