



City and Borough of Sitka

• ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT •

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Date: 5/8/03

To: Distribution

From: Dean Orbison, Engineering Manager, City and Borough of Sitka Electric Department

Subject: Request to use Alternative Licensing Process, Blue Lake Hydroelectric Project, ("Project", FERC No. 2230.)

Mr./Ms:

As you may know, the City and Borough of Sitka, AK, ("City") has begun the process of obtaining a new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the subject Project. As part of the relicensing process, the City sent to the FERC a request letter dated January 30, 2003, to use a process known as the "alternative licensing process" (ALP) to obtain the new license.

The FERC regulations, 18 CFR Section 4.34(i)(3), require us to do the following prior to FERC's acceptance of our request to use the ALP (the following is exact language from the federal regulations):

- 1) *"demonstrate that a reasonable effort has been made to contact all resource agencies, Indian tribes, citizens' groups and other affected by your license*

- proposal, and that a consensus exists that the use of the alternative procedures is appropriate under the circumstance;*
- 2) submit a communications protocol, supported by interested entities, governing how you and other participants in the pre-filing consultation process, including the Commission staff, may communicate with each other regarding the merits of your proposal and proposal and recommendations of interested entities; and*
 - 3) serve a copy of the request on all affected resource agencies and Indian tribes and on all entities contacted by you that have expressed an interest in the alternative pre-filing consultation process.”*

This letter and enclosed Draft Communications Protocol addresses the above requirements. In response, we ask that you state, in writing, your position relative to our use of the ALP on the form provided at the end of the draft document. You may simply state that you believe the ALP is appropriate under the circumstances, or you may condition your response as you feel necessary.

We ask that you provide comment on the attached Draft Communications Protocol at your earliest convenience, within 30 days of receipt, if possible. In your comments, please document any recommendations for how the protocol might be changed.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request. If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Dean Orbison at 907-747-6633.

Sincerely,

Dean Orbison
Engineering Manager

1 enclosure

Distribution

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