

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20426
May 20, 2024

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2818-025 – Alaska
Green Lake Hydroelectric Project
City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska

VIA FERC Service

Reference: Scoping Document 1 for the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project, P-2818-025

To the Parties Addressed:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is currently reviewing the Pre-Application Document (PAD), filed on March 26, 2024, by City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska (CBS), for relicensing the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project No. 2818 (hereafter, or project). The project is located on the Vodopad River, between Green Lake and Silver Bay, in the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Commission staff will prepare either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) (collectively referred to as the “NEPA document”) which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue a new license for the project. To support and assist our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed, and that the NEPA document is thorough and balanced. The Commission’s scoping process will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission issues an EA or an EIS.

We invite your participation in the scoping process and are circulating the attached Scoping Document 1 (SD1) to provide you with information on the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project. We are also soliciting your comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the NEPA document. We are also requesting that you identify any studies that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the NEPA document for the project.

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We will hold two scoping meetings for the project to receive input on the scope of the NEPA document. An evening scoping meeting will be held on Wednesday June 12, 2024, starting at 6:30 p.m. Alaska Standard Time (AST) at Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Dr., Sitka, AK 99835. A daytime scoping meeting will be held on the same day at the same location, starting at 10:00 a.m. AST. An environmental site visit will also be conducted on Wednesday June 12, 2024.

We invite all interested agencies, Native American Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to attend one or all these meetings. Further information on our environmental site review and scoping meetings is available in the enclosed SD1.

SD1 is being distributed to the Commission's official mailing list (see section 9.0 of the attached SD1). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by email to FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or via the U.S. Postal Service to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Deputy Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Deputy Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All written or emailed requests must specify your wish to be added to, or removed from, the mailing list, and must clearly identify the following on the first page: **Green Lake Hydroelectric Project No. 2818-025.**

Please review the SD1 and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 6.0, *Request for Information and Studies*. If you have any questions about SD1, the scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the NEPA document for this project, please contact Jeffrey Ackley at jeffrey.ackley@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project may be obtained from our website, www.ferc.gov. The deadline for filing comments is **July 24, 2024**. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 1

SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

GREEN LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
(FERC NO. 2818-025)

ALASKA



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Hydropower Licensing
Washington, DC

May 2024

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SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

Green Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2818-025)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ may issue licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydroelectric projects. On March 26, 2024, the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD) and Notice of Intent (NOI) to file an application for a new license for the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project No. 2818-025 with the Commission.²

The project is located on the Vodopad River between Green Lake and Silver Bay in the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS), Alaska (Figure 1). A detailed description of the project is provided in section 3.0. The project does not occupy any federal lands. The project has a total installed capacity of 18.54 megawatts (MW). The average annual generation of the project from 2016 to 2023 was 41,474 megawatt-hours (MWh).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969,³ the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require that we independently evaluate the environmental effects of relicensing the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project as proposed and consider reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. We will prepare either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) (collectively referred to as the "NEPA document") that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects, if any, of the proposed action and alternatives. The Commission's scoping process will help determine the required level of analysis and satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission issues an EA or an EIS.

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

² The current license for the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project was issued with an effective date of April 1, 1979, for a term of 50 years. The current license expires on March 31, 2029.

³ 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370(f).

