

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20426

May 25, 2012

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 14110-001 – Washington
Black Canyon Hydroelectric Project
Black Canyon Hydro, LLC

Subject: Scoping Document 1 for Black Canyon Hydroelectric Project, P-14110

To the Party Addressed:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is currently reviewing the Pre-Application Document submitted by Black Canyon Hydro, LLC (Black Canyon) for the licensing of the proposed Black Canyon Hydroelectric Project (Black Canyon Project or project) (FERC No. 14110). The Black Canyon Project would be located on the North Fork Snoqualmie River, approximately 4 miles northeast of North Bend in King County, Washington. The project would be located on private lands.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, Commission staff intends to prepare an environmental assessment (EA), which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue a license for the project. To support and assist our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed, and that the EA is thorough and balanced.

We invite your participation in the scoping process, and are circulating the attached Scoping Document 1 (SD1) to provide you with information on the Black Canyon Project. We are also soliciting your comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA. We are also requesting that you identify any studies that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the EA for the project.

We will hold two scoping meetings for the Black Canyon Project to receive input on the scope of the EA. A daytime meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on June 19, 2012, at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center Auditorium, 19901 Cedar Falls Road SE, North Bend, Washington 98045. An evening meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on June 19, 2012, at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center Auditorium. Black Canyon

will conduct a virtual site review meeting for the proposed project at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center Auditorium on June 19, 2012, starting at 2:00 p.m.

We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to attend one or all of these meetings. Further information on the virtual site review meeting and scoping meetings is available in the enclosed SD1.

SD1 is being distributed to both Black Canyon's distribution list and the Commission's official mailing list (see section 10.0 of the attached SD1). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by email to efiling@ferc.gov or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written or emailed requests must specify your wish to be removed from or added to the mailing list and must clearly identify the following on the first page: **Black Canyon Hydroelectric Project No. 14110-001**.

Please review SD1 and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 6.0, *Request for Information and Studies*. If you have any questions about SD1, the scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the EA for this project, please contact Brandon Cherry at (202) 502-8328 or brandon.cherry@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Black Canyon Project may be obtained from our website, www.ferc.gov. The deadline for filing comments is **July 24, 2012**. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 1

cc: Mailing List
Public Files

SCOPING DOCUMENT 1
BLACK CANYON HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

WASHINGTON

PROJECT NO. 14110-001

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Hydropower Licensing
Washington, DC

May 2012

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SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

Black Canyon Hydroelectric Project No. 14110-001

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ may issue licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydroelectric projects. On March 26, 2012, Black Canyon Hydro, LLC (Black Canyon) filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD) and on March 27, 2012, Black Canyon filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to seek an original license for the construction and operation of the Black Canyon Hydroelectric Project (Black Canyon Project or project) (FERC Project No. 14110).

The Black Canyon Project would be located on the North Fork Snoqualmie River, approximately 4 miles northeast of North Bend in King County, Washington (figure 1). The project would consist of a new 7-foot-high, 156-foot-long dam with a fish ladder and an intake structure. Water would be diverted through a new buried penstock that bypasses a 2.6-mile-long section of the North Fork Snoqualmie River. The project would have a total installed capacity of 25 megawatts (MW) and an estimated average annual generation of 104,720 megawatt-hours. A detailed description of the project is provided in section 3.0.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969², the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require that we independently evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed project and reasonable alternatives. At this time, we intend to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects, if any, of the proposed action and alternatives. The EA preparation will be supported by a scoping process to ensure identification and analysis of all pertinent issues. Although our

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

² National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (Pub. L. 91-190. 42 U.S.C. § 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended by Pub. L. 94-52, July 3, 1975, Pub. L. 94-83, August 9, 1975, and Pub. L. 97-258, § 4(b), Sept. 13, 1982).



Figure 1. Proposed project location in the Upper Snoqualmie River Basin (Source: staff).

current intent is to prepare a draft and final EA, there is a possibility that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be required. The scoping process will satisfy NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission issues an EA or EIS.

2.0 SCOPING

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the EA and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and schedule for the development of the EA; (2) a description of the proposed action and alternatives; (3) a preliminary identification of environmental issues and proposed studies; (4) a request for comments and information; (5) a proposed EA outline; and (6) a preliminary list of comprehensive plans that are applicable to the project.

