Notice of Filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Copper Valley Electric Association  
Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project  
FERC No. 2742

On June 21, 1978, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) issued a 50-year license to the Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) for the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2742 (Project). The operating license for this 12 MW Project will expire on May 31, 2028. CVEA is applying for a new FERC license.

On or about April 28, 2023, Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc. (CVEA), will begin the relicensing process by submitting to FERC a Notification of Intent (NOI), Pre-Application Document (PAD), and a request to use the Commission’s Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) for the Project. The Project is an existing hydroelectric facility, producing renewable energy, located on Solomon Gulch Creek near the city of Valdez in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area of Alaska.

Pursuant to the requirements of 18 CFR§5.3(d)(2), CVEA is publishing notice of these filings and making the following information available to the public.

Summary of Documents:
1. The NOI notifies the Commission of CVEA’s unequivocal intent to prepare and file an application for a new license for the Project.
2. The PAD provides existing and reasonably available information about the Project, including relevant engineering, environmental, operational, and economic information. The PAD will be available from FERC’s website at https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/elibrary.
3. A request to use the TLP, which provides justification for use of the TLP as compared to the default Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), as the most efficient, effective, and least burdensome process for all parties and agencies interested in this licensing proceeding. The flexible nature and timelines of the TLP will allow CVEA to continue to work collaboratively with resource agencies and interested parties.

Applicant’s Contact Information:
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Comments on Request to use the TLP:  
In accordance with 18 CFR§5.3(d)(2), comments on the applicant’s request to use the TLP must be filed with the commission no later 30 days of the filing date. Comments should refer to the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2742). Comments on CVEA’s request to use the TLP should address the following, as appropriate to the circumstances of the request: (1) Likelihood of timely license issuance; (2) Complexity of the resource issues; (3) Level of anticipated controversy; (4) Relative cost of the traditional process compared to the integrated process; (5) The amount of available information and potential for significant disputes over studies; and (6) Other factors believed by the commenter to be pertinent.

Resource agencies, Indian tribes, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and members of the public with an interest in the Project may participate in the relicensing process and are welcome to comment on the PAD. The NOI, PAD and associated reference materials for the Solomon Gulch Project will be available for review and reproduction online at https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/elibrary as well as CVEA’s relicensing website at www.cvea.org.

Comments submitted to FERC can be filed electronically via FERC’s website (https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview) pursuant to 18 CFR§ 385.2003(c), or an original and eight copies can be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, FERC, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.