

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20426

OCT 22 2003

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10/28/03

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2230-033-Alaska
Blue Lake Hydroelectric Project
City & Borough of Sitka, Alaska

Dean Orbison, Engineering Manager
City & Borough of Sitka, Electric Department
105 Jarvis Street
Sitka, AK 99835

Re: Letter granting request to use alternative procedures to prepare a license application.

Dear Mr. Orbison:

On September 10, 2003, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a notice of a request by the City & Borough of Sitka (Sitka) to use the alternative procedures for preparing and filing an application for a new license for the existing Blue Lake Hydroelectric Project (project). In support of the use of the alternative licensing procedures, Sitka demonstrated that it has made an effort to contact all resource agencies, Indian tribes, citizens groups, and others affected by the project and that a consensus exists that the use of alternative procedures is appropriate in this case. Sitka submitted a communications protocol that is supported by the interested entities. The Commission's notice requested any additional comments on Sitka's proposal to use alternative procedures, and we received one written response. In a letter filed on October 6, 2003, the U.S. Department of the Interior responded by stating that they received the Commission's notice but have no comments to offer.

In light of the support shown for using an alternative licensing process, I believe that the use of the alternative licensing procedures would be appropriate in this case, because it would foster improved communications, participation, and cooperation among the participants and ultimately simplify and expedite the licensing process. Therefore, I am approving Sitka's request to follow the alternative procedures in accordance with the Commission's Regulations for Licensing Hydroelectric Projects at 18 CFR § 4.34(i).

If you have any questions, please contact Nick Jayjack at (202) 502-6073

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jennifer Hill, Chief
Hydro West Branch 1

cc: Public Files
Service List