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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Pine Creek Mine, LLC

Project No. P-12532-006

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING, SOLICITING MOTIONS TO INTERVENE AND PROTESTS, READY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND PRESCRIPTIONS

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

- a. Type of Application: Minor License
- b. Project No.: 12532-006
- c. Date filed: February 12, 2016
- d. Applicant: Pine Creek Mine, LLC
- e. Name of Project: Pine Creek Mine Tunnel Hydroelectric Project
- f. Location: The project is located at Pine Creek Mine adjacent to Morgan and Pine Creeks in Inyo County, California. The project's mine access tunnel, mine plug, mine water storage cavity, penstock, generator, and most of its primary transmission line would be located under approximately 60 acres of federal land managed by the United States Forest Service.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. 791 (a) - 825(r)
- h. Applicant Contact: Craig Rossell, 228 West Bonita Avenue, Claremont, California 91711, (909) 482-1000.
- i. FERC Contact: Joseph Hassell, (202) 502-8079 or joseph.hassell@ferc.gov.
- j. Deadline for filing comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions: 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions 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. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-12532-006

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. This application has been accepted and is now ready for environmental analysis.

l. The proposed Pine Creek Tunnel Hydroelectric Project would utilize the groundwater discharge of Pine Creek Mine and consist of: (1) the existing Pine Creek Mine site, mine entrance tunnels, mine shafts, and concrete plug; (2) an existing 30-foot-long steel pipe that runs through the concrete plug, to be used as a proposed penstock; (3) a proposed Pelton turbine generating unit located in the mine tunnel with a total installed capacity of 1.5 megawatts; (4) a proposed underground power line that would run approximately 2,500 feet from the generating unit to the mine portal; and (5) another proposed 60-foot-long transmission line from the mine portal to an existing substation on the mine site. The proposed project would have an average annual generation of 5.6 gigawatt-hours.

m. A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, and .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST," "MOTION TO INTERVENE," "COMMENTS," "REPLY COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS," "PRELIMINARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS," or "PRELIMINARY FISHWAY PRESCRIPTIONS;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed on the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b), and 385.2010.

o. Procedural Schedule:

The application will be processed according to the following revised Hydro Licensing Schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

MILESTONE	TARGET DATE
Filing of recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions	September 2016
Commission issues Draft EA or EIS	March 2017
Comments on Draft EA or EIS	April 2017
Modified Terms and Conditions	June 2017
Commission Issues Final EA or EIS	September 2017

p. A license applicant must file no later than 60 days following the date of issuance of this notice: (1) a copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of waiver of water quality certification.

q. Any qualified applicant desiring to file a competing application must submit to the Commission, on or before the specified intervention deadline date, a competing development application, or a notice of intent to file such an application. Submission of a timely notice of intent allows an interested person to file the competing development application no later than 120 days after the specified intervention deadline date. Applications for preliminary permits will not be accepted in response to this notice.

A notice of intent must specify the exact name, business address, and telephone number of the prospective applicant, and must include an unequivocal statement of intent to submit a development application. A notice of intent must be served on the applicant(s) named in this public notice.

Dated: July 28, 2016

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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