

## Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

## § 292.210

would be adversely affected by hydroelectric development; and

(3) The project meets the terms and conditions set by the appropriate fish and wildlife agencies under the same procedures as provided for under section 30(c) of the Federal Power Act.

(c) For the Commission to make the findings in paragraph (b) of this section an applicant must:

(1) Comply with the applicable hydroelectric licensing requirements in Part 4 of this chapter, including:

(i) Completing the pre-filing consultation process under § 4.38 of this chapter, including performing any environmental studies which may be required under §§ 4.38(b)(2)(i)(D) through (F) of this chapter; and

(ii) Submitting with its application an environmental report that meets the requirements of § 4.41(f) of this chapter, regardless of project size;

(2) State whether the project is located on any segment of a natural watercourse which:

(i) Is included in or designated for potential inclusion in:

(A) The National Wild and Scenic River System (28 U.S.C. 1271-1278 (1982)); or

(B) A State wild and scenic river system;

(ii) Crosses an area designated or recommended for designation under the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1132) as:

(A) A wilderness area; or

(B) Wilderness study area; or

(iii) The State, either by or pursuant to an act of the State legislature, has determined to possess unique, natural, recreational, cultural, or scenic attributes that would be adversely affected by hydroelectric development.

(d) If the project is located on any segment of a natural watercourse that meets any of the conditions in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the applicant must provide the following information in its application:

(1) The date on which the natural watercourse was protected;

(2) The statutory authority under which the natural watercourse was protected; and

(3) The Federal or state agency, or political subdivision of the state, that

is in charge of administering the natural watercourse.

[Order 499, 53 FR 27003, July 18, 1988]

### **§ 292.209 Exceptions from requirements for hydroelectric small power production facilities located at a new dam or diversion.**

(a) The requirements in §§ 292.208(b)(1) through (3) do not apply if:

(1) An application for license or exemption is filed for a project located at a Government dam, as defined in section 3(10) of the Federal Power Act, at which non-Federal hydroelectric development is permissible; or

(2) An application for license or exemption was filed and accepted before October 16, 1986.

(b) The requirements in §§ 292.208(b)(1) and (3) do not apply if an application for license or exemption was filed before October 16, 1986, and is accepted for filing by the Commission before October 16, 1989.

(c) The requirements in § 292.208(b)(3) do not apply to an applicant for license or exemption if:

(1) The applicant files a petition pursuant to § 292.210; and

(2) The Commission grants the petition.

(d) Any application covered by paragraph (a), (b), or (c) of this section is excepted from the moratorium imposed by section 8(e) of the Electric Consumers Protection Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-495.

[Order 499, 53 FR 27003, July 18, 1988]

### **§ 292.210 Petition alleging commitment of substantial monetary resources before October 16, 1986.**

(a) An applicant covered by § 292.203(c) whose application for license or exemption was filed on or after October 16, 1986, but before April 16, 1988, may file a petition for exception from the requirement in § 292.208(b)(3) and the moratorium described in § 292.203(c)(2). The petition must show that prior to October 16, 1986, the applicant committed substantial monetary resources (as that term is defined in § 292.202(r)) to the development of the project.

(b) Subject to rebuttal under paragraph (d)(7)(ii) of this section, a showing of the commitment of substantial

monetary resources will be presumed if the applicant held a preliminary permit for the project and had completed environmental consultations pursuant to § 4.38 of this chapter before October 16, 1986.

(c) *Time of filing petition*—(1) *General rule.* Except as provided in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the applicant must:

- (i) File the petition with the application for license or exemption; or
- (ii) Submit with the application for license or exemption a request for an extension of time, not to exceed 90 days or April 16, 1988, whichever occurs first, in which to file the petition.

(2) *Exception.* If the application for license or exemption was filed on or after October 16, 1986, but before March 23, 1987, the petition must have been filed by June 22, 1987.

(d) *Filing requirements.* A petition filed under this section must include the following information or refer to the pages in the application for license or exemption where it can be found:

(1) A certificate of service, conforming to the requirements set out in § 385.2010(h) of this chapter, certifying that the applicant has served the petition on the Federal and State agencies required to be consulted by the applicant pursuant to § 4.38 of this chapter;

(2) Documentation of any issued preliminary permits for the project;

(3) An itemized statement of the total costs expended on the application;

(4) An itemized schedule of costs the applicant expended, or committed to be expended, before October 16, 1986, on the application, accompanied by supporting documentation including but not limited to:

(i) Dated invoices for maps, surveys, supplies, geophysical and geotechnical services, engineering services, legal services, document reproduction, and other items related to the preparation of the application, and

(ii) Written contracts and other written documentation demonstrating a commitment made before October 16, 1986, to expend monetary resources on the preparation of the application, together with evidence that those monetary resources were actually expended; and

(5) Correspondence or other documentation to support the items listed in paragraphs (d)(3) and (d)(4) of this section to show that the expenses presented were directly related to the preparation of the application.