2.1 Purpose of Scoping

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. According to NEPA, the process should be conducted early in the planning stage of the project. The purposes of the scoping process are as follows:

- invite participation of federal, state and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;
- determine the resource issues, depth of analysis, and significance of issues to be addressed in the EA;
- identify how the project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects in the project area;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that should be evaluated in the EA;
- solicit, from participants, available information on the resources at issue, including existing information and study needs; and
- determine the resource areas and potential issues that do not require detailed analysis during review of the project.

2.2 Comments, Scoping Meetings, and Virtual Site Review

During preparation of the EA, there will be several opportunities for the resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to provide input. These opportunities occur:

- during the public scoping process and study plan meetings, when we solicit oral and written comments regarding the scope of issues and analysis for the EA;
- in response to the Commission's notice that the project is ready for environmental analysis; and
- after issuance of the draft EA when we solicit written comments on the EA.

In addition to written comments solicited by this SD1, we will hold two public scoping meetings and a virtual site review meeting in the vicinity of the project. A daytime meeting will focus on concerns of the resource agencies, NGOs, and Indian tribes, and an evening meeting will focus on receiving input from the public. The virtual site review meeting will provide an overview of the proposed project area, including video, photos, and maps. We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both of the scoping meetings to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. All interested parties are also invited to participate in the virtual site review meeting. The times and locations of the meetings and virtual site review are as follows:

Daytime Scoping Meeting

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 11:00 a.m.
 Location: Cedar River Watershed Education Center Auditorium,
 19901 Cedar Falls Road SE, North Bend, WA 98045
 Phone Number: (206) 733-9421

Evening Scoping Meeting

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
 Location: Cedar River Watershed Education Center Auditorium,
 19901 Cedar Falls Road SE, North Bend, WA 98045
 Phone Number: (206) 733-9421

Virtual Site Review

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
Location: Cedar River Watershed Education Center Auditorium,
19901 Cedar Falls Road SE, North Bend, WA 98045
Phone Number: (206) 733-9421

The scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (verbal and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the project. Before each meeting, all individuals who attend, especially those who intend to make statements, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record. Interested parties who choose not to speak or who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide written comments and information to the Commission as described in section 6.0. These meetings are posted on the Commission's calendar located on the internet at www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx, along with other related information.

Meeting participants should come prepared to discuss their issues and/or concerns as they pertain to the project. It is advised that participants review the PAD in preparation for the scoping meetings. Copies of the PAD are available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, P-14110, to access the documents. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy of the PAD is also available for inspection and reproduction at the following address: Black Canyon Hydro, LLC, 3633 Alderwood Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Following the scoping meetings and comment period, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made as to the level of analysis needed. If preliminary analysis indicates that any issues presented in this scoping document have little potential for causing significant effects, the issue(s) will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be given in the EA.

If we receive no substantive comments on SD1, then we will not prepare a Scoping Document 2 (SD2). Otherwise, we will issue SD2 to address any substantive comments received. The SD2 will be issued for informational purposes only; no response will be required. The EA will address recommendations and input received during the scoping process.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with NEPA, the environmental analysis will consider the following alternatives, at a minimum: (1) the no-action alternative, (2) Black Canyon's proposed action, and (3) alternatives to the proposed action.

3.1 No-Action Alternative

The no-action alternative is license denial. Under the no-action alternative, the project would not be built and environmental resources in the project area would not be affected.

3.2 Applicant's Proposal

3.2.1 Proposed Project Facilities and Operations

The Black Canyon Project would be located on private lands and would consist of the following new facilities: (1) a 7-foot-high, 156-foot-long dam with a fish ladder and an intake structure equipped with coanda screens;³ (2) a 4.2-acre impoundment with a normal water surface elevation of 958 feet above mean sea level; (3) an 8,175-foot-long buried penstock that includes a 6,990-foot-long, 14-foot-diameter section that connects the intake structure to a 1,185-foot-long, 17-foot-diameter section that connects to; (4) a 60-foot-long, 100-foot-wide powerhouse containing two Francis turbine generating units, one 16.5-MW unit and one 8.5-MW unit, for a total installed capacity of 25 MW; (5) a 150-foot-long, 40-foot-wide tailrace; (6) a 4.2-mile-long, 115-kilovolt overhead transmission line that transmits project power to the regional grid; (7) a 0.75-mile-long and a 0.5-mile-long extension of two existing logging roads that lead to the project facilities; and (8) appurtenant facilities (figure 2). The project would have an estimated average annual generation of 104,720 megawatt-hours.

The project would operate in a run-of-river mode. The combined maximum hydraulic capacity of the two project turbines would be 900 cubic feet per second (cfs). The project would bypass a 2.6-mile-long section of the North Fork Snoqualmie River. No minimum flow release to the bypassed reach is proposed.

