and the Settlement. The Commission has considered all the comments and interventions in determining whether, and under what conditions, to issue this relicense.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Raquette River, with a drainage basin of 1,269 square miles, originates in the Adirondack Mountains, flows generally north-northwest for more than 120 miles, and empties into the St. Lawrence River near Massena, New York. Most of the basin is sparsely populated, with much of the land forested and brushland. The region's economy depends primarily on recreational tourism and timber-based industries.

The Carry Falls Project is a seasonal storage reservoir with no associated generating capacity. It includes a 826-foot- long dam, varying in height from 63 to 76 feet; an intake structure with provision for future power installation; five earth dikes totaling approximately 2,500 feet in length; and a 3,000-acre reservoir with a usable storage capacity of 104,463 acre-feet.15

Under its original license, the project operates within an elevation of 1,385.0 to 1,332.0 feet mean sea level (msl). These elevations are governed, in part, by the use of a guide curve that provides the project with a series of target elevations to be met over the course of a given year. These elevations are also governed by the potential backwater effects caused by the Stark development of the Upper Raquette River Project (FERC No. 2084) located immediately downstream of the Carry Falls reservoir. In practice, when the elevation of the Carry Falls reservoir falls below 1,355.0 feet msl, the Stark impoundment must be drawn down. The two reservoirs are thus essentially linked.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Under Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA),16 the Commission may not issue a license for a hydroelectric project unless the state water quality certifying agency has issued a water quality certification for the project or has waived certification.

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14 The Mountain Club, Interior, and NYSDEC filed comments in support of this recommendation.

15 A more detailed project description is contained in ordering paragraph B(2).
