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March 9, 2020

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
Status Report on Consultation with US Forest Service

Dear Secretary Bose,

The Nevada Hydro Company ("**Nevada Hydro**" or the "**Company**") filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the "**Commission**") for an original license for the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage facility, FERC Project No. 14227 (the "**Project**") on October 2, 2017. The Commission accepted the Application for filing on July 26, 2019.

On October 8, 2019, the US Forest Service ("**Forest Service**") filed comments with the Commission on many of the studies that Nevada Hydro had undertaken at the direction of the Commission, noting a range of information needs. On November 22, 2019, the Commission published a letter to the Company describing the One Federal Decision process, and information needs of the Forest Service as a cooperating agency, referencing the October 8th comments. The Commission's letter requested that the Company and Forest Service develop a plan and schedule for providing the requested information and file monthly reports with the Commission on the status of the consultation and development of the additional information. This report is filed pursuant to that instruction.

As noted in our last Status Report to the Commission, in an email dated December 9, 2020, Darrell Vance requested that the Company "identify the location of the information responsive to the needs identified in the 10/9/19 letter, and identify a list of where clarification is needed." Mr. Vance further noted at once "we have received and reviewed that documentation, we can firm up a meeting date."

Nevada Hydro was able to provide this information to Mr. Vance via email on January 30, 2020 ("**Index**") and this was followed with agreement to meet on February 28, 2020.

The parties met as scheduled. The conversation was productive and covered a wide range of topics. Both parties prepared notes. Nevada Hydro's notes are available upon request. For the meeting, Nevada Hydro prepared and delivered to the Forest Service paper copies of all of the documents identified in the requested "Index" as well as a summaries of Nevada Hydro's understanding of each of the issues raised by the Forest Service in their October 8th comments.

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The following topics were addressed in detail during the roughly two-hour meeting:

1. A general discussion of process and USFS role, focusing largely on the potential need for the Forest Service to issue a Special Use Permit to the Project, or for certain facets of the Project and of the Forest Service's preference to be a "cooperating agency" in the Commission-led NEPA process.
2. A discussion focused on clarifying a number of engineering and design questions.
3. A discussion of development and implementation of a recreation study plan that the Forest Service could utilize. The parties agreed that further discussion was required, and a follow-up meeting would be scheduled along with the assistance of a meeting facilitator.
4. Development and implementation of a groundwater/aquifer impact study that the Forest Service could utilize. The parties agreed that further discussion was required, and a follow-up meeting would be scheduled along with the assistance of a meeting facilitator.
5. Development of a preliminary construction plan consistent with the placement of proposed project facilities within Inventoried Roadless areas. Nevada Hydro offered to provide this within 30 days of the Commission's issuance of its Notice of Intent.
6. Completion of a geotechnical and seismic study / PFMA Analysis for use by the Forest Service. As a first step, the parties agreed that Nevada Hydro will direct its geotechnical consultant to provide the data it used in developing its Supporting Design Report and other filings made to the Commission and to discuss what additional information the Forest Service may require. Nevada Hydro understands that a representative from Genterra Engineers has contacted Mr. Vance.
7. Providing current status and progress toward developing an Historic Properties Management Plan and obtaining concurrence from the State's Historic Preservation Office. Nevada Hydro agreed to direct its Cultural Resources consultant to discuss relevant issues with appropriate Forest Service personnel. Nevada Hydro understands that a representative from its cultural resources consulting firm has contacted Mr. Vance.

Please let me know if the Commission has additional questions.

Sincerely,

/s/
David Kates

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