³ Coanda screens are angled wedge-wire screens installed to prevent fish and debris from entering the project intake structure.

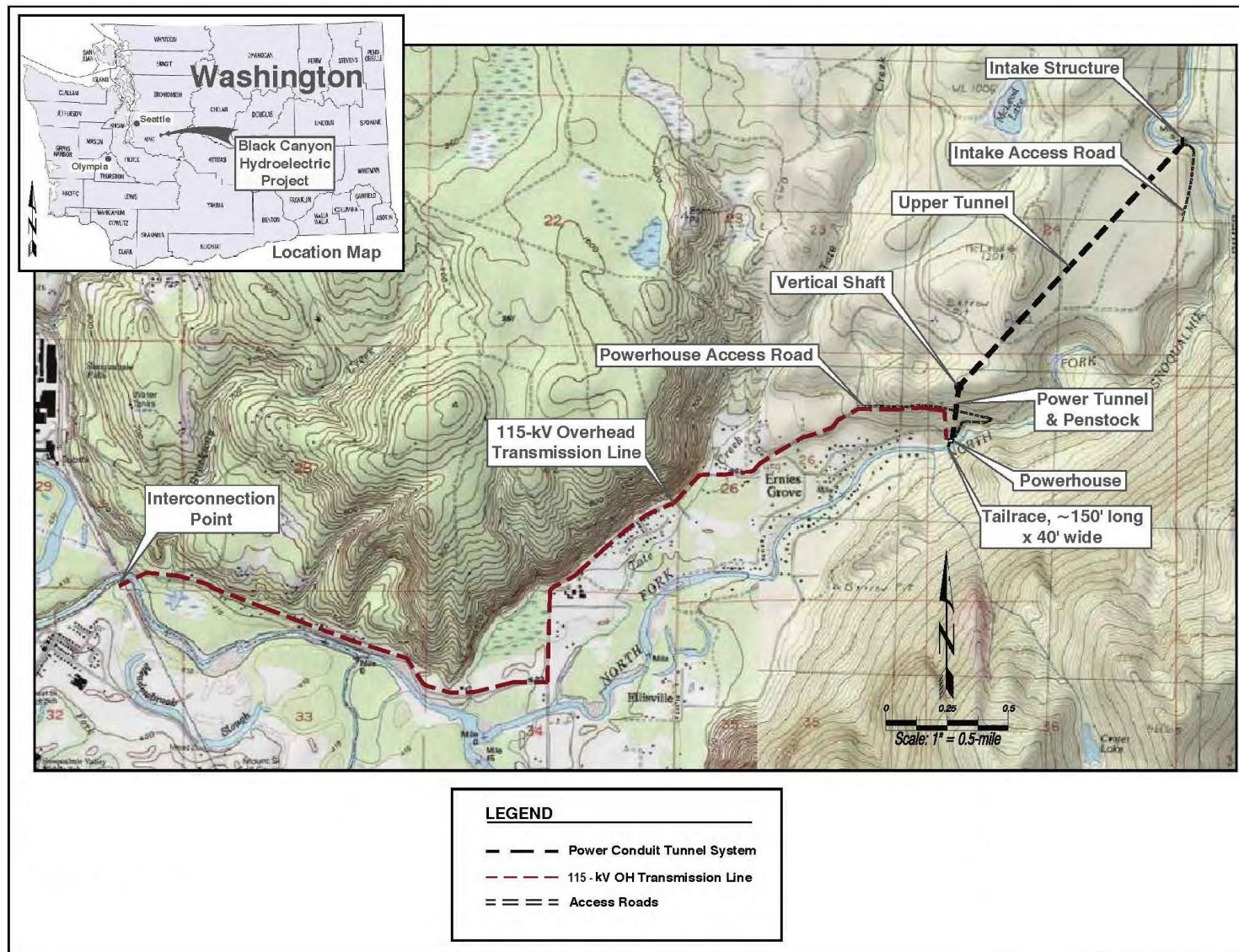


Figure 2. Proposed project site plan (Source: Black Canyon Project PAD, as modified by staff).

3.2.2 Proposed Environmental Measures

In section 5.0 of the PAD, Black Canyon proposes the following environmental measures to protect and enhance environmental resources in the project area.

Geologic and Soil Resources

- Develop an erosion and sediment control plan that would include best management practices described in the King County Construction Stormwater Manual.
- Stockpile excavated soil from construction in designated areas with suitable drainage, erosion, and sediment control measures.
- Limit clearing and construction activities to the minimum area required to reduce soil erosion.
- Install debris barriers, silt fences, and sediment traps to prevent fine sediment from entering waterways during project construction.
- Employ standard methods for road construction, drainage, and maintenance.

