

**FINAL APPLICATION FOR LICENSE  
OF MAJOR UNCONSTRUCTED PROJECT**

**VOLUME (18 OF 18)**

**REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND  
COMMENTS ON STUDY PLAN**

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**LAKE ELSINORE  
ADVANCED PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PROJECT NUMBER 14227**

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Prepared by:

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February 2019





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February 19, 2019

The Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**  
888 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20426

**RE: Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project**

**FERC Project No. 14227**

Response to January 22, 2019 Request for Additional Information and Comments on Study Plans

Dear Secretary Bose,

The Nevada Hydro Company (the "Company") filed an application for an original license for the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage facility, FERC Project No. 14227 (the "Project") on October 2, 2017. On June 15, 2018, in response to requests for additional information and studies from stakeholders, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Commission") issued a letter requiring the Company to develop additional information and to prepare additional study plans by September 13, 2018 ("FERC Letter"). On September 13, 2018, the Company filed the requested study plans. In November 2018, Nevada Hydro filed supplemental information regarding Study 8 (Aquifer Impact Study for Decker Canyon South/North Fork) and Study 9 addressing Surveys for Federally Threatened and Endangered Species.

**1.0. Introduction to our response to the January 22, 2019 letter from the Commission**

On January 22, 2019 the Commission provided a Request for Additional Information and Comments on Study Plans ("January 22<sup>nd</sup> Letter") in which it approved the study plans submitted for the following studies:

- Study 4 addressing total nitrogen and phosphorus, and cyanotoxin
- Study 7 addressing operation effects on water quality
- Study 8 addressing aquifer impact study Decker Canyon South/North Fork
- Study 30 addressing visual simulations
- Study 31 addressing traffic analysis

The January 22<sup>nd</sup> Letter also requested additional information (in Schedule A) on the following

- Clarification as to the lowest elevation of Lake Elsinore the “project would be capable of operating at based on the proposed generating units and intake design.”
- Study 22, revisions to the Recreation Study
- Study 23, addressing project construction in the roadless area of the Cleveland National Forest.

Finally, the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Letter, in Schedule B, requested revisions to the following study plans:

- Study 9 Surveys for Federally Threatened and Endangered Species
- Study 18 addressing Vegetation Mapping
- Study 28 addressing the Fire Study Plan
- Study 33 addressing the Historic Properties Management Plan
- Study 34 addressing the Proposed Transformer Operation This filing addresses these requests.

## **2.0. Approved Study Plans**

As noted, the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Letter approved the study plans submitted for the following studies:

- Study 4 addressing total nitrogen and phosphorus, and cyanotoxin
- Study 7 addressing operation effects on water quality
- Study 8 addressing aquifer impact study Decker Canyon South/North Fork
- Study 30 addressing visual simulations
- Study 31 addressing traffic analysis

Exhibit 1 contains these studies. Note that due to the complexity and interrelationships among the issues, Study 4 and Study 7 have been combined into a single report by its author, Professor Michael Anderson.

## **3.0. Additional Information Requests**

As noted, the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Letter also requested additional information on the following:

- Clarification as to the lowest elevation of Lake Elsinore the “project would be capable of operating at based on the proposed generating units and intake design.”

- Item 22, revisions to the Recreation Study
- Item 23, addressing project construction in the roadless area of the Cleveland National Forest.

Regarding the minimum operating lake levels, please see revised Exhibits A and B to the Final License Application in the attached Schedule A. Regarding revisions to Item 22, please see the memorandum from Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (“Wood Memo”) found in Schedule B. Regarding Item 23, please see the response from Barnard Construction in Schedule A.

#### **4.0. Study Plan Revisions**

As noted also, the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Letter requested revisions to the following study plans:

- Study 9 Surveys for Federally Threatened and Endangered Species
- Study 18 addressing Vegetation Mapping
- Study 28 addressing the Fire Study Plan
- Study 33 addressing the Historic Properties Management Plan
- Study 34 addressing the Proposed Transformer Operation

Regarding revisions to Studies 9, 18, and 28, please see the Wood Memo in Schedule B. Regarding revisions to Study 33, please see the work plan from Garcia and Associates in Schedule B. Finally, regarding Study 34, the Commission’s requests have been addressed and the final Transformer Study may also be found in Schedule B.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require clarifications and any aspect of this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/ David Kates

David Kates

On behalf of The Nevada Hydro Company

David Kates

Attachments