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Via Electronic Filing

February 28, 2022

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

**Subject: Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466-034)
 Filing of Final 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 run-of-river, 2.4-megawatt Niagara Hydroelectric Project (Project) (Project No. 2466), located on the Roanoke River in Roanoke 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 § 5.17(a), Appalachian is hereby filing the Final License Application (FLA) for the Project.

Overview

As described in the Updated Study Report (December 6, 2021), one component of the Fish Community Study, the Roanoke Logperch larval drift survey, was unable to be completed during the 2020 or 2021 ILP study seasons. This study activity is expected to be completed in 2022. The results of this study may affect Protection, Mitigation, and Enhancement (PM&E) measures proposed by Appalachian as part of its relicensing proposal or recommendations of resource agencies. Appalachian expects to file a revised Fish Community Study Report as supplemental information to support this FLA, by the end of 2022. Additionally, as requested by the Commission's comments on the DLA, Appalachian is filing available geospatial data from the relicensing studies with FERC with the filing of the FLA.

FLA Contents

The FLA is composed of four volumes, as described below:

Volume I of IV (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 E – Environmental Report
- Exhibit F – List of General Design Drawings
- Exhibit G – Project Boundary Maps
- Exhibit H – Ability to Operate

Volume II of IV (Public)

Volume II contains Appendices to Exhibit E that are Public information. Study reports filed with the USR that have been revised based on comments received at or subsequent to the USR Meeting are included in this volume. As previously noted, this volume will be supplemented with a Revised Fish Community Study Report following expected completion of the outstanding study activities in 2022.

- Appendix A – Bypass Reach Flow and Aquatic Habitat Study
- Appendix B – Water Quality
- Appendix C – Fish Community Study (will be provided as supplemental information following completion of the Roanoke Logperch larval drift survey)
- Appendix D – Benthic Aquatic Resources Study
- Appendix E – Wetlands, Riparian, and Littoral Habitat Study
- Appendix F – Shoreline Stability Study
- Appendix G – Recreation Study
- Appendix H – Consultation

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

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

- General Design Drawings (Exhibit F)
- Supporting Design Report (Exhibit F)
- Single-Line Diagram of the Transmission System (Exhibit H)

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

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

- Cultural Resources Study Report

Distribution

Appalachian is filing the FLA with the Commission electronically and is distributing this letter electronically or by USPS to the parties listed on the attached distribution list. All parties interested in the relicensing process may obtain a copy of the FLA electronically through FERC's eLibrary system at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp> under docket number P-2466-034, or on Appalachian's website at <http://www.aephydro.com/HydroPlant/Niagara>.

The FLA can also be reviewed during normal business hours at the Vinton Library, located at 6303 Merriman Road, Roanoke, VA 24018-0798. In addition, paper copies of the applications can be reproduced at a cost of \$0.10/page, plus postage (both prepaid)¹, by contacting:

Mr. Jonathan Magalski
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In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.17(d)(2), Appalachian will publish public notice of the filing of the FLA twice in the *Roanoke Times*, a daily newspaper in circulation in Roanoke, Virginia. The public notices will be published within 14 days of the filing of this FLA (i.e., on or before March 13, 2022).

Summary of Measures Proposed in the FLA

The FLA does not propose the development of any new hydroelectric facilities or increased generation capacity but provides for PM&E measures related to aquatic species and habitat, water quality, terrestrial resources, and recreation associated with the Project. Proposals presented by in the FLA reflect careful consideration of available information, the results of studies conducted, and issues specific to the Project. Appalachian believes that the proposed PM&E measures as described in the FLA adequately take into consideration the important power and non-power values of the Project, the diverse interests of stakeholders, and the physical and social context of the Project.

The Applicant is proposing to continue the fundamental operation of the Project and to implement certain resource enhancements, including:

- Continue to operate the Project in a run-of-river mode for the protection of fish and aquatic resources;
- Operate the project with a continuous 30 cfs minimum bypass flow for the protection of water quality and fish and aquatic resources in the bypass reach;

¹ Except as provided in 18 CFR § 5.2(b)(4).

- Develop and implement a Terrestrial Resources Protection Plan in consultation with USFWS and VDWR;
- Develop and implement a Recreation Management Plan for the Project in consultation with Project stakeholders, including enhancements to the existing canoe portage take-out and trail.

Closing

On behalf of Appalachian, thank you to the Commission staff and relicensing participants for participation throughout this process. Appalachian looks forward to continuing to work with FERC and relicensing participants through the last phase of the ILP and toward the timely issuance of a new license for the Project.

If there are any questions regarding this submittal please do not hesitate to contact me at (614) 716-2240 or jmmagalski@aep.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan M. Magalski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jonathan" and last name "Magalski" clearly legible.

Jonathan M. Magalski
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Enclosures

cc: Distribution List
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Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466)

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