



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2411-030]

Eagle Creek Schoolfield, LLC; City of Danville; Notice Soliciting Scoping

Comments

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

- a. Type of Application: New Major License
- b. Project No.: 2411-030
- c. Date filed: July 29, 2022
- d. Applicant: Eagle Creek Schoolfield, LLC and City of Danville
- e. Name of Project: Schoolfield Hydroelectric Project (Schoolfield Project or project)
- f. Location: The project is located on the Dan River at approximately river mile 60.1 in the county of Pittsylvania, near the City of Danville, Virginia.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r)
- h. Applicant Contact: Jody Smet, Vice President, Engineering and Regulatory Affairs, Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, LLC, 7315 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 1100W, Bethesda, Maryland 20814; phone at (804) 382-1764 or email at jody.smet@eaglecreekre.com; Joyce Foster, Director, Licensing and Compliance, Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, LLC, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1100W, Bethesda, Maryland 20814; phone at (804) 338-5110 or email at Joyce.Foster@eaglecreekre.com; and Mr. W. Clarke Whitfield, Junior, City Attorney, City of Danville, 427 Patton Street, Room 421, Danville, Virginia 24541; phone at (434) 799-5122 or email at whitfcc@danvilleva.gov.
- i. FERC Contact: Claire Rozdilski at (202) 502-8259; or email at claire.rozdilski@ferc.gov
- j. Deadline for filing scoping comments: **June 10, 2024.**

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file scoping comments using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FEROnline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FEROnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or

(202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy via U.S. Postal Service to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: **Schoolfield Hydroelectric Project (P-2411-030)**.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. The project facilities consist of: (1) a 910-foot-long, 26.5-foot-high curved ogee-type concrete spillway dam with a crest elevation of 434.7 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29) and topped with 3-foot-high wooden flashboards; (2) an impoundment having a surface area of 287 acres and a gross storage capacity of approximately 1,952 acre-feet at the project's normal maximum water surface elevation of 437.7 feet NGVD29; (3) a 224-foot-long by 35-foot-wide brick and concrete powerhouse that contains three identical 1.5-megawatt (MW) generating units (each generating unit is connected to two identical propeller-type turbine units with a rated capacity of 1,006 horsepower each) for a total installed capacity of 4.5 MW; (4) a 72-foot-long headwall between the dam and the powerhouse with six low-level sluice gates and a non-operating fish ladder; (5) a tailrace that is approximately 160 feet long and 220 feet wide and separated from main river flows by a concrete wall; (6) a substation; (7) generator leads and a step-up transformer; and (8) appurtenant facilities.

The Schoolfield Project is operated in run-of-river mode, whereby outflow from the project approximates inflow, which may be suspended during reservoir drawdown and refilling for inspection of the City of Danville's water supply intakes, which occurs on an as needed basis. During normal operation, a continuous minimum flow of 300 cubic feet per second, or inflow if less, is released downstream. The average annual generation at the project was 15,220 MW-hours from 2017 through 2020.

m. Copies of the application can be viewed on the Commission's website at <https://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the project's 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.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

o. Scoping Process:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Commission staff intends to prepare either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) (collectively referred to as the "NEPA document") 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 Commission's scoping process will help determine the required level of analysis and satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission issues an EA or an EIS. At this time, we do not anticipate holding an on-site scoping meeting. Instead, we are soliciting written comments and suggestions on the preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the NEPA document, as described in scoping document 1 (SD1), issued **May 9, 2024**.

Copies of SD1 outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the NEPA document were distributed to the parties on the Commission's mailing list and the applicant's distribution list. Copies of SD1 may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676 or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Dated: May 9, 2024.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Acting Secretary.

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