



Appalachian Power Company
P. O. Box 2021
Roanoke, VA 24022-2121
aep.com

Via Electronic Filing

February 28, 2023

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

**Subject: Bylesby-Buck Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2514-186)
Filing of Amended 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 30.1-megawatt, two-development Bylesby-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 § 5.17(a), Appalachian filed the Final License Application (FLA) for the Project on February 28, 2022. Appalachian filed the Revised Aquatic Resources and Bypass Reach Flow and Aquatic Habitat Study Reports as supplemental information 45 days after filing the FLA (April 14, 2022), which allowed the Licensee additional time to conduct more in-depth study analyses to address FERC and agency comments on the Draft License Application and Updated Study Report.

Appalachian is filing this amended FLA for the Project because, subsequent to filing its FLA, Appalachian, agencies, and other stakeholders continued to meet regarding agencies' interests in protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures that were not included in the original FLA. Appalachian has updated several of its application exhibits to reflect new proposed measures to address these interests. For the convenience of the Commission staff and relicensing participants, new language in the amended FLA is included in tracked changes and clarifying footnotes have been added throughout. Application exhibits not affected by the proposed changes have not been refiled and are incorporated by reference.

The amended FLA contains three volumes¹, two of which Appalachian considers public information and one that contains Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information (CEII). The updated volumes and exhibits in the amended FLA are as follows:

Volume I (Public)

- Executive Summary
- Initial Statement
- 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 (Public)

- Exhibit E – Environmental Report
 - Appendix I-2 – Consultation Summary (FERC issuances/submittals and new consultation since the FLA)
 - Appendix J – Bypass Reach Flow and Aquatic Habitat Study Usable Area Tables

Volume III (CEII)

- Exhibit F – General Design Drawings and Supporting Design Report

A comprehensive listing and summary of all components of the amended FLA, including those not being re-filed at this time, is provided in Table ES-3 of Volume I of the amended FLA.

Summary of Measures Proposed in the Amended FLA

In addition to upgrades to turbine-generator units at both developments, in the amended FLA, Appalachian proposes replacement of several wooden flashboard bays at each development's spillway with inflatable Obermeyer gates to reduce the frequency of reservoir drawdowns (for flashboard repair or reinstallation) and to provide additional means and locations for controlled spillway discharges. Appalachian is also proposing to operate Obermeyer gates to provide a continuous bypass reach minimum flow of approximately 35 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the Byllesby Development and a seasonal (February 15th – May 15th) continuous bypass reach minimum flow of approximately 100 cfs at the Buck Development. The amended FLA provides for additional PM&E measures related to aquatic species, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, and recreation associated with the Project. Proposals presented in the amended FLA reflect careful consideration of available information, the results of studies conducted, and issues specific to the Project. Appalachian believes these proposed PM&E measures appropriately take into

¹ The Licensee's FLA filed February 28, 2022, contained five volumes. Exhibits that were pertinent to the FLA but were not modified since the FLA filing are not being re-filed in the amended FLA. These materials are referenced in the amended FLA by accession number in FERC's eLibrary where the material can be accessed.

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.

Distribution

Appalachian is filing the amended 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 amended FLA electronically through FERC's eLibrary system at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp> under docket number P-2514-209, or on Appalachian's website at <http://www.aephydro.com/HydroPlant/ByllesbyBuck>.

Paper copies of the amended FLA can be reproduced at a cost of \$0.10/page, plus postage (both prepaid)², by contacting:

Ms. Elizabeth Parcell
Process Supervisor
American Electric Power Service Corporation
c/o Appalachian Power Company
40 Franklin Road SW
Roanoke, VA 24011
(540) 985-2441

In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.17(d)(2), Appalachian will publish public notice of the filing of the amended FLA twice in the *Galax Gazette*, a weekly newspaper in circulation in the City of Galax and Carroll County, Virginia. The public notices will be published within approximately 14 days of the filing of this amended FLA.

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.

² Except as provided in 18 CFR § 5.2(b)(4).

