

Low Impact Hydropower Institute

34 Providence Street

Portland, ME 04103

Tel. (207) 773-8190 • Fax (206) 984-3086

www.lowimpacthydro.org

LOW IMPACT HYDROPOWER QUESTIONNAIRE

Willamette Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2233)

[Excerpted from Part VI, Section E of the Low Impact Hydropower Certification Program. Words in italics are defined in Part VI, Section C, and line-by-line instructions are available in Section D of the program, available on-line in PDF format at <http://www.lowimpacthydro.org>.]

E. LOW IMPACT HYDROPOWER QUESTIONNAIRE

Background Information	
1) Name of the <i>Facility</i> .	Willamette Falls Project (FERC No. 2233)
2) Applicant's name, contact information and relationship to the Facility. If the Applicant is not the Facility owner/operator, also provide the name and contact information for the Facility owner and operator.	Julie Keil, Director, Hydro Licensing Portland General Electric Company 121 SW Salmon Street 3-WTC BRHL Portland, OR 97204 Tel: 503.464.8864 Fax: 503.464.2944 Email: Julie.Keil@pgn.com
3) Location of Facility by river and state.	Willamette River, in west-central Oregon
4) Installed capacity.	15.18 MW
5) Average annual generation.	122,471 megawatt-hours (MWh), as licensed in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement
6) Regulatory status.	FERC Project No. 2233 – Recently relicensed for a 30-year term by FERC Order dated December 8, 2005, 113 FERC ¶ 62,186 (2005).

<p>7) Reservoir volume and surface area measured at the high water mark in an average water year.</p>	<p>There is no useable storage created by the dam. The added volume of the pool created behind the dam is about 13,800 ac-ft, and approximately 16,300 ac-ft with 2-ft flashboards installed. The submerged geological formation that forms Willamette Falls creates a pool extending upstream from RM 26.5 to approximately RM 56. The volume of this natural pool (without the dam or flashboards) is approximately 33,700 ac-ft.</p> <p>The surface area of the reservoir is approximately 2300 acres.</p>
<p>8) Area occupied by non-reservoir facilities (e.g., dam, penstocks, powerhouse).</p>	<p>Approximately 3 acres of land is occupied by non-reservoir project facilities, all within a heavily industrialized area shared by two paper mill facilities and ACOE operated navigation locks.</p>
<p>9) Number of acres inundated by the Facility.</p>	<p>Negligible – the pool upstream of Willamette Falls is natural and the maximum inundation occurs during high water when the flashboards are out. The Project causes no additional inundation relative to this natural high water line.</p>
<p>10) Number of acres contained in a 200-foot zone extending around entire impoundment.</p>	<p>There is no buffer zone around the impoundment, and the project boundary includes only the area of the dam and project works. It is surrounded by industrial development.</p>
<p>11) Please attach a list of contacts in the relevant Resource Agencies and in non-governmental organizations that have been involved in Recommending conditions for your Facility.</p>	<p>Please see Attachment 1</p>
<p>12) Please attach a description of the Facility, its mode of operation (i.e., peaking/run of river) and a map of the Facility.</p>	<p>Please see Attachment 2</p>
<p>Questions for “New” Facilities Only:</p> <p>If the Facility you are applying for is “new” i.e., an existing dam that added or increased power generation capacity after August of 1998 please answer the following questions to determine eligibility for the program</p>	<p>New = Increased Power Generation Capacity</p>
<p>PGE is not applying to certify any new capacity for this Project.</p>	
<p>13) When was the dam associated with the Facility completed?</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>14) When did the added or increased generation first generate electricity? If the added or increased generation is not yet operational, please answer question 18 as well.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

15) Did the added or increased power generation capacity require or include any new dam or other diversion structure?	Not applicable	
16) Did the added or increased capacity include or require a change in water flow through the facility that worsened conditions for fish, wildlife, or water quality, (for example, did operations change from run-of-river to peaking)?	Not applicable	
17) (a) Was the existing dam recommended for removal or decommissioning by resource agencies, or recommended for removal or decommissioning by a broad representation of interested persons and organizations in the local and/or regional community prior to the added or increased capacity? (b) If you answered “yes” to question 17(a), the Facility is not eligible for certification, unless you can show that the added or increased capacity resulted in specific measures to improve fish, wildlife, or water quality protection at the existing dam. If such measures were a result, please explain.	Not applicable	
18) (a) If the increased or added generation is not yet operational, has the increased or added generation received regulatory authorization (e.g., approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission)? If not, the facility is not eligible for consideration; and (b) Are there any pending appeals or litigation regarding that authorization? If so, the facility is not eligible for consideration.	(a) Not applicable	(b) Not applicable
A. Flows		
1) Is the Facility in <i>Compliance</i> with <i>Resource Agency Recommendations</i> issued after December 31, 1986 regarding flow conditions for fish and wildlife protection, mitigation and enhancement (including in-stream flows, ramping and peaking rate conditions, and seasonal and episodic instream flow variations) for both the reach below the tailrace and all bypassed reaches?	PASS YES = Pass, Go to B (Please see Attachment 3, section A)	FAIL