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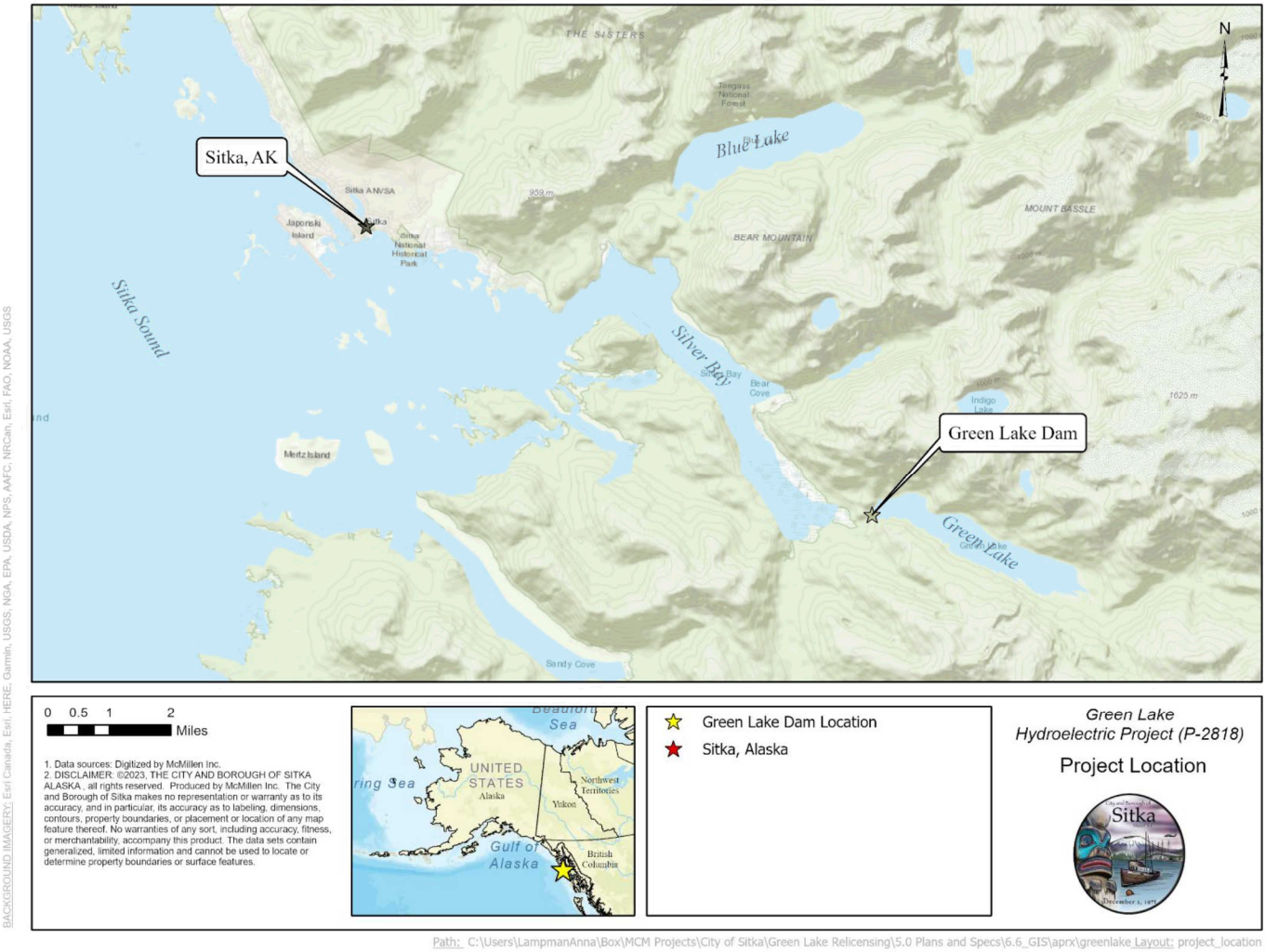


Figure 1. Location of the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project (Source: PAD).

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2.0 SCOPING

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the potential scope of the NEPA documentation and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and development of the license application; (2) a description of the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action; (3) a preliminary identification of environmental issues; and (4) a preliminary list of comprehensive plans that are applicable to the project.

2.1 PURPOSES OF SCOPING

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. According to NEPA, the process should be conducted early in the planning stage of the project. The purposes of the scoping process are as follows:

- invite participation of federal, state and local resource agencies, Native American tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;
- determine the resource issues, depth of analysis, and significance of issues to be addressed in the NEPA document;
- identify how the project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects in the project area;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that should be evaluated in the NEPA document;
- solicit available information on the resources at issue and study needs; and
- determine the resource areas and potential issues that do not require detailed analysis during review of the project.

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2.2 COMMENTS, SCOPING MEETINGS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEWS

During preparation of the NEPA document, there will be several opportunities for the resource agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and the public to provide input. These opportunities occur:

- during the public scoping process and study plan meetings, when we solicit oral and written comments regarding the scope of issues and analysis for the NEPA document;
- in response to the Commission's notice that the project is ready for environmental analysis; and
- after issuance of the NEPA document when we solicit written comments on the document.