Aquatic Resources

- Construct and operate a ladder for upstream fish passage.
- Install coanda screens on the intake structure to prevent fish entrainment.

Terrestrial Resources

- Revegetate disturbed areas as soon as possible to prevent erosion and reestablish vegetation and habitat.

Threatened and Endangered Species

- None. There are no known federally listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat in the proposed project area.

Recreation and Land Use

- Schedule construction and maintenance activities to avoid effects on recreational access and use.

Aesthetic Resources

- Design the project to minimize visual impacts to the extent practical.
- Schedule construction activities to minimize vehicular traffic through residential areas.

Cultural Resources

- Develop and implement a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The HPMP would address protection of known cultural resources in the project area and establish procedures for management of resources identified during project construction and future ground-disturbing activities.
- Develop and implement an Unanticipated Discovery Plan that would include detailed procedures for addressing the unanticipated discovery of human remains or archaeological resources during construction and operation of the project.

3.3 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Commission staff will consider and assess all alternative recommendations for location or other changes to the proposed project, as well as protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures identified by the Commission, other agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public.

4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES

4.1 Cumulative Effects

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (50 C.F.R. 1508.7), a cumulative effect is the effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually

minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

4.1.1 Resources that Could be Cumulatively Affected

Based on information in the PAD and preliminary staff analysis, we have identified water quality as a resource that could be cumulatively affected by the proposed project.

4.1.2 Geographic Scope

At this time, we have tentatively identified the Snoqualmie River Basin as our geographic scope of analysis for cumulatively affected water quality resources. Activities within this basin that may cumulatively affect water quality include: (1) construction and operation of dams; (2) logging, road-building, and other development activities; and (3) consumptive and non-consumptive uses of surface water.

4.1.3 Temporal Scope

The temporal scope of our cumulative effects analysis in the EA will include a discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and their effects on each resource that could be cumulatively affected. Based on the potential term of a license, the temporal scope will look 30 to 50 years into the future, concentrating on the effect on the resources from reasonably foreseeable future actions. The historical discussion will, by necessity, be limited to the amount of available information for each resource. The quality and quantity of information, however, diminishes as we analyze resources further away in time from the present.

4.2 Resource Issues

In this section, we present a preliminary list of environmental issues to be addressed in the EA. We have identified these issues, which are listed by resource area, by reviewing information in the PAD. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but contains those issues raised to date that could have substantial effects. After the scoping process is complete, we will review the list and determine the appropriate level of analysis needed to address each issue in the EA. Those issues identified by an asterisk (*) will be analyzed for both cumulative and site-specific effects.

4.2.1 Geologic and Soil Resources

- Effects of project construction and operation on the permeability of rock material and joint fractures along the buried penstock route.
- Effects of construction of the proposed project dam, intake structure, penstock, powerhouse, tailrace, and transmission line on slope stability and soil erosion.
- Effects of project construction and operation on sedimentation in the North Fork Snoqualmie River.

4.2.2 Aquatic Resources

- Effects of impingement and entrainment at the proposed project intake on the resident fish community.
- Effects of the proposed project dam on upstream fish movements and access to habitat.
- Effects of reduced flows in the proposed 2.6-mile-long bypassed reach on aquatic habitat.
- Effects of the proposed 4.2-acre impoundment and tailrace on aquatic habitat.
- Effects of project construction and operation on water temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and sedimentation in the North Fork Snoqualmie River.*
- Effects of project construction and operation on the water quality of the North Fork Snoqualmie River from inadvertent spills of hazardous materials (e.g., gasoline, oil, concrete, etc.).*
- Effects of project construction and operation, including reduced flows in the bypassed reach, on the distribution and availability of ground and surface waters.
- Effects of project operation on streamflow downstream of the powerhouse.

4.2.3 Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of constructing the road extensions and transmission line and burying the penstock on vegetation and wildlife habitat.
- Effects of constructing the proposed project dam, intake structure, and powerhouse on riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat.
- Effects of the proposed impoundment and reduced flows in the bypassed reach on riparian vegetation.
- Effects of boat portaging around the proposed project dam on vegetation and wildlife habitat.

4.2.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

- Because there are no known federally listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat in the proposed project area, no effects are anticipated.

