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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 3071-008]

Blue Earth County; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission or FERC) regulations, 18 CFR Part 380, Commission staff reviewed Blue Earth County's (exemptee) application for surrender of exemption for the Rapidan Hydroelectric Project No. 3071 and have prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project.[1] To surrender and decommission the project, the exemptee proposes to remove the project features including the dam and powerhouse, reestablish the river channel, and restore the left and right riverbanks in the vicinity of the dam. The project is located on the Blue Earth River, in Blue Earth County, approximately 10 miles south of Mankato, Minnesota. The project does not occupy any federal lands.

The EA contains Commission staff's analysis of the potential environmental effects of the proposed surrender, alternatives to the proposed action, and concludes that the proposed surrender, with appropriate environmental

[1] The unique identification number for documents relating to this environmental review is EAXX-019-20-000-1758885949.

protective measures proposed by the exemptee, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The EA may be viewed on the Commission's website at http://www.ferc.gov using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number (P-3071) 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.

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.

All comments must be filed by **September 9, 2026, 5:00 pm Eastern Time**.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments 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. 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, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-3071-008.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

For further information, contact Diana Shannon at 202-502-6136 or diana.shannon@ferc.gov.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1.)

Dated: August 10,2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

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