In addition to written comments solicited by this SD1, we will hold two in-person public scoping meetings and an environmental site visit. A daytime meeting will focus on concerns of the resource agencies, NGO's, and Native American tribes, and an evening meeting will focus on receiving input from the public. We invite all interested agencies, Native American tribes, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both meetings to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA document. An environmental site visit will be conducted. You must register in advance if you are interested in attending the site visit. Please contact Elizabeth Lack and Kord Christianson by email (lack@mcmillen.com, kord.christianson@cityofsitka.org) before Wednesday June 5, 2024, if you plan to attend the environmental site review. The dates and times of the meetings and environmental site review are as follows:

Environmental Site Review

Date: Wednesday June 12, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Alaska Standard Time (AST)

Directions: Please contact Elizabeth Lack and Kord Christianson via email at lack@mcmillen.com and kord.christianson@cityofsitka.org, on or before June 5, 2024, for site review access details.

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Daytime Scoping Meeting

DATE: Wednesday June 12, 2024
TIME: 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. AST
LOCATION: Harrigan Centennial Hall
ADDRESS: 330 Harbor Dr, Sitka, AK 99835
PHONE: (907) 747-4090

Evening Scoping Meeting

DATE: Wednesday June 12, 2024
TIME: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. AST
LOCATION: Harrigan Centennial Hall
ADDRESS: 330 Harbor Dr, Sitka, AK 99835
PHONE: (907) 747-4090

Commission staff will moderate the scoping meetings. The meetings will begin promptly at their respective start times listed above. At the start of each meeting, staff will provide further instructions regarding the meeting setup, agenda, and how participants can provide their comments and questions during the meeting. The scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements will become part of the Commission's public record for the project. Oral comments will initially be limited to 5 minutes in duration. Interested parties who choose not to speak or who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide written comments and information to the Commission as described in section 6.0, *Request for Information and Studies*. These meetings are posted on the Commission's calendar located on the internet at <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/events> along with other related information.

Please note, that if no participants join the meetings within 30 minutes after the start time, staff will end the meeting. The meetings will end after participants have commented or at the specified end time (listed above), whichever occurs first.

Meeting participants should be prepared to discuss their issues and/or concerns as they pertain to the relicensing of the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project. It is advised that participants review the PAD in preparation for the scoping meetings. Copies of the PAD may be viewed on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, P-2818 for the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project, to access the documents. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-

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Following the scoping meetings and comment period, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made as to the level of analysis needed. If preliminary analysis indicates that any issues presented in this scoping document have little potential for causing significant effects, the issue(s) will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be given in the NEPA document.

If we receive no substantive comments on SD1, then we will not prepare a Scoping Document 2 (SD2). Otherwise, we will issue SD2 to address any substantive comments received. The SD2 will be issued for informational purposes only; no response will be required. The NEPA document will address recommendations and input received during the scoping process.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with NEPA, the environmental analysis will consider the following alternatives, at a minimum: (1) the no-action alternative, (2) CBS's proposed action, and (3) the alternatives to the proposed action.

3.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the no-action alternative, the Green Lake Project would continue to operate as required by the current project license (i.e., there would be no change to the existing environment). No new environmental protection, mitigation, or enhancement measures would be implemented. We use this alternative to establish baseline environmental conditions for comparison with other alternatives.

3.1.1 Project Area

The project is located on the Vodopad River between Green Lake and Silver Bay, approximately 10 miles southeast of the City of Sitka, Alaska. The project lies within the Vodopad River Watershed. The watershed is subject to water quality criteria by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for water supply, aquaculture, and recreation, but the project is the only registered water user within the river basin.

While previously part of the Tongass National Forest, pursuant to a completed land exchange in 1979, CBS now owns all lands within the project boundary. The project boundary does not include any federal lands since the land exchange was

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completed.

