

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20426
December 20, 2021

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 10198-031—Alaska
Pelican Hydroelectric Project
Pelican Utility District

VIA FERC Service

Patricia Phillips, Mayor
City of Pelican, Pelican Utility District
Box 737
Pelican, AK 99832

Reference: Authorization to Use the Traditional Licensing Process

Dear Ms. Phillips:

On November 12, 2021, the City of Pelican, Pelican Utility District (Pelican Utility District) filed a Preliminary Application Document (PAD) and a request to use the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) to relicense its 700-kilowatt Pelican Hydroelectric Project, located on the Pelican Creek in the City of Pelican, Alaska.¹ On November 22, 2021, Pelican Utility District notified the Commission that it published a notice of the request to use the TLP in the November 14, 2021, edition of the *Juneau Empire*. The notice contained the information required in section 5.3(d)(2) of the Commission's regulations, including a statement requesting that comments on the request to use the TLP be filed with the Commission 30 days after the request was made. No comments have been filed with the Commission in response to the notice or PAD.

In support of its request to use the TLP, Pelican Utility District states that the use of the TLP is appropriate because the issues are not complex for this small, run-of-the river project for which no changes in operation are anticipated, and because the need for additional resource information is limited because of studies and environmental assessments made to authorize recent upgrades to the project in 2003 and 2016.

¹ On September 27, 2021, Pelican Utility District filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to seek a new license and a request to use the TLP but did not file a PAD. On September 29, 2021, the Commission waived the requirements in sections 5.6(a) and 16.9(c) of its regulations to file the PAD at the same time as the NOI and required Pelican Utility District to file its PAD and publish notice of the request to use the TLP by November 16, 2021.

The available information indicates that there is a high likelihood of timely license issuance, the complexity of the resource issues will be small, and the level of anticipated controversy is expected to be minimal; therefore, I am granting your request to use the TLP.

Section 16.8 of the Commission's regulations describes the pre-filing steps that need to be completed when preparing an application for a hydropower license under the TLP, including consultation and conducting necessary studies [18 C.F.R. §16.8(a)-(e)]. Specific steps that will need to be carried out during pre-filing consultation include an initial joint agency/public meeting and site visit [§16.8(b)(3)]; an opportunity for participants to request studies [§16.8(b)(5)]; preparation and participant review of a draft application [§16.8(c)(4)]; and a meeting to resolve any disputes on the draft application [§16.8(c)(6)]. Please note that the initial joint agency/public meeting, is required to be held no sooner than 30 days, nor later than 60 days, from the date of this letter [§16.8(b)(3)(ii)].

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Ingrid Brofman at (202) 502-8347 or Ingrid.brofman@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Vince Yearick
Director
Division of Hydropower Licensing