(6) The applicant must include in its total cost statement and in its schedule of the costs expended or committed to be expended before October 16, 1986, the value of services that were performed by the applicant itself instead of contracted out.

(7)(i) If the applicant held a preliminary permit for the project and had completed pre-filing consultation pursuant to § 4.38 of this chapter prior to October 16, 1986, the applicant may, instead of submitting the information listed in paragraphs (d)(3), (d)(4), and (d)(5) of this section, submit a statement identifying the preliminary permit by project number.

(ii) If any interested person objects (pursuant to § 385.211 of this chapter) to the presumption in paragraph (b) of this section, the applicant must supply the information listed in paragraphs (d)(3), (d)(4), and (d)(5) of this section.

(8) If the application is deficient pursuant to § 4.32(e) of this chapter, the applicant must include with the information correcting those deficiencies a statement of the costs expended to make the corrections.

(e) *Processing of petition.* (1) The Commission will issue a notice of the petition filed under this section and publish the notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The petition will be available for inspection and copying during regular business hours in the Public Reference Room maintained by the Division of Public Information.

(2) *Comments on the petition.* The Commission will provide the public 45 days from the date the notice of the petition is issued to submit comments. The applicant for license or exemption has 15 days after the expiration of the public comment period to respond to the comments filed with the Commission.

(3) *Commission action on petition.* The Director of the Office of Energy Projects will determine whether or not the applicant for license or exemption

has made the showing required under this section.

[Order 499, 53 FR 27003, July 18, 1988, as amended by Order 699, 72 FR 45325, Aug. 14, 2007]

**§ 292.211 Petition for initial determination on whether a project has a substantial adverse effect on the environment (AEE petition).**

(a) An applicant that has filed a petition under § 292.210 may also file an AEE petition with the Commission for an initial determination on whether the project satisfies the requirement that it has no substantial adverse effect on the environment as specified in § 292.208(b)(1).

(b) The filing of the AEE petition does not relieve the applicant of the filing requirements of § 292.208(c).

(c) The Commission will act on the AEE petition only if the Commission has granted the applicant's commitment of resources petition under § 292.210.

(d) *Time of filing petition.* The applicant may file the AEE petition with the application for license or exemption or at any time before the Commission issues the license or exemption.

(e) *Contents of petition.* The AEE petition must identify the project and request that the Commission make an initial determination on the adverse environmental effects requirements in § 292.208(b)(1).

(f) The Director of the Office of Energy Projects will make the initial determination on the AEE petition. In making this determination, the Director will consider the following:

(1) Any proposed mitigative measures;

(2) The consistency of the proposal with local, regional, and national resource plans and programs;

(3) The mandatory terms and conditions of fish and wildlife agencies under section 210(j) of PURPA, or section 30(c) of the Federal Power Act; or the recommended terms and conditions of fish and wildlife agencies under Section 10(j) of the Federal Power Act, whichever is appropriate; and

(4) Any other information which the Director believes is relevant to consider.

(g) *Initial finding on the petition.* The Director of the Office of Energy Projects will make the initial determination on the AEE petition after the close of the public notice period for the accepted application. If the Director's initial determination finds:

(1) No substantial adverse effect on the environment, the Commission must wait at least 45 days before making a final determination that the project satisfies the requirements of § 292.208(b)(1).

(2) A substantial adverse effect on the environment, the applicant may file, within 90 days of the initial finding that the project does not satisfy the requirements in § 292.208(b)(1), proposed measures to mitigate the adverse environmental effects found.

(3)(i) The Commission will provide written notice of the Director's initial finding on the petition to the applicant, to the federal and state agencies that the applicant must consult under § 4.38 of this chapter and to any intervenors in the proceeding.

(ii) The Commission will publish notice of the Director's initial finding in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(h) *Notice and comment on the mitigative measures.* (1) The Commission will issue notice of the mitigative measures filed by an applicant under paragraph (g)(2) of this section and will publish the notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The mitigative measures will be on file and available for inspection or copying during regular business hours in the Public Reference Room maintained by the Division of Public Information;

(2) The Commission will provide the State and interested persons within 90 days from the date the notice is issued to review and submit comments on the mitigative measures. The applicant for license or exemption has 15 days after the expiration of the public comment period to respond to the comments filed with the Commission.

(i) *Material amendments to application.* The proposed mitigative measures filed under paragraph (g)(2) of this section will not be considered a material amendment to the application unless the Commission finds that the proposed measures are unnecessary to, or