4.2.5 Recreation and Land Use

- Effects of the proposed project dam and reduced flows in the 2.6-mile-long bypassed reach on whitewater boating in Ernie's Gorge and the North Fork Snoqualmie River.
- Effects of project construction and operation on hiking, primitive camping, and fishing in the project vicinity.
- Effects of constructing the road extensions on recreation access in the project vicinity.

4.2.6 Aesthetic Resources

- Effects of project construction and operation, including the transmission line, on visual resources in the project vicinity.
- Effects of noise from project construction and operation on recreational use in the project vicinity.

4.2.7 Cultural Resources

- Effects of project construction and operation on potential historic properties included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.
- Effects of project construction and operation on cultural resources of the Snoqualmie Tribe and Tulalip Tribes.

4.2.8 Developmental Resources

- Economics of the proposed project and the effects of any recommended environmental measures on the project's economics.

5.0 PROPOSED STUDIES

Depending upon the findings of studies completed by Black Canyon and the recommendations of the consulted entities, Black Canyon will consider, and may propose certain other measures to enhance environmental resources affected by the project as part of its proposed action. Black Canyon's initial study proposals are identified by resource area in table 1. Further studies may need to be added to this list based on comments provided to the Commission and Black Canyon from interested participants, including Indian tribes.

Table 1. Black Canyon Hydro, LLC's initial study proposals for the Black Canyon Hydroelectric Project (Source: Black Canyon Project PAD).

<u>Resource Area</u>	<u>Proposed Study/Information Need</u>
Geologic and Soil Resources	<p>LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) to generate detailed project area topography.</p> <p>Preliminary slope stability study to identify any areas with soil and slope instability that could affect or be affected by the proposed project.</p> <p>Erosion and sediment control risk assessment to evaluate potential effects of construction, operation, and maintenance activities.</p> <p>Geotechnical investigation to evaluate the permeability of rock material and joints and fractures along the proposed penstock route, including effects on ground and surface water.</p>
Aquatic Resources ⁴	<p>Spawner surveys.⁵</p> <p>Juvenile salmonid surveys.⁵</p> <p>Physical stream survey.</p> <p>Stream reach inventory.</p> <p>Channel stability evaluation.</p> <p>Literature review of streamflow, temperature, and suspended sediment data collected by the U.S. Geological Survey or other entities.</p> <p>Water temperature modeling to determine the effects of project operation on water temperatures.</p>

⁴ Details regarding the goals and objectives of Black Canyon's aquatic study

<u>Resource Area</u>	<u>Proposed Study/Information Need</u>
	<p>Water quality sampling for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, nitrates, phosphates, and hardness.</p> <p>Bedload transport study.</p> <p>Water quantity study.</p>
Terrestrial Resources	Terrestrial habitat survey to identify the wildlife and riparian vegetation that occurs in the project area.
Threatened and Endangered Species	Rare, threatened, and endangered species survey to determine if these species are present in the project area.
Recreation and Land Use	Recreation monitoring and evaluation to determine the amount and types of recreational use in the project area.

6.0 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND STUDIES

We are asking federal, state, and local resource agencies; Indian tribes; NGOs; and the public to forward to the Commission any information that will assist us in conducting an accurate and thorough analysis of the project-specific and cumulative effects associated with the Black Canyon Project. The types of information requested include, but are not limited to:

- information, quantitative data, or professional opinions that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis (both site-specific and cumulative effects), and that helps identify significant environmental issues;
- identification of, and information from, any other EA, EIS, or similar environmental study (previous, on-going, or planned) relevant to the proposed Black Canyon Project;

proposals are limited to the information provided in this table.

⁵ Black Canyon states that the surveys may not be warranted due to the presence of Snoqualmie Falls and the occurrence of only resident fish species in the project area.

- existing information and any data that would help to describe the past and present actions and effects of the project and other developmental activities on environmental and socioeconomic resources;
- information that would help characterize existing environmental conditions and habitats;
- the identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected resource area (e.g., proposals to construct or operate water treatment facilities, recreation areas, water diversions, timber harvest activities, or fish management programs), along with any implementation schedules;
- documentation that the proposed project would or would not contribute to cumulative adverse or beneficial effects on any resources. Documentation can include, but need not be limited to, how the project would interact with other projects in the area and other developmental activities; study results; resource management policies; and reports from federal and state agencies, local agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public;
- documentation showing why any resources should be excluded from further study or consideration; and
- study requests by federal and state agencies, local agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the EA for the project.

All requests for studies filed with the Commission must meet the criteria found in Appendix A, *Study Plan Criteria*.

The requested information, comments, and study requests should be submitted to the Commission no later than July 24, 2012. All filings must clearly identify the following on the first page: **Black Canyon Hydroelectric Project (P-14110-001)**. Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online

Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, mail an original and seven copies to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support.

Any questions concerning the scoping meetings, virtual site review, or how to file written comments with the Commission should be directed to Brandon Cherry at (202) 502-8328 or brandon.cherry@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Black Canyon Project may be obtained from the Commission's website, www.ferc.gov.

7.0 EA PREPARATION SCHEDULE

At this time, we anticipate the need to prepare a draft and final EA. The draft EA will be sent to all persons and entities on the Commission's service and mailing lists for the Black Canyon Project. Recipients will then have 60 days to provide the Commission with written comments on the draft EA. The EA will include staff recommendations for operating procedures and environmental measures for inclusion in any license issued by the Commission. All comments on the draft EA filed with the Commission will be considered in preparation of the final EA.

A complete list of processing milestones is available in Appendix B. The schedule assumes that there will be one study season; however, if a second study season is necessary, the schedule below will be adjusted accordingly. The major pre-filing milestones are as follows:

<u>Major Milestone</u>	<u>Target Date</u>
Scoping Meetings	June 2012
Comments on SD1	July 2012
SD2 (if necessary)	September 2012
Study Plan Determination	February 2013
Initial Study Report	February 2014
Preliminary Licensing Proposal	September 2014

8.0 PROPOSED EA OUTLINE

The preliminary outline for the Black Canyon Project EA is as follows:

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- 5.1 Comparison of Alternatives
- 5.2 Comprehensive Development and Recommended Alternative
- 5.3 Unavoidable Adverse Effects
- 5.4 Recommendations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- 5.5 Consistency with Comprehensive Plans

6.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (OR SIGNIFICANT IMPACT)

7.0 LITERATURE CITED

8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

APPENDICES

- A--License Conditions Recommended by Staff
- B--Response to Comments on the Draft EA
- C--Mandatory Conditions from Agencies

9.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal and state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. The staff has preliminarily identified and reviewed the plans listed below that may be relevant to the Black Canyon Project. Agencies are requested to review this list and inform the Commission staff of any changes. If there are other comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission, or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed for consideration with the Commission according to 18 CFR 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing/complan.pdf>.

The following is a list of comprehensive plans currently on file with the Commission that may be relevant to the Black Canyon Project.

Forest Service. 1990. Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest land and resource management plan. Department of Agriculture, Seattle, Washington. June 1990.

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning Document (SCORP): 2002-2007. Olympia, Washington. October 2002.

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. 1991. Washington State trails plan: policy and action document. Tumwater, Washington. June 1991.

National Park Service. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1993.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council. 2010. The Sixth Northwest conservation and electric power plan. Portland, Oregon. Council Document 2010-09. February 2010.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council. 1988. Protected areas amendments and response to comments. Portland, Oregon. Council Document 88-22 (September 14, 1988).

State of Washington. 1977. Statute establishing the State scenic river system, Chapter 79.72 RCW. Olympia, Washington.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Canadian Wildlife Service. 1986. North American waterfowl management plan. Department of the Interior. Environment Canada. May 1986.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Undated. Fisheries USA: the recreational fisheries policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.

Washington Department of Ecology. 1979. Snohomish River Basin instream resources protection program. Olympia, Washington. August 28, 1979.

Washington Department of Ecology. 1994. State wetlands integration strategy. Olympia, Washington. December 1994. 80 pp.

Washington Department of Ecology. 1986. Application of shoreline management to hydroelectric developments. Olympia, Washington. September 1986.

Washington Department of Fisheries. Point No Point Treaty Council. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Settlement agreement pursuant to the July 2, 1986, Order of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington in Case No. 9213.

Washington Department of Fisheries. 1987. Hydroelectric project assessment guidelines. Olympia, Washington. 91 pp.

Washington Department of Game. 1987. Strategies for Washington's wildlife. Olympia, Washington. May 1987.

Washington Department of Natural Resources. 1987. State of Washington natural heritage plan. Olympia, Washington. 108 pp.

Washington Department of Natural Resources. 1997. Final habitat conservation plan. Olympia, Washington. September 1997.

Washington State Energy Office. 1992. Washington State hydropower development/resource protection plan. Olympia, Washington. December 1992. 34 pp.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. 1988. Washington State scenic river assessment. Olympia, Washington. September 1988. 70 pp.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. 1988. Scenic rivers program – report. Olympia, Washington. January 29, 1988. 8 pp.

