

167 FERC ¶ 62,175

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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 Letterbook
 Licensing (eFile)

PKWD-19-053
 Energy Northwest

Project No. 2244-039

ORDER APPROVING FIRE PREVENTION PLAN

(Issued June 17, 2019)

1. On April 16, 2019, Energy Northwest, licensee for the Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project No. 2244, filed a fire prevention plan (or plan), pursuant to Forest Service condition 3 found in Appendix B of the project license.¹ The project is located on Lake Creek, a tributary of the Cowlitz River, in Lewis County, Washington. The project occupies, in part, federal lands administered by the U. S. Forest Service (Forest Service).
2. Forest Service condition 3 requires the licensee, within one year of license issuance, to file for Commission approval a fire prevention plan for Forest Service lands within the project boundary that are impacted by the project. The fire prevention plan must be prepared in consultation with and approved by the Forest Service and in consultation with appropriate state and local fire agencies. The fire prevention plan must: analyze fire prevention needs at the project to ensure that fire prevention equipment and project personnel are available; identify fire hazard reduction measures (e.g., eliminating ladder fuels, reducing fuel loading); and provide the Forest Service with a list of the locations of available fire prevention equipment and the availability of project personnel.
3. The licensee's plan includes an introduction describing the plan's justification, purpose and scope. The plan includes monitoring provisions, including an annual risk survey to determine fire prevention needs at the project and fire risk associated with hydroelectric operation/project facilities and dispersed recreation at Packwood Lake and Lake Creek. The licensee has developed fire prevention instructions which provide specific fire prevention, preparedness, and suppression actions at the project. Lewis County Fire District and the Forest Service are manual holders of the fire prevention instructions and would receive updated copies from the licensee as necessary.
4. The plan also discusses potential fire risks and mitigation at the powerhouse area, forest lands, the location of fire prevention equipment, and the availability of project

¹ Order Issuing New License (165 FERC ¶ 62,031), issued October 11, 2018.

personnel to assist in fire suppression activities. The plan also references how the resource coordination plan (Forest Service condition 2), which establishes a process for the licensee to exchange information and coordinate implementation of license conditions, ongoing operations, and maintenance activities, would facilitate the implementation of the fire prevention plan. The licensee indicates it will review the fire prevention plan annually and will make revisions as necessary, with updates distributed to the Lewis County Fire District and Forest Service.

5. The licensee states the fire prevention plan was developed collaboratively in consultation with the Forest Service. The licensee provided the record of consultation in Enclosure 2 of the filing and a summary of agency comments in Enclosure 3. No objections to the plan were noted.

6. The licensee's fire prevention plan analyzes fire prevention needs at the project and has made provision that prevention equipment and personnel are available. The plan identifies fire hazard reduction measures and provides the Forest Service with the location of fire prevention equipment and the availability of project personnel. The fire prevention plan meets the requirements of Forest Service condition 3 and should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) Energy Northwest's fire prevention plan, filed April 16, 2019, pursuant to Forest Service condition 3 of the license for the Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project No. 2244, is approved.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Any party may file a request for rehearing of this order within 30 days from the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 825l (2012), and the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2018). The filing of a request for rehearing does not operate as a stay of the effective date of this order, or of any other date specified in this order. The licensee's failure to file a request for rehearing shall constitute acceptance of this order.

Robert J. Fletcher
Land Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance