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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Western Minnesota Municipal Power Authority

Project No. 14541-000

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY PERMIT APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING  
AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, MOTIONS TO INTERVENE, AND COMPETING  
APPLICATIONS

On July 30, 2013, Western Minnesota Municipal Power Authority filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of the Gregory County Pumped Storage Project to be located on Lake Francis Case on the Missouri River, near the township of Lucas, in Gregory, Charles Mix and Brule Counties, South Dakota. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed project would consist of the following: (1) a new earthen embankment (upper reservoir) having a total storage capacity of 47,000 acre-feet with an operating elevation level of between 2,045 feet msl and 2,080 feet msl; (2) a new 340-foot-long by 200-foot-wide by 100-foot-high concrete powerhouse containing eight new 100-megawatt (MW) turbine units for a total plant rating of 800 MW; (3) eight new 20-foot by 36-foot trashracks with 3.75-inch-wide open bar spacing; (4) two new 10,000-foot-long, 32-foot-diameter reinforced concrete penstocks with a steel lining; (5) two new 120-foot-high, 40-foot-diameter surge tanks connected to each penstock; (6) a new 320-foot-long by 120-foot-wide by 60-foot-high release-intake structure containing emergency closing gates for penstock maintenance; (7) the existing Lake Francis Case (lower reservoir) with a storage capacity of 5,494,000 acre-feet at normal maximum operation elevation of 1,355 feet msl; (8) a new 120-foot-long, 340-foot-wide tailrace from the powerhouse to Lake Francis Case; (9) a new substation on top of the powerhouse containing step-up transformers; (10) a new 21-mile-long, 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line extending from the project substation to the existing Lake Platte substation (the point of interconnection); and (11) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual generation of the Gregory County Pumped Storage Project would be 3,000 gigawatt-hours.

Applicant Contact: Mr. Raymond J. Wahle, Missouri River Energy Services,  
3724 W. Avera Drive, P.O. Box 88920, Sioux Falls, SD 57109; phone: (605) 330-6963.

FERC Contact: Tyrone Williams; phone: (202) 502-6331.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications using the Commission's eFiling system at <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 [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-14541-000.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number (P-14541) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: September 25, 2013

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,  
Deputy Secretary.

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