3.1.2 Existing Facilities

The project consists of: (1) a 228-foot-high, 462-foot-long concrete gravity dam with a crest elevation of 405 feet⁴ with a 100-foot-long ungated overflow spillway with a crest elevation of 395 feet; (2) an 1000-acre reservoir with a storage capacity of 88,000 acre-feet at the spillway crest elevation of 395.0 feet; (3) a 200-foot-long, 8-foot-diameter steel penstock connected to a 1,900-foot-long, 9-foot-diameter concrete power tunnel that bifurcates immediately before entering a powerhouse; (4) a 78-foot-long, 48-foot-wide, and 80-foot-high powerhouse containing two Francis-type turbine-generator units, each with an authorized installed capacity of 9.27 MW; (5) a very short tailrace that discharges directly to Silver Bay; (6) a 9-mile-long, 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line extending from the powerhouse to an interconnection at the Blue Lake Project substation; and (7) appurtenant facilities. Figure 2 displays the major facilities associated with the project, to which the applicant is not proposing any changes. Recreation facilities at the project include a boat landing on Green Lake near the project facilities.

⁴ Elevations in this document refer to the Mean Lower-Low Water (MLLW) datum at the Sitka, Alaska Tidal Gage #9451600. This is equal to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) elevation minus 0.15 meters or 0.4921 feet.

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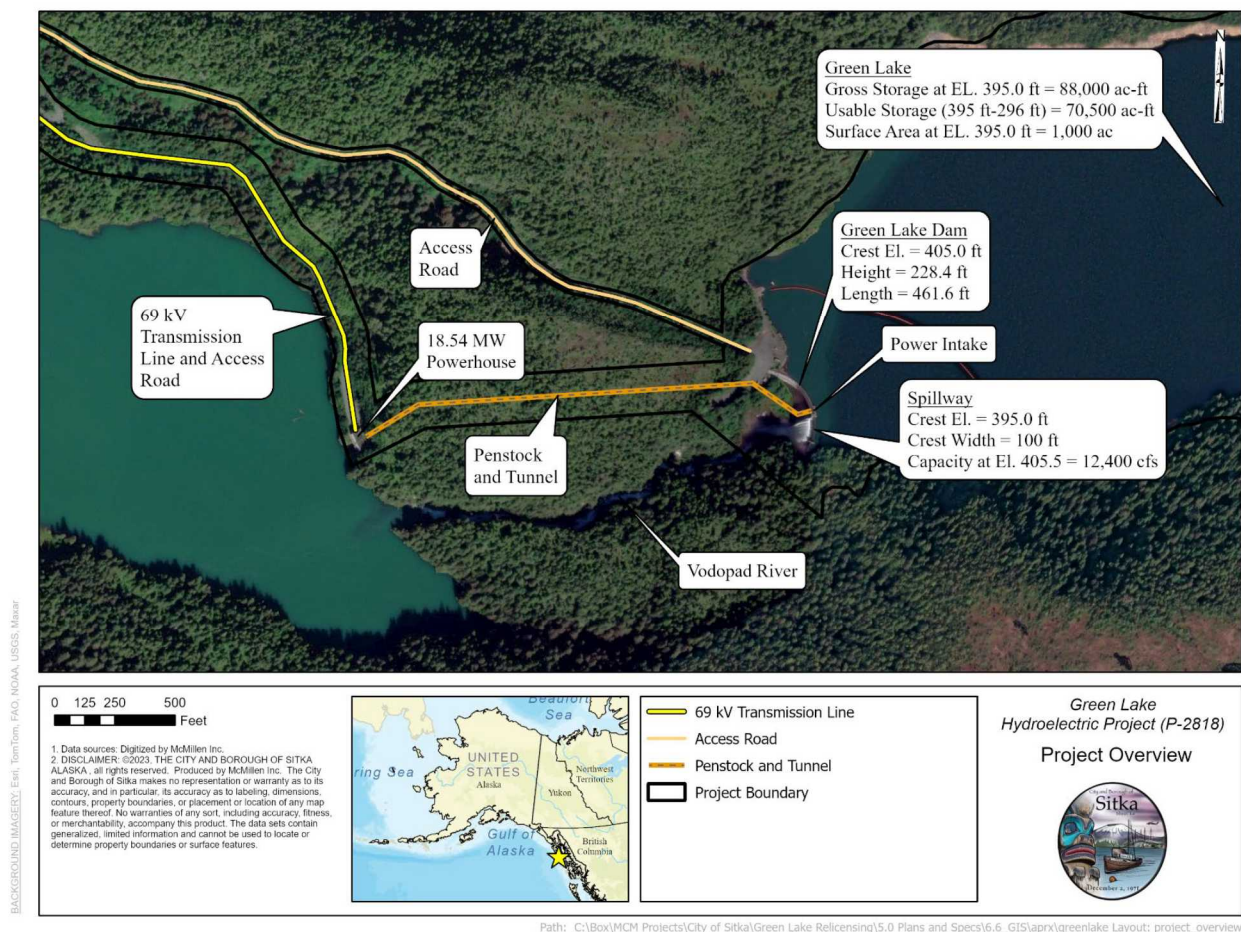