10.0 MAILING LIST

The list below is the Commission's official mailing list for the Black Canyon Project (FERC No. 14110). If you want to receive future mailings for the Black Canyon Project and are not included in the list below, please send your request by email to efiling@ferc.gov or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written and emailed requests to be added to the mailing list must clearly identify the following on the first page: Black Canyon Hydroelectric Project No. 14110-001. You may use the same method if requesting removal from the mailing list below.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Mailing List

Isabel Tinoco Muckleshoot Indian Tribe 39015 172nd Ave. SE Auburn, WA 98092-9763	Snoqualmie Indian Tribe P.O. Box 969 8130 Railroad Ave. SE Snoqualmie, WA 98065
City of Snoqualmie P.O. Box 987 Snoqualmie, WA 98065	THR, LLC 114 Alaskan Way Suite 120 Seattle, WA 98104
Hancock Forest Management 17700 Mill Plain Blvd., Suite 180 Vancouver, WA 98683	NOD Enterprises, LLC P.O. Box 228 Woodinville, WA 98072
George F. Marshall 44937 SE 70th Street Snoqualmie, WA 98065	Rosella M. Banovetz 44940 SE 70th Street Snoqualmie, WA 98066

Lawrence and Maria Hassard 44912 SE 70th Street Snoqualmie, WA 98065	John and Anita Wambaugh 44728 SE 70th Street Snoqualmie, WA 98065
City of North Bend 211 Main Avenue N. North Bend, WA 98045	Marjorie R. Kinch 3510 NW Mink Place Corvallis, OR 97330
Thomas O'Keefe American Whitewater 3537 NE 87th Street Seattle, WA 98115	Matthew Baerwalde Water Quality Manager Snoqualmie Tribe Snoqualmie Tribe ENR Dept. P.O. Box 969 Snoqualmie, WA 98065
Andrea Rodgers Harris In-House Legal Counsel Snoqualmie Tribe P.O. Box 969 Snoqualmie, WA 98065-0969	Brett Swift American Rivers 320 SW Stark Street, Suite 412 Portland, OR 97204
Marc Bardsley North Cascades Conservation Council P.O. Box 9580 Seattle, WA 98145-2980	Richard Bowers Hydropower Reform Coalition 830 Reveille Street Bellingham, WA 98229
Rick McGuire Alpine Lakes Protection Society 705 Second Avenue, Suite 203 Seattle, WA 98104	Bonneville Power Association P.O. Box 3621 Portland, OR 97208-3621
Columbia River Gorge Commission P.O. Box 730 White Salmon, WA 98672-0730	Craig Hansen U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 1 510 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503
Julie Stangell Senior Forester Hancock Forest Management 31716 Camp 1 Rd. Orting, WA 98360	Joseph Rochelle King County Prosecuting Attorney 516 Third Avenue W400 Seattle, WA 98110

<p>John Starbard King County DDES Director 900 Oakesdale Avenue SW Renton, WA 98057</p>	<p>Christie True King County 201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 700 Seattle, WA 98104</p>
<p>Mark Isaacson King County Division Director 201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 600 Seattle, WA 98104</p>	<p>Susan Rosebrough National Park Service 909 First Avenue, 5th Floor Seattle, WA 98104</p>
<p>Ronald Garrow City of North Bend P.O. Box 896 North Bend, WA 98045</p>	<p>Karen Gustin Olympic National Park 600 East Park Avenue Port Angeles, WA 98362</p>
<p>Patrick Anderson PO Box 987 Snoqualmie, WA 98065-0924</p>	<p>Donald E. Kempf Stillaguamish Tribe of Washington P.O. Box 277 Arlington, WA 98223-0277</p>
<p>David Zarett THR, LLC 114 Alaskan Way South #120 Seattle, WA 98104</p>	<p>Michelle Demmert Tulalip Tribes of the Tulalip Reservation 6406 Marine Drive Tulalip, WA 98271</p>
<p>Daryl Brent Williams Environmental Liaison Tulalip Tribes of the Tulalip Reservation 6406 Marine Drive Tulalip, WA 98271</p>	<p>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers P.O. Box 2946 Portland, OR 97208-2946</p>
<p>Stephen Bredthauer Technical Review Program Manager U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NW Division P.O. Box 2870 Portland, OR 97208-2870</p>	<p>U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Portland Area Office 911 NE 11th Ave. Portland, OR 97232-4169</p>
<p>U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs P.O. Box 48 Aberdeen, WA 98520-0010</p>	<p>U.S. Bureau of Land Management 333 Southwest 1st Ave. Portland, OR 97204-3440</p>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 805 SW Broadway, Suite 500 Portland, OR 97205-3331	Senator Maria Cantwell U.S. Senate 311 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510
Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation P.O. Box 48343 Olympia, WA 98504-8343	Washington State Department of Agriculture 406 General Administration Building Olympia, WA 98504-0001
Joan Marchioro Washington Office of Attorney General P.O. Box 40117 Olympia, WA 98504	Monika Kannadaguli Washington State Department of Ecology 3190-160th Ave. SE Bellevue, WA 98008
Lee Van Tussenbrook Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife 2108 Grand Blvd. Vancouver, WA 98661-4624	Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife Habitat Division 600 N. Capitol Way Olympia, WA 98504-0001
Bill Frymire Washington Office of Attorney General P.O. Box 40100 Olympia, WA 98504	Brock Applegate Washington State Dept of Fish & Wildlife 111 Sherman Street La Conner, WA 98257
Terry Pruit Washington Office of Attorney General P.O. Box 40100 Olympia, WA 98504	Pamela W. Krueger Washington State Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 85899 Olympia, WA 98145
Forest Practice Coordinator Washington State Department of Natural Resources 950 Farman Street N Enumclaw, WA 98022-9282	SEPA Center Washington State Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 47015 Olympia, WA 98504-7015

