

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2705-037--Washington
Newhalem Creek Hydroelectric Project
City of Seattle, Seattle City Light

November 21, 2022

Subject: Consultation on Surrender Proceeding

To the Native American Tribes Addressed:

This letter concerns an application to surrender the project license for the Newhalem Creek Hydroelectric Project No. 2705 (project), filed by Seattle City Light (licensee) on January 28, 2022. The project is located on Newhalem Creek, near Newhalem, Whatcom County, Washington. The project occupies lands managed by the National Park Service.

Project operation began in 1921 to supply power to the town of Newhalem, Washington, for the construction of Gorge Dam and Powerhouse, which are part of the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project No. 553. The project facilities include: (1) a 45-foot-long, and 10-foot-high concrete overflow diversion dam; (2) a combination sluiceway/intake structure and small gate house at the dam that conveys water into a 6-foot-wide by 7-foot high, 2,700-foot long unlined tunnel, and then into a 500-foot-long, 33-inch diameter steel penstock; (3) a wood-framed powerhouse structure; (4) a single generating unit consisting of a double-overhung Pelton impulse turbine rated at 3,000 horsepower (2,250 kilowatts) connected to a generator rated at 2,125 kilowatts; (5) a 350-foot-long tailrace channel that discharges into the Skagit River over a concrete tailrace fish barrier; (6) a 4,387-foot-long transmission line consisting of both buried and overhead cable; and (7) accessory equipment.

As described in the surrender application, the licensee proposes to remove the diversion dam and associated headworks structures, tailrace fish barrier, and overhead transmission lines. The rock shaft and power tunnel would be sealed, and the access road above elevation 840 ft would be decommissioned. The powerhouse, tailrace, and penstock would remain, and the powerhouse equipment would be de-energized. The electrical service line to the powerhouse would remain to provide heating and lighting.

We recognize that the licensee consulted with several Native American Tribes during the development of the application and that those Native American Tribes provided additional comments in response to Commission staff's public notice of the application issued on April 29, 2022. Pursuant to the Commission's Tribal Policy, we are notifying each of you of the proposed action. For those of you that wish to provide comments but have not done so, we encourage you to file comments for the Commission's record in this proceeding. Please file any comments on the proposed action **within 30 days** of the date of this letter. Filings related to this application can be found on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link, and entering the docket number P-2705-037.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file the requested information using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at 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 docket number P-2705-037.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Diana Shannon at (202) 502-6136 or diana.shannon@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,



Shana Wiseman, Chief
Environmental and Project Review Branch
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and Compliance

Via USPS First-Class mail

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