Figure 2. Major Facilities Associated with the Project (source: PAD)

3.1.3 Existing Project Operation

The Green Lake project is operated by CBS as a storage project and in conjunction with the Blue Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2230).⁵ The Green Lake plant is operated remotely from the Blue Lake powerhouse, which is always staffed, and Green Lake is visited twice per week or more often if needed. The reservoir is typically drawn down by approximately 100 feet over the winter during peak demand and refilled during the summer when inflow from snowmelt is highest. Based on the available flow, CBS operates one of the two turbines, with the second being brought online as needed. The

⁵ The Blue Lake Project, licensed in 2007 (7 FERC ¶ 61,021), is located on the Sawmill Creek in the City and Borough of Sitka, and is operated in tandem with the Green Lake Project to meet the City's total daily electrical needs.

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maximum combined hydraulic capacity of the turbines is 710 cubic feet per second (cfs). Once the reservoir is full, flow exceeding the project's maximum hydraulic capacity is released over the spillway, which can occur during summer and fall. The annual average generation of the project between 2016 and 2023 was approximately 41,474 MWh, and the applicant is not proposing any change to operations.

3.2 APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

3.2.1 Proposed Project Operation and Project Boundary

The City and Borough of Sitka proposes to continue to operate and maintain the project as described above and does not propose any modifications to the project's existing facilities or operation. CBS states they may request to expand the project boundary to include the final section of the transmission corridor that connects the Green Lake project to the Blue Lake Substation.

3.2.2 Proposed Environmental Measures

CBS is not proposing any new environmental measures but proposes to continue to maintain the existing project recreation public access and facilities.

3.3 DAM SAFETY

It is important to note that dam safety constraints may exist and should be taken into consideration in the development of proposals and alternatives considered in the pending proceeding. For example, proposed modifications to the dam structure, such as the addition of flashboards or fish passage facilities, could impact the integrity of the dam structure. As the proposal and alternatives are developed, the applicant must evaluate the effects and ensure that the project would meet the Commission's dam safety criteria found in Part 12 of the Commission's regulations and the Engineering Guidelines (<http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/safety/guidelines/eng-guide.asp>).

The project has been operating for nearly 50 years under the existing license and during this time Commission staff have conducted operational inspections focusing on the continued safety of the structure, identification of unauthorized modifications, efficiency and safety of operations, compliance with the terms of the license, and proper maintenance.

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3.4 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Commission staff will consider and assess all alternative recommendations for operational or facility modifications, as well as protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures identified by the Commission, the agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and the public.

3.5 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY

At present, we propose to eliminate the following alternatives from detailed study in the NEPA document.

3.5.1 Non-power License

A non-power license is a temporary license the Commission would terminate whenever it determines that another governmental agency is authorized and willing to assume regulatory authority and supervision over the lands and facilities covered by the non-power license. At this time, no governmental agency has suggested a willingness or ability to take over the project. No party has sought a non-power license, and we have no basis for concluding that the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project should no longer be used to produce power. Thus, we do not consider a non-power license a reasonable alternative to relicensing the project.