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Electric Section P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250	
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APPENDIX A
STUDY PLAN CRITERIA
18 CFR Section 5.9(b)

Any information or study request must contain the following:

1. Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;
2. If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;
3. If the requester is not a resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study;
4. Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;
5. Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements;
6. Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate filed season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers relevant tribal values and knowledge; and
7. Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.

**APPENDIX B
PROCESS PLAN AND SCHEDULE**

Shaded milestones are unnecessary if there are no study disputes. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is the following business day.

Responsible Party	Pre-Filing Milestone	Date	FERC Regulation
Black Canyon	Issue Public Notice for NOI/PAD	3/27/12	5.3(d)(2)
Black Canyon	File NOI/PAD with FERC	3/27/12	5.5, 5.6
FERC	Initiate Tribal Consultation	3/30/12	5.7
FERC	Issue Notice of Commencement of Proceeding; Scoping Document 1 (SD1)	5/25/12	5.8
FERC	Project Virtual Site Review and Scoping Meetings	6/19/12	5.8(b)(viii)
All stakeholders	PAD/SD1 Comments and Study Requests Due	7/24/12	5.9
FERC	Issue Scoping Document 2 (if needed)	9/7/12	5.1
Black Canyon	File Proposed Study Plan (PSP)	9/7/12	5.11(a)
All stakeholders	Proposed Study Plan Meeting	10/8/12	5.11(e)
All stakeholders	Proposed Study Plan Comments Due	12/6/12	5.12
Black Canyon	File Revised Study Plan	1/7/13	5.13(a)
All stakeholders	Revised Study Plan Comments Due	1/22/13	5.13(b)
FERC	Director's Study Plan Determination	2/6/13	5.13(c)
Mandatory Conditioning Agencies	Any Study Disputes Due	2/26/13	5.14(a)
Dispute Panel	Third Dispute Panel Member Selected	3/13/13	5.14(d)(3)
Dispute Panel	Dispute Resolution Panel Convenes	3/18/13	5.14(d)
Black Canyon	Applicant Comments on Study Disputes Due	3/25/13	5.14(j)
Dispute Panel	Dispute Resolution Panel Technical Conference	3/28/13	5.14(j)
Dispute Panel	Dispute Resolution Panel Findings Issued	4/17/13	5.14(k)
FERC	Director's Study Dispute Determination	5/7/13	5.14(l)
Black Canyon	First Study Season	2013	5.15(a)
Black Canyon	Initial Study Report	2/6/14	5.15(c)(1)
All stakeholders	Initial Study Report Meeting	2/21/14	5.15(c)(2)
Black Canyon	Initial Study Report Meeting Summary	3/10/14	5.15(c)(3)

All stakeholders	Any Disputes/Requests to Amend Study Plan Due	4/9/14	5.15(c)(4)
All stakeholders	Responses to Disputes/Amendment Requests Due	5/9/14	5.15(c)(5)
FERC	Director's Determination on Disputes/Amendments	6/9/14	5.15(c)(6)
<i>Second study season if necessary. Schedule would be adjusted accordingly.</i>			
Black Canyon	File Preliminary Licensing Proposal (PLP)	9/1/14 ¹	5.16(a)
All stakeholders	PLP Comments Due	12/1/14	5.16(e)

¹ Date for filing of the PLP is a staff estimate.

Document Content(s)

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