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Via Electronic Filing

October 1, 2021

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Subject: Byllesby-Buck Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2514-186)
Filing of Draft License Application**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian or Licensee), a unit of American Electric Power (AEP), is the Licensee, owner, and operator of the 30.1-megawatt, two-development Byllesby-Buck Hydroelectric Project (Project) (Project No. 2514), located on the upper New River in Carroll County, Virginia.

The Project is currently licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission). The Project underwent relicensing in the early 1990s, and the current operating license for the Project expires on February 29, 2024. Accordingly, Appalachian is pursuing a new license for the Project pursuant to the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), as described at 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 5. In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.16(a), Appalachian is hereby filing the Draft License Application (DLA) for the Project.

As described in the DLA, Appalachian is proposing to continue the existing run-of-river mode of operation of the Project and proposes to modernize the Project in the new license term to include replacement of three of four turbine-generator units at the Byllesby Development and replacement of two of three turbine-generator units at the Buck Development. The upgrades will not result in a significant increase in the Project's authorized installed capacity or the maximum hydraulic capacities of the powerhouses, but due to efficiencies of the replacement units and modern components, the upgrades are expected to increase average annual generation at the Project by approximately 25,927 MWh.

The DLA also includes proposals for some preliminary protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures related to operations and resources associated with the Project. The proposed PM&E measures described in the DLA reflect careful consideration of available information, preliminary results of studies conducted or in-process, and issues specific to the Project. Appalachian notes that these proposals are preliminary and expects them to be refined within the Final License Application (to be filed with FERC by February 28, 2022), based on the completion of ongoing relicensing studies and study reporting, interests of Project stakeholders, and further evaluation of Project power and non-Power values.

The DLA is composed of five volumes, as described below:

Volume I of V (Public)

Volume I contains Public information and exhibits as listed below.

- Table of Contents
- Initial Statement and Additional Information Required by 18 CFR §5.18(a)
- Exhibit A – Project Description
- Exhibit B – Project Operations and Resource Utilization
- Exhibit C – Construction History and Proposed Construction Schedule
- Exhibit D – Costs and Financing

Volume II of V (Public)

Volume II contains Exhibit E – Environmental Report and Appendices (including consultation). Final Study Reports are not included as they are still under preparation and will be filed under with the Updated Study Report (to be filed with FERC by November 17, 2021).

Volume III of V (Public)

Volume III contains Public information and exhibits as listed below.

- Exhibit F – List of General Design Drawings
- Exhibit G – Project Boundary Maps
- Exhibit H – Ability to Operate

Volume IV of V (CRITICAL ENERGY/ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION [CUI//CEII])

Volume IV contains CUI/CEII materials not intended for public release, and includes the following:

- Exhibit F – General Design Drawings
- Exhibit H – Single Line Diagrams of the Transmission Systems

Volume V of V (PRIVILEGED [CUI//PRIV])

Volume V contains CUI/PRIV materials not intended for public release, and includes the following:

- Cultural Resources Study Report

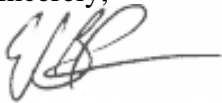
Appalachian is filing the DLA with the Commission electronically and is distributing this letter electronically to the parties listed on the attached distribution list. All parties interested in the relicensing process may obtain a copy of the DLA electronically through FERC's eLibrary system at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp> under docket number P-2514-186, or on Appalachian's website at <http://www.aephydro.com/HydroPlant/ByllesbyBuck>.

In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.16(e), interested parties may file comments regarding the DLA within 90 days of the date of this letter, by December 30, 2021. All comments must be filed with FERC electronically or via the following address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
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If there are any questions regarding this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me at (540) 985-2441 or via email at ebparcell@aep.com.

Sincerely,



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Byllesby/Buck Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2514)

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