

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

City of Summersville

Project No. 10813-044

ORDER AMENDING LICENSE

(Issued November 5, 1999)

On July 19, 1999, the Gauley River Power Partners filed on behalf of the City of Summersville (Licensee), an Application for an Amendment to its License for the Summersville Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 10813. The hydroelectric project is to be located at the existing Corps of Engineers' (COE) Summersville Dam on the Gauley River in Fayette and Nicholas Counties, West Virginia. The licensee proposes to modify the section of the project's transmission line as it leaves the project's electrical substation adjacent to the powerhouse. The transmission line has not been constructed yet.

The project's transmission line route under the license, originates from the project's substation on the eastern riverbank, and runs in front of the Dam's Howell-Bunger valves to the western riverbank. The COE brought to the attention of the licensee that there would be ice formation on the transmission line caused by the spray from the Dam's Howell-Bunger valve discharges. During detailed engineering of the transmission line, and based on the COE's recommendation, the design of the transmission line allowed for a 2.5-inch build up of ice. In order to avoid the effects from long-term stress on the transmission lines and larger and costlier support structures required to withstand this tension, the licensee looked for an alternative that could resolve the icing problem.

To reduce the impacts of the ice build up on the transmission line, the licensee is proposing to move the line from in front of the Howell-Bunger valves to a pole structure behind the existing valve house. The transmission line then will cross the base of the dam and river to the western bank to coincide with the second line segment of the approved route. The changes will be entirely on COE's land within the vicinity of the dam, and within the project boundary. The transmission line modifications will reduce the line tension from the ice build up, eliminate two sets of poles on the eastern riverbank, and reduce tree clearing.

The licensee consulted with the American Whitewater Affiliation, the COE, the National Park Service, the West Virginia Professional Rafting Outfitters, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. No one objected to the proposed modifications.

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Historic Preservation Officer, and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. No one objected to the proposed modifications.

The modifications would have slightly less impact on the environment because they would reduce the number of poles needed and the amount of tree clearing. In addition, the relocated section would be closer to the base of the dam and would be consistent with the licensee's approved visual resource protection plan.¹

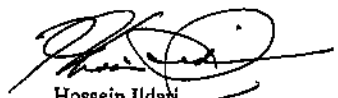
Based upon our review of the filing and agency comments, we conclude that the proposed modifications to the transmission line are minor and would slightly decrease the project's visual impact compared to the approved route. Therefore, this order approves the proposed modifications to the transmission line.

The Director orders:

(A) The amendment of license, which was filed on July 19, 1999, is approved effective the first day of the month in which this order is issued.

(B) Within 90 days of the date of issuance of this order, the licensee shall file revised exhibit G drawings to show the approved modifications to the transmission line.

(C) This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §385.713.



Hossein Ildari
Chief
Engineering Compliance Branch

¹ See 78 FERC ¶ 62,120-Order Approving Visual Resource Protection Plan issued on February 19, 1997.

97.0190A44 (10)
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