3.5.2 Project Decommissioning

As the Commission has previously held, decommissioning is not a reasonable alternative to relicensing in most cases.⁶ Decommissioning can be accomplished in different ways depending on the project, its environment, and the particular resource needs.⁷ For these reasons, the Commission does not speculate about possible

⁶ See, e.g., *Eagle Crest Energy Co.*, 153 FERC ¶ 61,058, at P 67 (2015); *Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County*, 112 FERC ¶ 61,055, at P 82 (2005); *Midwest Hydro, Inc.*, 111 FERC ¶ 61,327, at PP 35-38 (2005).

⁷ In the unlikely event that the Commission denies relicensing a project or a licensee decides to surrender an existing project, the Commission must approve a surrender “upon such conditions with respect to the disposition of such works as may be

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decommissioning measures at the time of relicensing, but rather waits until an applicant actually proposes to decommission a project, or a participant in a relicensing proceeding demonstrates that there are serious resource concerns that cannot be addressed with appropriate license measures and that make decommissioning a reasonable alternative.⁸ CBS does not propose decommissioning, nor does the record to date demonstrate there are serious resource concerns that cannot be mitigated if the project is relicensed; as such, there is no reason, at this time, to include decommissioning as a reasonable alternative to be evaluated and studied as part of staff's NEPA analysis.

4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES

4.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (50 C.F.R. 1508.7), a cumulative effect is the effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

4.1.1 Resources that Could be Cumulatively Affected

Based on our review of the PAD for the project and preliminary staff analysis, we have not identified resources at this time that could be cumulatively affected by the continued operation of the hydropower project.

determined by the Commission.” 18 C.F.R. § 6.2 (2019). This can include simply shutting down the power operations, removing all or parts of the project (including the dam), or restoring the site to its pre-project condition.

⁸ See generally *Project Decommissioning at Relicensing*; Policy Statement, FERC Stats. & Regs., Regulations Preambles (1991-1996), ¶ 31,011 (1994); see also *City of Tacoma, Washington*, 110 FERC ¶ 61,140 (2005) (finding that unless and until the Commission has a specific decommissioning proposal, any further environmental analysis of the effects of project decommissioning would be both premature and speculative).

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4.2 RESOURCE ISSUES

In this section, we present a preliminary list of environmental issues to be addressed in the NEPA document. We identified these issues, which are listed by resource area, by reviewing the PAD and the Commission's record for the project. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but contains those issues raised to date that could have substantial effects. After the scoping process is complete, we will review the list and determine the appropriate level of analysis needed to address each issue in the NEPA document.

4.2.1 Aquatic Resources

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on aquatic resources.

4.2.2 Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of project maintenance (e.g., vegetation clearing along the transmission line corridor) on special status species including migratory birds.
- Effects of project maintenance (e.g., vegetation clearing along the transmission line) on the spread of invasive species.

4.2.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

- Effects of project operation and maintenance on the ESA-listed endangered short-tailed albatross.

4.2.5 Recreation Resources

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on recreational use in the project area, including the adequacy of existing recreational access and facilities in meeting recreation needs.
- Effects of allowing for e-bike access on the Green Lake Access Road.

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4.2.4 Cultural and Tribal Resources

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on historic and archaeological resources that are included, or that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

4.2.5 Environmental Justice

- Effects of project operation and maintenance on identified environmental justice communities.

4.2.6 Developmental Resources

- Effects of proposed or recommended environmental measures on project generation and economics.

5.0 APPLICANT PROPOSED STUDIES

Initial study proposals from the project are identified by resource area below in Table 2 and in the PAD. Further studies may need to be added to this list based on comments provided to the Commission and CBS from resource agencies, Native-American tribes, and interested parties during the study planning process.

Table 2. CBS’s initial study proposals for the project. (Source: PAD)

Resource Area and Issue	CBS’s Proposed Study
1. Cultural Resources	Conduct a cultural resource study to identify and evaluate potential historic properties for eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places and to evaluate any potential adverse effects from project operation and maintenance on these resources.

