
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY'S MCCLOUD-PIT HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 2106

To: Interested Parties Mailing List

Notice is hereby given that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) intends to adopt a Negative Declaration in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the relicensing of the McCloud-Pit Hydroelectric Project (Project). The Project, also known as Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2106, is owned and operated by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). The draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration (IS/ND) is available for public review and comment as described herein.

Background:

On July 15, 2009, PG&E filed an application for a new major license for the Project with FERC. PG&E filed an application for water quality certification (certification) under section 401 of the Clean Water Act with the State Water Board on November 9, 2018. Prior to issuing a certification, the State Water Board must comply with CEQA. The State Water Board is the CEQA lead agency for the Project. As lead agency, the State Water Board issued a notice of informal consultation on October 26, 2012 in accordance with CEQA. (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, § 15063, subd. (g).) This Notice is provided in satisfaction of the formal written notice requirements for public review of a draft IS/ND. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15072.)

Project Description:

The Proposed Project includes continued operation of the existing Project with recreational improvements. The Project area encompasses 3,707.6 acres of land, of which 1,651.4 acres (45 percent) are federally owned, 1,239.4 acres (33 percent) are owned by PG&E, and the remaining 816.8 acres are private lands. The Project is primarily located in Shasta County, with a small portion located in Siskiyou County, California. The Project consists of three hydropower developments that collectively include two storage reservoirs (McCloud and Iron Canyon), two regulating reservoirs (Pit 6 and Pit 7), one afterbay (Pit 7), three powerhouses (James B. Black, Pit 6, and Pit 7), five dams (Pit 6, Pit 7, Pit 7 Afterbay, Iron Canyon, and McCloud), two tunnels, and associated equipment, transmission, and recreational facilities.

The Project transfers water from the McCloud Reservoir (in the McCloud River basin) via the McCloud Tunnel to Iron Canyon Reservoir located on Iron Canyon Creek, a tributary to the Pit River (in the lower Pit River basin). Water from Iron Canyon Reservoir is transferred via the Iron Canyon Tunnel to the James B. Black Powerhouse, which is located on the Pit River slightly upstream and across from the Pit 5 Powerhouse (part of PG&E's Pit 3, 4, 5 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 233). Water discharged from the James B. Black Powerhouse enters the Pit River, then travels through the Pit 6 and Pit 7 developments before entering

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shasta Lake. Shasta Lake is formed by Shasta Dam, a United States Department of Interior – Bureau of Reclamation dam, which impounds waters from the Pit, Sacramento, and McCloud rivers.

Public Review Period:

The comment period is from the date of this notice until June 3, 2019. **Comments on the draft IS/ND must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) on June 3, 2019.** Comments can be submitted electronically or by mail to:

Email:

wr401program@waterboards.ca.gov

or

Mail:

Savannah Downey
State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program, P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

The draft IS/ND is available on the Project webpage at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/mccloud_pit_ferc2106.shtml

If you cannot access the IS/ND online, copies of the draft IS/ND and documents incorporated by reference will be available for review at the following locations no later than May 9, 2019:

State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street
2nd Floor, Room 2-114
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 341-5300

Redding Library

1100 Parkview Avenue
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 245-7250

McCloud Library

300 E. Columbero Drive
McCloud, CA 96057
(530) 964-2169

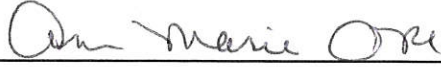
KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To receive emails related to the Project and other projects pursuing certifications managed by the Division of Water Rights, interested persons should enroll in the “Water Rights Water Quality Certification” e-mail notification service. Instructions on how to sign up for the State Water Board’s Email Subscription List are outlined below:

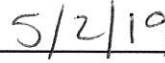
1. Visit:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml#rights
2. Provide your name and email in the required fields.
3. In the categories below the email and name fields, select “Water Rights,” then “Water Rights Water Quality Certification.”
4. Click the “Subscribe” button.
5. An email will be sent to you. You must respond to the email message to confirm your membership on the selected list(s).

If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email subscription list, you may contact Ms. Savannah Downey at the phone number listed below to request to receive notices by mail. You can enroll or un-enroll from the email subscription service at any time.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact Ms. Savannah Downey by phone at (916) 322-1585 or by email at Savannah.Downey@waterboards.ca.gov.



Ann Marie Ore
Water Quality Certification & Public Trust Program Manager
Division of Water Rights



Date