



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

500 N.E. Multnomah Street, Suite 1692, Portland, Oregon 97232

am Base

October 28, 1981

ER 81/1906 (FERC No. 4769)

Kenneth F. Plumb, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

DL 12/21/81

Dear Mr. Plumb:

File

The Department of the Interior has reviewed the notice of application for Exemption for Small Hydroelectric Project, Mud Creek Project, FERC No. 4769, Twin Falls County, Idaho. We have no objection to issuance of this exemption provided the following terms, conditions or recommendations are appropriately included and considered.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) indicates that Mud Creek supports both wild and hatchery rainbow trout. Riparian habitat, even though limited in quantity, is an essential factor to the environmental values of the creek. During project planning and construction, attempts should be made to minimize adverse impacts to the downstream fish and benthic populations (and related mortality), loss of riparian habitat, river bank ice-effect, loss of waterfowl resting area, etc.

To prevent the loss of, or damage to, fish and wildlife resources, the following terms are included:

1. Any minimum instream flow or screening requirements established by Idaho Department of Fish and Game shall be implemented.
2. To preclude the possibility of electrocution of raptors, the power-lines resulting from the project should be buried or have protective coverings near towers and poles.

The National Park Service recommends that preservation of cultural resources should be considered by the applicant. For coordination of compliance with preservation legislation, the applicant should contact the National Park Service (NPS), Pacific Northwest Regional Office and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The SHPO for Idaho State is:

Dr. Merle W. Wells
Historic Preservation Coordinator
Idaho State Historical Society
610 North Julia Davis Drive
Boise, Idaho 83706

The applicant should also be advised of the procedural guidelines to be followed in assessing cultural resources as found in 36 CFR 800 "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties."

You should also inform the applicant that the NPS may be available to provide limited assistance and advice in evaluating any cultural and historic preservation aspects of the project area and assist in the coordination of cultural and historic proposals with Federal, State and local agencies.

Recreational aspects of the project should be analyzed and if there is potential for recreation development, it should be considered. We do not feel the requirements of 18 CFR 2.7(c) respecting the determination of recreation needs as part of the licensing procedures are applicable to a project of this small size in this location.

The State Liaison Officer for Idaho State is:

Dale R. Christiansen
Director, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Statehouse
Boise, Idaho 83707

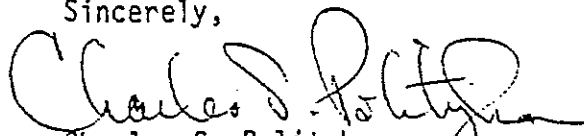
You should also inform the applicant that the Department of the Interior is available to provide assistance and advice in evaluating the recreation aspects of the project area and assist in the coordination of recreation proposals with federal, state and local agencies.

The Bureau of Mines (BM) was unable to respond because the map is unreadable and no sections, townships, or ranges are given in the text. To insure that the project can be located and a proper evaluation made, please provide a legible map to the following address:

Richard N. Appling, Jr., Chief
Western Field Operations Center
East 360 Third Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99202

If warranted, additional comments will be provided separately by BM after the project location is more closely identified.

Sincerely,


Charles S. Polityka
Regional Environmental Officer

cc:

Office of Environmental Project Review

Director, Geological Survey

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

Regional Director, NPS

Area Director, BIA

Chief, Western Field Operations Center, BM

Regional Director, FWS

State Director, BLM

Regional Director, BR

Fred E. Springer, FERC

Applicant