6.0 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND STUDIES

We are asking federal, state, and local resource agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and the public to forward to the Commission any information that will assist us in conducting an accurate and thorough analysis of the project-specific and cumulative

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effects associated with relicensing the project. The types of information requested include, but are not limited to:

- information, quantitative data, or professional opinions that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis (both site-specific and cumulative effects), and that helps identify significant environmental issues;
- identification of, and information from, any other EA, EIS, or similar environmental study (previous, on-going, or planned) relevant to the proposed licensing of the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project;
- existing information and any data that would help characterize environmental conditions and habitats and in the assessment of project effects on environmental resources;
- the identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected resource area (e.g., proposals to construct or operate water treatment facilities, recreation areas, water diversions, timber harvest activities, or fish management programs), along with any implementation schedules);
- documentation that the proposed project would or would not contribute to cumulative adverse or beneficial effects on any resources. Documentation can include, but need not be limited to, how the project would interact with other projects in the area and other developmental activities; study results; resource management policies; and reports from federal and state agencies, local agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and the public;
- documentation showing why any resources should be excluded from further study or consideration; and
- study requests by federal and state agencies, local agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and the public that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the NEPA document for the project.

All requests for studies filed with the Commission must meet the criteria found in Appendix A, *Study Plan Criteria*.

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The requested information, comments, and study requests should be submitted to the Commission no later than **July 24, 2024**. All filings must clearly identify the following on the first page: **Green Lake Hydroelectric Project (P-2818-025)** Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website

<https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Deputy Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Deputy Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

Any questions concerning the scoping meetings, environmental site reviews, or how to file written comments with the Commission should be directed to Jeffrey Ackley at Jeffrey.Ackley@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project may be obtained from the Commission's website, www.ferc.gov.

7.0 CURRENT PROCESSING SCHEDULE

The decision on whether to prepare and EA or EIS will be determined after the license application is filed and we fully understand the scope of effects and measures under consideration. The NEPA document will be distributed to all persons and entities on the Commission's service and mailing lists for the project. The NEPA document will include our recommendations for operating procedures, as well as environmental protection and enhancement measures that should be part of any license issued by the

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Commission. The comment period will be specified in the notice of availability of the NEPA document.

A copy of the approved process plan, which has a complete list of licensing milestones for the project, including those for developing the license application, is attached as Appendix B to this SD1.

8.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal and state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. Commission staff has preliminarily identified and reviewed the plans listed below that may be relevant to the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project. Agencies are requested to review this list and inform the Commission staff of any changes. If there are other comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission, or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed for consideration with the Commission according to 18 CFR § 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <https://cms.ferc.gov/media/comprehensive-plans>.

The following is a list of comprehensive plans currently on file with the Commission that may be relevant to the project:

Alaska Administrative Code. 2012. 5 AAC § 39.222 Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries. Juneau, Alaska.

Alaska Administrative Code. 2003. 5 AAC § 75.222 Policy for the Management of Sustainable Wild Trout Fisheries. Juneau, Alaska.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog - Southeastern Region. Anchorage, Alaska. June 1, 2011.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007. Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*) Conservation Action Plan. Anchorage, Alaska. April 2007.

Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Alaska's Outdoor Legacy: Statewide

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Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): 2009-2014. Anchorage, Alaska.

Forest Service. 2016. Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Department of Agriculture, Ketchikan, Alaska. December 2016.

National Park Service. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1993.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2012. Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska. Anchorage, Alaska. June 2012.

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9.0 MAILING LISTS

The list below is the Commission's official mailing list for the project. If you want to receive future mailings for these proceedings and are not included in the list below, please send your request by email to FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. In lieu of an email request, you may submit a paper request. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Deputy Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: K Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Deputy Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue,

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Rockville, Maryland 20852. All written or emailed requests to be added to the mailing lists must clearly identify the following: **Green Lake Hydroelectric Project (P-2818-025)**. You may use the same methods if requesting removal from the mailing list below.

Register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to these projects or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Official Mailing List for the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project

David Elder Electric Utility Director City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska 105 Jarvis Street Sitka, AK 99835	Kord F. Christianson Electric Generation System Manager City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska 105 Jarvis Street Sitka, AK 99835
Philip Mooney Biologist Alaska Department of Fish and Game Habitat & Restoration Division 304 Lake St, Rm 103 Sitka, AK 99835	Governor of Alaska RE: FERC Projects Office of the Governor of Alaska P.O. Box 110001 Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Office of Solicitor 4230 University Dr, Ste 300 U. S. Department of Interior Anchorage, AK 99508	

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**APPENDIX A
STUDY PLAN CRITERIA
18 CFR Section 5.9(b)**

Any information or study request must contain the following:

1. Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;
2. If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Native American Tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;
3. If the requester is not a resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study;
4. Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;
5. Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements;
6. Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate field season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers relevant tribal values and knowledge; and
7. Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.

