

and Wildlife Service and/or NOAA Fisheries under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 CFR, Part 402; and NOAA Fisheries under section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.920. We are also initiating consultation with the New York 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 Rivers Electric as the Commission's non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act; and consultation pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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

n. A copy of the PAD may be viewed on the Commission's website (<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, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

o. The applicant states its unequivocal intent to submit an application for a subsequent license for Project No. 9985. Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.20 each application for a subsequent license and any competing license applications must be filed with the Commission at least 24 months prior to the expiration of the existing license. All applications for license for this project must be filed by March 31, 2025.

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

Dated: May 11, 2022.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2022-10603 Filed 5-17-22; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2188-271]

#### Northwestern Corporation; Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests

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

- a. *Application Type*: Temporary Variance of Article 403.
- b. *Project No*: 2188-271.
- c. *Date Filed*: April 29, 2022.
- d. *Applicant*: Northwestern Corporation (licensee).
- e. *Name of Project*: Missouri-Madison Hydroelectric Project.
- f. *Location*: The project consists of nine hydroelectric developments located on the Madison and Missouri Rivers in Gallatin, Madison, Lewis and Clark, and Cascade counties, Montana.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to*: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791a-825r.
- h. *Applicant Contact*: Mary Gail Sullivan, Director, Environmental and Lands, Northwestern Corporation, 11 East Park Street, Butte, Montana, 59701, (406) 497-3382, [marygail.sullivan@northwestern.com](mailto:marygail.sullivan@northwestern.com).
- i. *FERC Contact*: Holly Frank, (202) 502-6833, [Holly.Frank@ferc.gov](mailto:Holly.Frank@ferc.gov).
- j. *Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests*: June 13, 2022.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, and protests 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>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first

page of any filing should include the docket number P-2188-271. Comments emailed to Commission staff are not considered part of the Commission record.

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 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.

k. *Description of Request*: The licensee requests a temporary variance from the minimum flow requirements for the Hebgen and Madison developments, to occur from June 15, 2022 to April 15, 2023, due to the severe drought conditions in the Madison River watershed. Section (3) of Article 403 for the Hebgen Development requires the licensee to limit changes in outflow from Hebgen Dam to no more than 10 percent per day for the entire year. The licensee requests a temporary variance allowing changes in outflow from Hebgen Dam to no more than 5 percent hourly for flow increases; the 10 percent daily limit would remain unchanged for flow decreases. Section (5) of Article 403 for the Madison Development requires ramping rates for flows in the Madison bypass reach, such that flows must not be reduced by more than 100 cfs per hour from 600 cfs to minimum flow (which varies seasonally between 80-200 cfs, as required in Section (4) of Article 403 for the Madison Development), and not increased by more than 100 cfs per hour when flows are 600 cfs or less (except when needed to meet the 1,100-cfs minimum flow below the powerhouse as required in Section (2) of Article 403 for the Madison Development, or to avoid overfilling Ennis Lake). The licensee will maintain the required ramping rate for flow reductions to minimize biological effects, but requests a temporary variance to remove the ramping rate of 100 cfs per hour for flow increases when the bypass flow is less than 600 cfs. The temporary variance would allow the licensee to make larger flow changes more quickly, which contributes to water conservation goals by limiting small increases of Hebgen and Madison dam outflows over longer durations in advance of forecasted needs of increased water downstream. The proposed temporary variance measures, in combination with the temporary minimum flow reductions

completed in April 2022, would reduce the drafting of Hebgen Reservoir and support higher Hebgen Reservoir elevations longer into the recreation season. The duration of the temporary variance, from June 15, 2022 to April 15, 2023, would allow for water savings that ensure water availability through the pulse flow season to protect fishery resources in the lower Madison River and allow for flow changes during the fall/winter period.

l. *Locations of the Application:* This filing may be viewed on the Commission's website 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. 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, call 1-866-208-3676 or email [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), for TTY, call (202) 502-8659. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

n. *Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene:* Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214, respectively. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

o. *Filing and Service of Documents:* Any filing must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "PROTEST", or "MOTION TO INTERVENE" as applicable; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, motions to intervene, or protests must set forth their evidentiary basis. Any filing made by an intervenor must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list

prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2010.

Dated: May 12, 2022.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2022-10677 Filed 5-17-22; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 539-000]

#### Lock 7 Hydro Partners; Notice of Authorization for Continued Project Operation

The license for the Mother Ann Lee Hydroelectric Project No. 539 was issued for a period ending April 30, 2022.

Section 15(a)(1) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. 808(a)(1), requires the Commission, at the expiration of a license term, to issue from year-to-year an annual license to the then licensee(s) under the terms and conditions of the prior license until a new license is issued, or the project is otherwise disposed of as provided in section 15 or any other applicable section of the FPA. If the project's prior license waived the applicability of section 15 of the FPA, then, based on section 9(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 558(c), and as set forth at 18 CFR 16.21(a), if the licensee of such project has filed an application for a subsequent license, the licensee may continue to operate the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license after the minor or minor part license expires, until the Commission acts on its application. If the licensee of such a project has not filed an application for a subsequent license, then it may be required, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.21(b), to continue project operations until the Commission issues someone else a license for the project or otherwise orders disposition of the project.

If the project is subject to section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that an annual license for Project No. 539 is issued to Lock 7 Hydro Partners for a period effective May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023, or until the issuance of a new license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first. If issuance of a new license (or other disposition) does not take place on or before April 30, 2023, notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.18(c), an annual license under section 15(a)(1) of the FPA is renewed

automatically without further order or notice by the Commission, unless the Commission orders otherwise.

If the project is not subject to section 15 of the FPA, notice is hereby given that Lock 7 Hydro Partners is authorized to continue operation of the Mother Ann Lee Hydroelectric Project under the terms and conditions of the prior license until the issuance of a new license for the project or other disposition under the FPA, whichever comes first.

Dated: May 11, 2022.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2022-10604 Filed 5-17-22; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP22-92-000]

#### Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC; Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Proposed Venture Global Plaquemines LNG Uprate Amendment Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental document, that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Venture Global Plaquemines LNG Uprate Amendment Project (Project) involving operation of facilities by Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC (Plaquemines LNG) in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The Commission will use this environmental document in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public interest.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies regarding the project. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, the Commission takes into account concerns the public may have about proposals and the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of an authorization. This gathering of public input is referred to as "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the environmental document on the important environmental issues. Additional information about the Commission's NEPA process is described below in the *NEPA Process*