

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2651-000]

Indiana Michigan Power Company; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment and Notice of Solicitation of Written Scoping Comments

November 18, 1998.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has received an application from Indiana Michigan Power Company (IMPC) to relicense the Elkhart Hydroelectric Project No. 2651. The 3.44-megawatt (MW) project is located on the St. Joseph River near Elkhart, in Elkhart County, Indiana.

The application is available at the Commission's Internet Website at www.ferc.fed.us.

The Commission intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

In the EA, we will consider reasonable alternatives to the project as proposed by IMPC, and analyze both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts of the project as well as economic and engineering impacts.

A draft EA will be issued and circulated to those on the mailing list for this project. The staff will analyze all comments filed on the draft EA and consider them in the final EA. The staff's conclusions and recommendations presented in the final EA will then be presented to the Commission to assist in making a licensing decision.

Scoping

We are asking agencies, Native American tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to help us identify the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA, and to provide us with information that may be useful in preparing the EA.

To help focus comments on the environmental issues, a scoping document outlining subject areas to be addressed in the EA will soon be mailed to those on the mailing list for the project. Those not on the mailing list may request a copy of the scoping document from the project coordinator, whose telephone number is listed below.

Those with comments or information pertaining to this project should file it with the Commission at the following address: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,

888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The comments and information are due to the Commission within 60 days from the issuance date of the scoping document. All filings should clearly show the following on the first page: Elkhart Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2651.

Intervenors are reminded of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure that require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears 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, it must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to E.R. Meyer, Project Coordinator, at (202) 208-7998.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-31300 Filed 11-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 597-003]

PacifiCorp; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment and Notice of Solicitation of Written Scoping Comments

November 18, 1998.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has received an application from PacifiCorp to relicense the Stairs Hydroelectric Project No. 597-003. The 1,200-kilowatt project is located on the Big Cottonwood Creek in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake County, near the town of Sandy, about 15 miles southeast of downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. The project occupies about 8.7 acres of land within the Wasatch—Cache National Forest, administered by the U.S. Forest Service (FS).

The Commission intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

In the EA, we will consider reasonable alternatives to the project as proposed by PacifiCorp, and analyze both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts of the project, as well as, economic and engineering impacts.

The draft EA will be issued and circulated to those on the mailing list for this project. All comments filed on the draft EA will be analyzed by the staff and considered in a final EA. The staff's conclusions and recommendations presented in the final EA will then be presented to the Commission to assist in making a licensing decision.

Scoping

We are asking agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to help us identify the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA, and to provide us with information that may be useful in preparing the EA.

To help focus comments on the environmental issues, a scoping document outlining subject areas to be addressed in the EA will soon be mailed to those on the mailing list for the project. Those not on the mailing list may request a copy of the scoping document from the project coordinator, whose telephone number is listed below. A copy of the scoping document may also be viewed or printed by accessing the Commission's WebSite on the Internet at www.ferc.fed.us. For assistance, users can call (202) 208-2222.

Those with comments or information pertaining to this project should file it with the Commission at the following address: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The comments and information are due to the Commission within 60 days from the issuance date of the scoping document. All filings should clearly show the following on the first page: Stairs Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 597-003.

Intervenors are reminded of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure which require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears 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.

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to Gaylord W.