

Solomon Gulch Relicensing Effort 2021-2028

On June 21, 1978, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a 50-year license to the Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA). The operating license for the existing 12-megawatt (MW) Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2742 will expire on May 31, 2028. CVEA intends to file an application for a new license prior to May 31, 2026, two years before the license expiration date, as required by FERC regulations. FERC authorized the use of the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) on June 23, 2023. The cost to members is approximately \$1.5 million from the relicensing effort that began in 2021 until the expiration date of 2028.

The current Project boundary includes: Solomon Gulch reservoir (also known as Solomon Lake) and surrounding lands; the dam, spillway, penstocks, powerhouse and associated appurtenant facilities; 1.68 miles of 24.9kV transmission line extending from the powerhouse switchyard to the Petro Star switch building at the Petro Star Valdez Refinery; and 108.16 miles of transmission line, extending from the Petro Star switch building to the Meals Substation (where it increases to 138 kV), to a substation adjacent to Pump Station 11 near Glennallen, Alaska. Land ownership within the current Project boundary is a mix of federal, state, municipal, and privately-owned lands.

Concurrent with the relicensing effort, on October 31, 2022, CVEA submitted a non-capacity license amendment proposing to remove from the Project boundary the 108.16-mile transmission line that extends from the Petro Star Switch Building to the substation adjacent to Pump Station 11 near Glennallen because this portion of the transmission line no longer meets the definition of primary transmission as defined in Federal Power Act (FPA) Section 3(11) (CVEA 2022). Since the Project was built in the early 1980s, the 108.16-mile section of transmission line has supported other tie-ins, projects, and electrical needs. The Petro Star Switch Building is now a point of interconnection and distribution for several other sources of power for the CVEA system, including the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 13124), a Cogeneration plant located at the Petro Star Refinery, and the Valdez Diesel Plant.

Within the Project boundary the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers 440 acres of lands at the southern end of the Solomon Gulch reservoir and 462.2 acres of lands along the 108.16-mile transmission line right-of-way (ROW). Removing the 108.16-mile segment of the transmission line from the Project boundary

would remove the 462.2 acres of federal land subject to annual charges pursuant to Article 42 of the License. This will save costs for the members.

Year	Activities
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Plan
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation activities• Initiation of relicensing
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Filed Notice of Intent/Pre-Application document• Requested Traditional Licensing Process• Conducted Joint Agency Meeting
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize study plan• Conduct 7 studies
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct second year of studies, if necessary• Issue draft license application
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• File final License Application
2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• License expiration