



## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 1881-122]

#### **BIF III Holtwood, LLC; Notice of Intent to File License Application, Filing of Pre-Application Document (Pad), Commencement of 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 Process
- b. Project No.: P-1881-122
- c. Dated Filed: April 2, 2025
- d. Submitted By: BIF III Holtwood, LLC (BIF III Holtwood)
- e. Name of Project: Holtwood Hydroelectric Project (Holtwood Project)
- f. Location: The project is located on the Susquehanna River in Lancaster and York counties, Pennsylvania.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: 18 CFR Part 5 of the Commission's Regulations
- h. Potential Applicant Contact: Luke Anderson, Senior Manager, Licensing, BIF III Holtwood, LLC, 1 Powerhouse Road, Conestoga, Pennsylvania 17516; (207) 775-5600; [luke.anderson@brookfieldrenewable.com](mailto:luke.anderson@brookfieldrenewable.com); Kirk Smith, Director of Regulatory & Environmental, Gomez and Sullivan Engineers, D.P.C., PO Box 2179, Henniker, New Hampshire 03242; (716) 402-6792; [ksmith@gomezandsullivan.com](mailto:ksmith@gomezandsullivan.com).

- i. FERC Contact: Claire Rozdilski at (202) 502-8259 or email at [claire.rozdilski@ferc.gov](mailto:claire.rozdilski@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; and (b) the State Historic Preservation Office, 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 BIF III Holtwood as the Commission's non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- m. BIF III Holtwood 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](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free) or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). A copy is also available via the contact in paragraph h.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via e-mail 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, community organizations, 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](mailto: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 all documents using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.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. 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, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number **P-1881-122**.

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 on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on **July 31, 2025**.

p. Scoping Process

Pursuant to 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.

### Scoping Meetings

Commission staff will hold two scoping meetings for the project to receive input on the scope of the NEPA document. 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.

#### Daytime Scoping Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EDT

Location: DoubleTree Resort  
2400 Willow Street Pike  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

#### Evening Scoping Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. EDT

Location: DoubleTree Resort  
2400 Willow Street Pike  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

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 BIF III Holtwood's 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 n. 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 Review

BIF III Holtwood and Commission staff will hold an environmental site review of the Holtwood Project from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. EDT, June 26, 2025. All interested individuals, agencies, Tribes, and NGOs are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Mr. Luke Anderson of BIF III Holtwood at [luke.anderson@brookfieldrenewable.com](mailto:luke.anderson@brookfieldrenewable.com) no later than June 20, 2025 to register for the environmental site review. For administrative purposes, BIF III Holtwood prefers interested persons to RSVP by email.

Participants will meet at 482 Old Holtwood Road, Holtwood, Pennsylvania (coordinates: 39.83239, -76.33027). Take Route 372/Holtwood Road and turn onto River Road. Continue on River Road for 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Old Holtwood Road and continue for 1.7 miles downhill to arrive at the security gate. Security will provide parking instructions inside the gated area. BIF III Holtwood employees will greet and direct visitors to the meeting area. Please arrive by 8:45 a.m.

The site review will include the project powerhouse and dam from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and recreation sites (Whitewater Boating Park, Lock 12 Historic Area, Pequea

Creek Recreation Area) from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. All persons attending the environmental site review must adhere to the following requirements: (1) all persons must wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes or boots; (2) persons with open-toed shoes/sandals/flip flops/high heels, etc. will not be allowed on the environmental site review; (3) persons must be 18 years or older; (4) no photography will be allowed inside the powerhouse; (5) no weapons are allowed on-site; (6) no alcohol/drugs are allowed on-site (or persons exhibiting the effects thereof); and (7) no animals (except for service animals) are allowed on the environmental site review.

### 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 BIF III Holtwood will also be present to answer project-specific questions.

Dated: May 30, 2025.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2025-10269 Filed: 6/5/2025 8:45 am; Publication Date: 6/6/2025]

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<sup>1</sup> The appendix referenced in this notice will not appear in the *Federal Register*. A copy of the appendix was sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and is available at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the "eLibrary" link. For assistance, contact FERC at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), or (866) 208-3676 (toll free) or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).