

LICENSING PROCESS ALTERNATIVES.

Under a recent amendment of the FPA, licensees may elect to use the traditional licensing approach or the Alternative Licensing Procedure (ALP). Under the Traditional Approach, all activities and documents required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are conducted by the FERC or their contractor after acceptance of the Application. This FERC action may take as long as two years to complete. Under the ALP, the licensee may conduct NEPA Scoping (the public participation process to solicit comments on environmental issues) and may prepare a preliminary draft Environmental Assessment (EA) (first in a series of EA's) prior to submittal of the Application. This process may save as much as two years, but requires greater licensee time and effort prior to Application submittal. The City currently favors using the ALP, but has not formally notified the FERC of this position. The public and other stakeholders will be notified on Sitka's request to use the ALP if that is our decision and the FERC must consider all stakeholder comments on that decision prior to approval of the process.