

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426
December 18, 2024

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 4639-033—New York
Christine Falls Hydroelectric Project
Ampersand Christine Falls Hydro, LLC

VIA Electronic Mail

Ian Drew
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ian_drew@fws.gov

Reference: Notification of 10(j) Meeting

Dear Mr. Drew,

On October 29, 2024, we issued an environmental assessment for the relicensing of the Christine Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 4639 (Christine Falls Project).¹ In a letter issued that same day, we informed the U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior) of our preliminary determination that three of its recommended fish and wildlife measures, made pursuant to section 10(j) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), may be inconsistent with the public interest and comprehensive development standard of sections 4(e) and 10(a) of the FPA. In a letter filed December 13, 2024, Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) requested a 10(j) meeting to discuss its recommendations.

Section 4.34(e)(4) of the Commission's regulations requires that any meeting take place within 90 days of the date the Commission issues a preliminary determination of inconsistency. We will hold the section 10(j) meeting with FWS on Wednesday January 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. The meeting will be held via teleconference. An agenda for the meeting is attached to this letter.

¹ The EA for the project is available at the following link:
https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20241029-3007.

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Please contact Andy Bernick at andrew.bernick@ferc.gov or (202) 502-8660 by January 15, 2025, to RSVP for the teleconference or for any questions. The teleconference call-in information will be provided via e-mail prior to the meeting.

Sincerely,

John B. Smith, Chief
Mid-Atlantic Branch
Division of Hydropower Licensing

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Enclosure: Agenda for 10(j) Meeting

10(j) MEETING AGENDA

A. Introduction

1. Introduction of Participants
2. Meeting Procedures and Objectives
3. Chronology of 10(j) Process

B. Discussion of 10(j) Issues

1. Install trash racks with either 1-inch clear spacing or the equivalent (e.g., an overlay-type system).
2. Install and maintain a year-round downstream fish passage structure for resident and stocked fishes.
3. Develop a fishway operation and maintenance plan in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

C. Discussion of Other Issues (time-permitting)

D. Summary of Meeting

1. 10(j) Issue Resolution
2. Follow-up Actions