



BILLING CODE 6717-01-P
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CD16-8-000]

White River Electric Association;

Notice Of Preliminary Determination Of A Qualifying
Conduit Hydropower Facility And Soliciting Comments And Motions To Intervene

On February 24, 2016, White River Electric Association filed a notice of intent to construct a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, pursuant to section 30 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended by section 4 of the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013 (HREA).¹ The proposed Miller Creek Ditch Hydropower Project would have an installed capacity of 180 kilowatts (kW), and would be located along the Miller Creek Ditch. The project would be located near the Town of Meeker, in Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

Applicant Contact: Alan Michalewicz, PO Box 958, 233 6th Street, Meeker, CO 81641, Phone No. (970) 878-5041.

FERC Contact: Christopher Chaney, Phone No. (202) 502-6778, email: christopher.chaney@ferc.gov.

Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility Description: The proposed project would consist of: (1) a new powerhouse, approximately 20 feet by 23 feet, adjacent to the downstream end of an existing 30-inch-diameter by approximately 680-foot-long steel pipe used to convey Miller Creek Ditch across County Road 13; (2) an underground tailrace returning flows to the existing 30-inch-diameter steel pipe; (3) a new 450-foot-long, 30-inch-diameter penstock, fed by a new diversion and intake structure adjacent to an existing diversion and intake structure; (4) a cross flow turbine/generating unit with an installed capacity of 180 kW; and (5) appurtenant facilities.

The proposed project would have a total installed capacity of 180 kW.

A qualifying conduit hydropower facility is one that is determined or deemed to meet all of the criteria shown in the table below.

¹ Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, Pub. L. 113-23, § 4, 27 Stat. 493 (2013); 79 Fed. Reg. 2,164 (2014).

Table 1: Criteria for Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility

<i>Statutory Provision</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Satisfies (Y/N)</i>
FPA 30(a)(3)(A), as amended by HREA	The conduit the facility uses is a tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar manmade water conveyance that is operated for the distribution of water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity.	Y
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(i), as amended by HREA	The facility is constructed, operated, or maintained for the generation of electric power and uses for such generation only the hydroelectric potential of a non-federally owned conduit.	Y
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(ii), as amended by HREA	The facility has an installed capacity that does not exceed 5 megawatts.	Y
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(iii), as amended by HREA	On or before August 9, 2013, the facility is not licensed, or exempted from the licensing requirements of Part I of the FPA.	Y

Preliminary Determination: The proposed addition of the hydroelectric project along the Miller Creek Ditch will not alter its primary purpose of distributing water for irrigation. Therefore, based upon the above criteria, Commission staff preliminarily determines that the proposal satisfies the requirements for a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, which is not required to be licensed or exempted from licensing.

Comments and Motions to Intervene: Deadline for filing comments contesting whether the facility meets the qualifying criteria is **45 days** from the issuance date of this notice.

Deadline for filing motions to intervene is **30 days** from the issuance date of this notice.

Anyone may submit comments or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210 and 385.214. Any motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular proceeding.

Filing and Service of Responsive Documents: All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the "COMMENTS CONTESTING QUALIFICATION FOR A CONDUIT HYDROPOWER FACILITY" or "MOTION TO INTERVENE," as applicable; (2) state in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) state the name, address, and telephone number of the person filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of sections 385.2001

through 385.2005 of the Commission's regulations.² All comments contesting Commission staff's preliminary determination that the facility meets the qualifying criteria must set forth their evidentiary basis.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and comments using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

Locations of Notice of Intent: Copies of the notice of intent can be obtained directly from the applicant or such copies can be viewed and reproduced at the Commission in its Public Reference Room, Room 2A, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. The filing may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number (i.e., CD16-8) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, call toll-free 1-866-208-3676 or e-mail FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Dated: March 7, 2016.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

² 18 C.F.R. §§ 385.2001–2005 (2015).