APPENDIX B PROCESS PLAN AND SCHEDULE

Shaded milestones are unnecessary if there are no study disputes. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is the following business day. Early filings or issuances will not result in changes to these deadlines.

<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Pre-Filing Milestone</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>FERC Regulation</u>
CBS	NOI/PAD and Request to Utilize the Integrated Licensing Process filed	3/26/24	5.5, 5.6
FERC	Initiate Tribal Consultation	4/25/24	5.7
FERC	Issue Notice of Commencement of Proceeding and Scoping Document 1	5/20/24	5.8
FERC	Scoping Meetings and Project Site Visit	6/12/24	5.8(b)(viii)
All Stakeholders	File Comments on PAD/Scoping Document 1 and Study Requests	7/24/24	5.9
FERC	Issue Scoping Document 2 (if necessary)	9/7/24	5.1
CBS	File Proposed Study Plan	9/7/24	5.11(a)
All Stakeholders	Proposed Study Plan Meeting	10/7/24	5.11(e)
All Stakeholders	File Comments on Proposed Study Plan	12/6/24	5.12
CBS	File Revised Study Plan	1/5/25	5.13(a)
All Stakeholders	File Comments on Revised Study Plan	1/20/25	5.13(b)
FERC	Issue Director's Study Plan Determination	2/4/25	5.13(c)
Mandatory Conditioning Agencies	File Any Study Disputes	2/24/25	5.14(a)

<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Pre-Filing Milestone</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>FERC Regulation</u>
Dispute Panel	Select Third Dispute Resolution Panel Member	3/11/25	5.14(d)(3)
Dispute Panel	Convene Dispute Resolution Panel	3/16/25	5.14(d)
CBS	File Comments on Study Disputes	3/21/25	5.14(j)
Dispute Panel	Dispute Resolution Panel Technical Conference	3/26/25	5.14(j)
Dispute Panel	Issue Dispute Resolution Panel Findings	4/15/25	5.14(k)
FERC	Issue Director's Study Dispute Determination	5/5/25	5.14(l)
CBS	First Study Season	Spring/Summer 2025	5.15(a)
CBS	File Initial Study Report	2/4/26	5.15(c)(1)
All Stakeholders	Initial Study Report Meeting	2/19/26	5.15(c)(2)
CBS	File Initial Study Report Meeting Summary	3/6/26	5.15(c)(3)
All Stakeholders	File Disagreements/Requests to Amend Study Plan	4/5/26	5.15(c)(4)
All Stakeholders	File Responses to Disagreements/Amendment Requests	5/5/26	5.15(c)(5)
FERC	Issue Director's Determination on Disagreements/Amendments	6/4/26	5.15(c)(6)
CBS	Second Study Season (if needed)	Spring/Summer 2026	5.15(a)
CBS	File Updated Study Report	2/4/27	5.15(f)
All Stakeholders	Updated Study Report Meeting	2/19/27	5.15(f)
CBS	File Updated Study Report Meeting Summary	3/6/27	5.15(f)

<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Pre-Filing Milestone</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>FERC Regulation</u>
All Stakeholders	File Disagreements/Requests to Amend Study Plan	4/5/27	5.15(f)
All Stakeholders	File Responses to Disagreements/Amendment Requests	5/5/27	5.15(f)
FERC	Issue Director's Determination on Disagreements/Amendments	6/4/27	5.15(f)
CBS	File Preliminary Licensing Proposal (or Draft License Application)	11/1/26	5.16(a)
All Stakeholders	File Comments on Preliminary Licensing Proposal (or Draft License Application)	1/30/27	5.16(e)
CBS	File Final License Application	3/31/27	5.17
CBS	Issue Public Notice of Final License Application Filing	4/14/27	5.17(d)(2)

Document Content(s)

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