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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Premium Energy Holdings, LLC [Project No. 14991-000]

Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Competing Applications

On May 3, 2019, Premium Energy Holdings, LLC, filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of the Haiwee Pumped Storage Project (Haiwee Project or project) to be located on Haiwee Creek, near the unincorporated community of Olancha, Inyo County, California. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed project would be a closed-loop pumped storage hydropower facility. The applicant proposes three alternative upper reservoirs: McCloud Reservoir, Little Cactus Reservoir, or Haiwee Canyon Reservoir. The proposed North Haiwee 2 Reservoir would be the lower reservoir for each alternative.

Upper Reservoir Alternative 1: McCloud Reservoir

The McCloud Reservoir alternative consists of: (1) a 504-acre upper reservoir having a total storage capacity of 44,554 acre-feet at a normal maximum operating

elevation of 5,260 feet mean sea level (msl); (2) a 175-foot-high, 3,068-foot-long roller compacted concrete upper reservoir dam; (3) a 2.41-mile-long, 39-foot-diameter concrete-lined headrace tunnel; (4) a 0.2-mile-long, 35-foot-diameter concrete-lined vertical shaft; (5) a 5.6-mile-long, 35-foot-diameter concrete-lined horizontal tunnel; (6) six 0..78-mile-long, 22-foot-diameter steel penstocks; (7) a 585-foot-long, 90-foot-wide, 165-foot-high concrete-lined powerhouse located in an underground cavern, housing five pump-turbine generator-motor units rated for 400 megawatts (MW) each; and (8) a 0.68-mile-long, 42-foot-diameter concrete-lined tailrace tunnel discharging into the proposed North Haiwee 2 Reservoir.

Upper Reservoir Alternative 2: Little Cactus Reservoir

The Little Cactus Reservoir alternative consists of: (1) a 499-acre upper reservoir having a total storage capacity of 47,021 acre-feet at a normal maximum operating elevation of 4,980 feet msl; (2) a 235-foot-high, 2,836-foot-long roller compacted concrete upper reservoir dam; (3) a 1.06-mile-long, 39-foot-diameter concrete-lined headrace tunnel; (4) a 0.16-mile-long, 35-foot-diameter concrete-lined vertical shaft; (5) a 4-mile-long, 35-foot-diameter concrete-lined horizontal tunnel; (6) six 0.7-mile-long, 22-foot-diameter steel penstocks; (7) a 585-foot-long, 90-foot-wide, 165-foot-high concrete-lined powerhouse located in an underground cavern, housing five pump-turbine generator-motor units rated for 400 MW each; and (8) a 0.78-mile-long, 42-foot-diameter concrete-lined tailrace tunnel discharging into the proposed North Haiwee 2 Reservoir.

Upper Reservoir Alternative 3: Haiwee Canyon Reservoir

The Haiwee Canyon Reservoir alternative consists of: (1) a 138-acre upper

reservoir having a total storage capacity of 28,620 acre-feet at a normal maximum operating elevation of 6,160 feet msl; (2) a 595-foot-high, 2,256-foot-long roller compacted concrete upper reservoir dam; (3) a 1.64-mile-long, 31-foot-diameter concrete-lined headrace tunnel; (4) a 0.32-mile-long, 28-foot-diameter concrete-lined vertical shaft; (5) a 5.2-mile-long, 28-foot-diameter concrete-lined horizontal tunnel; (6) six 0.54-mile-long, 18-foot-diameter steel penstocks; (7) a 585-foot-long, 90-foot-wide, 165-foot-high concrete-lined powerhouse located in an underground cavern, housing five pump-turbine generator-motor units rated for 400 MW each; and (8) a 0.8-mile-long, 33-foot-diameter concrete-lined tailrace tunnel discharging into the proposed North Haiwee 2 Reservoir.

Lower Reservoir: North Haiwee 2 Reservoir

The proposed North Haiwee 2 Reservoir would consist of: (1) a 320-acre lower reservoir having a total storage capacity 38,350 acre-feet at a normal maximum operating elevation of 3,770 feet msl; and (2) a 160-foot-high, 7,090-foot-long roller compacted concrete lower reservoir dam.

Interconnection

For each upper reservoir alternative, project power would be transmitted to the grid via: (1) a new, 2.5-mile-long, 500 kilovolt (kV) underground transmission line extending from the powerhouse to the proposed North Haiwee switchyard (the point of interconnection); and (2) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual generation of the Haiwee Project under each of the alternatives would be 6,900 gigawatt-hours.

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Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications 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, D.C. 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-14991-000.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of Commission's website at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp. Enter the docket number (P-14991) in the

docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: September 25, 2019.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

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