



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2832-023]

Boise-Kuna, Nampa & Meridian, Wilder and Big Bend Irrigation Districts;

Notice of Intent to File License Application, Filing of Pre-Application

Document (Pad), Commencement of ILP Pre-Filing Process and Scoping,

**Request for Comments on the Pad and Scoping Document, and Identification
of Issues and Associated Study Requests**

- a. Type of Filing: Notice of Intent to File License Application for a New License and Commencing Pre-filing Licensing Process.
- b. Project No.: 2832-023
- c. Dated Filed: January 31, 2025
- d. Submitted By: Boise-Kuna, Nampa & Meridian, Wilder and Big Bend Irrigation Districts
- e. Name of Project: Lucky Peak Hydroelectric Project (Lucky Peak Project or project)
- f. Location: The project is located on the Boise River in Ada County, Idaho, approximately 10 miles southeast of the City of Boise, in a region known as the “Treasure Valley”. It is located 69.2 miles upstream of the Boise River’s confluence with the Snake River and is integrated into the Corps’ Lucky Peak Dam.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: 18 CFR Part 5 of the Commission’s regulations

- h. Applicant Contact: Sarah Higer, Hydropower License Manager, 9731 E. Highway 21, Boise, ID 83716; phone: (208) 343-2091, ext. 9; e-mail at sarah@luckypeakpower.org.
- i. FERC Contact: Golbahar Mirhosseini, (202) 502-6820
golbahar.mirhosseini@ferc.gov.
- j. Cooperating agencies: Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues that wish to cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document should follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item o below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document cannot also intervene. *See* 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).
- k. With this notice, we are initiating informal consultation with: (a) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 CFR, Part 402; (b) NOAA Fisheries under section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.920; and (c) the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer, as required by section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the implementing regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at 36 CFR 800.2.
- l. With this notice, we are designating the Districts as the Commission's non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Management and Conservation Act, and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

m. The Districts filed with the Commission a Pre-Application Document (PAD; including a proposed process plan and schedule), pursuant to 18 CFR 5.6 of the Commission's regulations.

n. A copy of the PAD is available for review on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits of the sub-docket in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). A copy is also available via the contact in paragraph h.

You may register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

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, 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 at OPP@ferc.gov.

o. With this notice, we are soliciting comments on the PAD and Commission staff's Scoping Document 1 (SD1), as well as study requests. All comments on the PAD and SD1, and study requests should be sent to the address above in

paragraph h. In addition, all comments on the PAD and SD1, study requests, requests for cooperating agency status, and all communications to and from Commission staff related to the merits of the potential application must be filed with the Commission.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file documents using the Commission's eFiling system at

<https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.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>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments.

For assistance, please contact FERC Online. In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, 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, 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: **Lucky Peak Project (P-2832-023)**.

All filings with the Commission must bear the appropriate heading:

“Comments on Pre-Application Document,” “Study Requests,” “Comments on Scoping Document 1,” “Request for Cooperating Agency Status,” or “Communications to and from Commission Staff.” Any individual or entity

interested in submitting study requests, commenting on the PAD or SD1, and any agency requesting cooperating status must do so by **May 12, 2025**.

p. Scoping Process

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Commission staff will prepare either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) (collectively referred to as the “NEPA document”). The NEPA document will consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental effects, and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. The Commission’s scoping process will help determine the required level of analysis and satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission prepares an environmental assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

Scoping Meetings

Commission staff will hold two scoping meetings for the project to receive input on the scope of the NEPA document. An evening meeting will focus on receiving input from the public and a daytime meeting will focus on concerns of resource agencies, Native American tribes, and non-governmental organizations (NGO). We invite all interested agencies, Native American tribes, NGOs, and the public to attend one or both meetings to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA document. The dates and times of the scoping meetings are listed below.

Evening Scoping Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2025
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)
Location: Hyatt Place Boise/Downtown
1024 West Bannock Street
Boise, ID 83702

Daytime Scoping Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. MDT
Location: Hyatt Place Boise/Downtown
1024 West Bannock Street
Boise, ID 83702

Copies of SD1, outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the environmental document, was mailed to the individuals and entities on the Commission's mailing list and Districts' PAD distribution list. Copies of SD1 may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link. Follow the directions for accessing information in paragraph m. Based on all oral and written comments, a Scoping Document 2 (SD2) may be issued. SD2 may include a revised process plan and schedule, as well as a list of issues, identified through the scoping process.

Environmental Site Visit

The Districts and Commission staff will hold an environmental site visit of the Lucky Peak Project on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. MDT.

Meeting Location: Powerplant address: 9731 E. Highway 21, Boise, ID

83716; Coordinates: 43.528971, -116.057076

Directions: From ID-21 turn onto East Sandy Point Road. Pass the entrance to Lucky Peak powerplant and continue driving on East Sandy Point Road until you reach the parking lot. The meeting spot is located near the circular driveway at the west side of the parking lot. Please arrive by 10:15 am.

Meeting Procedures

Agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and individuals with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the NEPA document. At the start of each meeting, Commission staff will provide a brief overview of the meeting format and objectives. Individual oral comments will be taken on a one-on-one basis with a court reporter (with Commission staff present). This format is designed to receive the maximum number of oral comments in a convenient way during the timeframe allotted. If you wish to speak, Commission staff will hand out numbers in the order of your arrival. If all individuals who wish to provide comments have had an opportunity to do so, Commission staff may conclude the meeting a half hour earlier than the scheduled time. Please see appendix C of the SD1 for additional information on the session format and conduct.¹

¹ The appendix referenced in this notice will not appear in the Federal Register. Copies of the appendix were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at www.ferc.gov using the “eLibrary” link. For assistance, contact FERC at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or (866) 208-3676 (toll free) or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

Scoping comments will be recorded by the court reporter and become part of the public record for this proceeding. Transcripts will be publicly available on FERC's eLibrary system. If a significant number of people are interested in providing oral comments in the one-on-one settings, a time limit may be implemented for each commentor.

It is important to note that the Commission provides equal consideration to all comments received, whether filed in writing or provided orally at a scoping session. Although there will not be a formal presentation, Commission staff will be available throughout the scoping meeting(s) to answer your questions about the environmental review process. Representatives from Districts will also be present to answer project-specific questions.

Dated: March 13, 2025.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025-04701 Filed: 3/19/2025 8:45 am; Publication Date: 3/20/2025]