

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20426

August 5, 2014

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2685-026-NY
Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project
New York Power Authority

Mr. Robert Daly
Licensing Manager
New York Power Authority
123 Main Street
White Plains, NY 10601

Reference: Requests for Additional Information

Dear Mr. Daly:

After reviewing the Pre-Application Document (PAD) for the Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project (Blenheim-Gilboa Project or project), staff have determined that additional information on project operation and existing environmental measures is needed. The additional information requests are provided in the enclosed Schedule A. Your response should be included with your proposed study plan (due September 22, 2014).

If you have any questions, please contact Andy Bernick at (202) 502-8660, or via e-mail at andrew.bernick@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

John B. Smith, Chief
Mid-Atlantic Branch
Division of Hydropower Licensing

Enclosure: Schedule A
cc: Mailing List, Public Files

Schedule A
Project No. 2685-026

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Project Operation

On pages 3-4 and 3-5 of the Pre-Application Document (PAD), you provide a description of the lower dam, lower reservoir spillway, and stilling basin. In this description, you state that the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) flow is 174,099 cubic feet per second (cfs), but the lower reservoir elevation for the PMF flow of 174,099 cfs is not specified. Please provide the lower reservoir elevation for the PMF flow of 174,099 cfs and clarify if the PMF flow of 174,099 cfs is the PMF inflow or the PMF outflow for the lower dam.

Existing Environmental Measures and Facilities

Section 5.6 (d)(3) of the Commission's regulations requires that you provide information on existing or proposed resource protection and mitigation measures, including facilities, operations, and management activities within the PAD.

On page 3-8 of the PAD, you state that you are not proposing to construct new facilities or alter operation. Although you include the existing Blenheim-Gilboa Project license and selected license amendments in Appendix C of the PAD, it is difficult to distinguish potentially voluntary activities from the facilities you operate or maintain, and the protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures you carry out, under the terms of your existing license.

For clarity, please provide: (1) a list of all existing PM&E measures you presently implement under your existing license; (2) a list of project facilities that you operate or maintain under the existing license, including all buildings, recreational facilities, and other features; and (3) if applicable, a list of PM&E measures and facilities that you manage outside of your existing license.

Water Resources

On pages 4-74 to 4-78 of the PAD, you provide annual and monthly flow duration curves for the USGS Gage No. 01350180 below the project's lower dam for the period of record (October 1970 to September 2011). However, it appears that some high flow values apparent in the monthly flow duration curves are not included within the annual flow duration curve. For example, the April flow duration curve you presented on page 4-76 indicated a maximum flow of 4,500 cfs, but the annual flow duration curve based on the same period of record indicated a maximum flow of 2,000 cfs. Please clarify the inconsistency.

Document Content(s)

P-2685-026Letter2.DOC.....1-2