Byllesby-Buck Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2514-186)
Filing of the Amended Final License Application
February 28, 2023
Page 4 of 4

If there are questions regarding this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me at (540) 985-2441 or via email at ebparcell@aep.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth Parcell
Process Supervisor
American Electric Power Services Corporation

cc: Distribution List
Jonathan Magalski (AEP)

Byllesby-Buck Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2514)

Distribution List

Federal Agencies

Mr. John Eddins
Archaeologist/Program Analyst
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001-2637
jeddings@achp.gov

Ms. Kimberly Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 1st St NE
Washington, DC 20426

FEMA Region 3
615 Chestnut Street
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404

Mr. John Bullard
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries Service
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Mr. John A. Bricker
State Conservationist
US Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209
Richmond, VA 23229-5014

Mr. Harold Peterson
Bureau of Indian Affairs
US Department of the Interior
545 Marriott Dr, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214
Harold.Peterson@bia.gov

Office of the Solicitor
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Ms. Lindy Nelson
Regional Environmental Officer, Office of
Environmental Policy & Compliance
US Department of the Interior, Philadelphia
Region
Custom House, Room 244
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Ms. Barbara Rudnick
NEPA Team Leader - Region 3
US Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Mr. Martin Miller
Chief, Endangered Species - Northeast
Region (Region 5)
US Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035

Richard C. McCorkle
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Ste 101
State College, PA 16801
richard_mccorkle@fws.gov

Ms. Cindy Schulz
Field Supervisor, Virginia Field Office
US Fish and Wildlife Service
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061

Ms. Elizabeth Merz
US Forest Service
3714 Highway 16
Marion, VA 24354

Mr. Mark Bennett
Center Director of VA and WV Water Science
Center
US Geological Survey
John W. Powell Building
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192
mrbennet@usgs.gov

Hon. Morgan Griffith
US Congressman, 9th District
US House of Representatives
Christiansburg District Office
17 West Main Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Mr. Michael Reynolds
Acting Director, Headquarters
US National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Byllesby-Buck Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2514)

Distribution List

Ms. Catherine Turton
Architectural Historian, Northeast Region
US National Park Service
US Custom House, 3rd Floor
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Hon. Tim Kaine
US Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Mark Warner
US Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

State Agencies

Ms. Caitlin Carey
Research Associate
Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation
1900 Kraft Drive, Ste 105
Blacksburg, VA 24061
cscarey@vt.edu

Mr. Donald J. Orth
Certified Fisheries Professional
Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State
University
Blacksburg, VA 24061
dorth@vt.edu

Mr. Jess Jones
Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center
Virginia Tech
1B Plantation Road
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Tracy Goodson
District Manager
New River Soil and Water Conservation
District
968 East Stuart Drive
Galax, VA 24333

Mr. Glenn Youngkin
Governor
Office of the Governor
PO Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Ms. Emma Williams
Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
Virginia Council on Indians
PO Box 2454
Richmond, VA 23218
emma.williams@governor.virginia.gov

Mr. Clyde Cristman
Division Director
Virginia Department of Conservation and
Recreation
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Ms. Sharon Ewing
Virginia Department of Conservation and
Recreation
sharon.ewing@dcr.virginia.gov

Ms. Rene Hypes
Natural Heritage Program
Virginia Department of Conservation and
Recreation
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
rene.hypes@dcr.virginia.gov

Ms. Robbie Rhur
Virginia Department of Conservation and
Recreation
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
Robbie.Rhur@dcr.virginia.gov

Mr. Sam Sweeney
New River Trail State Park Manager
Virginia Department of Conservation and
Recreation
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor
Max Meadows, VA 24360
sam.sweeney@dcr.virginia.gov

Ms. Jennifer Wampler
Environmental Programs Planner
Virginia Department of Conservation and
Recreation
600 East Main Street, 24th floor
Richmond, VA 23219
jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov

Mr. Jimmy Elliott
Virginia Department of Conservation and
Recreation - New River Trail
james.elliott@dcr.virginia.gov

Byllesby-Buck Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2514)

Distribution List

Mr. Tony Cario
Water Withdrawal Permit Writer, Office of
Water Supply
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218
anthony.cario@deq.virginia.gov

Mr. Joe Grist
Water Withdrawal Program Manager
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 1106
Richmond, VA 23218
joseph.grist@deq.virginia.gov

Mr. Scott Kudlas
Director, Office of Water Supply
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218
scott.kudlas@deq.virginia.gov

Mr. Matthew Link
Water Withdrawal Permit Writer, Office of
Water Supply
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218
matthew.link@deq.virginia.gov

Mr. Kelly Miller
Southwest Regional Office
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
355-A Deadmore Street
Abingdon, VA 24210

Ms. Bettina Rayfield
Environmental Impact Review and Long
Range Priorities Program
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218
bettina.rayfield@deq.virginia.gov

NEPA Review
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
eir@deq.virginia.gov

Mr. Chris Sullivan
Senior Area Forester
Virginia Department of Forestry
900 Natural Resources Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Timothy Roberts
Review and Compliance Division
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
Tim.Roberts@dhr.virginia.gov.

Kristen Chestnut-Faull
Fisheries Biologist
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
2206 South Main Street, Suite C
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Kristen.Chestnut-Faull@dwr.virginia.gov

Mr. Jeff Williams
Manager, Marion Office - Region 3 Office
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
1796 Highway Sixteen
Marion, VA 24354
jeff.williams@dwr.virginia.gov

Local Governments

Wythe County Administrator
340 South Sixth Street
Wytheville, VA 24382
sdbear@wytheco.org

Mr. Rex Hill
Carroll Board of Supervisor
Carroll County
rex.hill@carrollcountyva.gov

Carroll County Administrator
Carroll County
605-1 Pine Street
Hillsville, VA 24343
michael.watson@carrollcountyva.gov

Town Manager
Town of Fries
PO Box 452
Fries, VA 24330
townoffries@friesva.com

Mayor
Town of Galax
111 East Grayson Street
Galax, VA 24333

Dr. Beth Taylor
Mayor
Town of Wytheville
beth.taylor@wytheville.org

Byllesby-Buck Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2514) Distribution List

Tribes

Caitlin Rogers
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Catawba Indian Nation
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
Caitlin.Rogers@catawba.com

Elizabeth Toombs
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cherokee Nation
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OH 74465
elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org

Erin Paden
Director of Historic Preservation
Delaware Nation
31064 State Highway 281
Anadarko, OK 73005
epaden@delawarenation-nsn.gov

Administration
Delaware Tribe of Indians
5100 Tuxedo Blvd
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Chief Richard Sneed
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
PO Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719

Chief Dean Branham
Monacan Indian Nation
PO Box 1136
Madison Heights, VA 24572

Terry Clouthier
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Pamunkey Indian Tribe
1054 Pocahontas Trail
King William, VA 23086
terry.clouthier@pamunkey.org

Whitney Warrior
Natural Resources & Cultural Preservation
Director
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
PO Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465
wwarrior@ukb-nsn.org

Non-governmental Organizations

American Canoe Association
503 Sophia Street, Suite 100
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Mr. Kevin Richard Colburn
National Stewardship Director
American Whitewater
PO Box 1540
Cullowhee, NC 28779
kevin@americanwhitewater.org

Mr. Andrew Downs
Regional Director
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
799 Washington Street
PO Box 807
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807
adowns@appalachiantrail.org

Mr. Rick Roth
Treasurer
Friends of the New River
1000 Highland Circle
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Mr. Richard Roth
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
rroth@radford.edu

Mr. Bill Tanger
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
PO Box 1750
Roanoke, VA 24008
Bill.tanger@verizon.net

Mr. George Santucci
President
New River Conservancy
PO Box 1480
1 N Jefferson Avenue, Suite D
West Jefferson, NC 28694
george@newriverconservancy.org

Ms. Laura Walters
Board Chair
New River Conservancy
6718 Dunkard Road
Dublin, VA 24084
claytorlakegirl@gmail.com

**Byllesby-Buck Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2514)
Distribution List**

John R. Copeland
Land and Water Quality Manager
New River Conservancy
john@newriverconservancy.org

Ms. Andrea Langston
New River Land Trust
PO Box K
Blacksburg, VA 24063-1025

Mr. Tim Dixon
Owner
New River Outdoor Adventures
5785 Fries Road
Galax, VA 24333
newriveroutdooradventures@yahoo.com

Mr. Zachary R. Slate
New River Regional Water Authority
newriverwater@gmail.com

Mr. Steve Moyer
Vice President for Government Affairs
Trout Unlimited
1777 N. Kent Street, Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22209

Ms. Angie Grooms
angie.grooms750@gmail.com

Mr. David Taylor
jklfloat@embarqmail.com