2) If there is no flow condition recommended by any Resource Agency for the Facility, or if the recommendation was issued prior to January 1, 1987, is the Facility in Compliance with a flow release schedule, both below the tailrace and in all bypassed reaches, that at a minimum meets Aquatic Base Flow standards or “good” habitat flow standards calculated using the Montana-Tennant method?		
3) If the Facility is unable to meet the flow standards in A.2., has the Applicant demonstrated, and obtained a letter from the relevant Resource Agency confirming that demonstration, that the flow conditions at the Facility are appropriately protective of fish, wildlife, and water quality?		
B. Water Quality	PASS	FAIL
1) Is the Facility either: a) In Compliance with all conditions issued pursuant to a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification issued for the Facility after December 31, 1986? Or b) In Compliance with the quantitative water quality standards established by the state that support designated uses pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act in the Facility area and in the downstream reach?	YES = Go to B2 (Please see Attachment 3, section B)	
2) Is the Facility area or the downstream reach currently identified by the state as not meeting water quality standards (including narrative and numeric criteria and designated uses) pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act?	YES = Go to B3 (Please see Attachment 3, section B)	

3) If the answer to question B.2 is yes, has there been a determination that the Facility is not a cause of that violation?	YES = Pass (Please see Attachment 3, section B)	
C. Fish Passage and Protection	PASS	FAIL
1) Is the Facility in Compliance with <i>Mandatory Fish Passage Prescriptions</i> for upstream and downstream passage of anadromous and catadromous fish issued by Resource Agencies after December 31, 1986?	YES = Go to C5 (Please see Attachment 3, section C)	
2) Are there historic records of anadromous and/or catadromous fish movement through the Facility area, but anadromous and/or catadromous fish do not presently move through the Facility area (e.g., because passage is blocked at a downstream dam or the fish run is extinct)? a) If the fish are extinct or extirpated from the Facility area or downstream reach, has the Applicant demonstrated that the extinction or extirpation was not due in whole or part to the Facility? b) If a Resource Agency Recommended adoption of upstream and/or downstream fish passage measures at a specific future date, or when a triggering event occurs (such as completion of passage through a downstream obstruction or the completion of a specified process), has the Facility owner/operator made a legally enforceable commitment to provide such passage?		

<p>3) If, since December 31, 1986:</p> <p>a) Resource Agencies have had the opportunity to issue, and considered issuing, a Mandatory Fish Passage Prescription for upstream and/or downstream passage of anadromous or catadromous fish (including delayed installation as described in C2a above), and</p> <p>b) The Resource Agencies declined to issue a Mandatory Fish Passage Prescription,</p> <p>c) Was a reason for the Resource Agencies' declining to issue a Mandatory Fish Passage Prescription one of the following: (1) the technological infeasibility of passage, (2) the absence of habitat upstream of the Facility due at least in part to inundation by the Facility impoundment, or (3) the anadromous or catadromous fish are no longer present in the Facility area and/or downstream reach due in whole or part to the presence of the Facility?</p>		
<p>4) If C3 was not applicable:</p> <p>a) Are upstream and downstream fish passage survival rates for anadromous and catadromous fish at the dam each documented at greater than 95% over 80% of the run using a generally accepted monitoring methodology? Or</p>		

b) If the Facility is unable to meet the fish passage standards in 4.a., has the Applicant demonstrated, and obtained a letter from the US Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service confirming that demonstration, that the upstream and downstream fish passage measures (if any) at the Facility are appropriately protective of the fishery resource?		
5) Is the Facility in Compliance with Mandatory Fish Passage Prescriptions for upstream and/or downstream passage of <i>Riverine</i> fish?	YES = Go to C6 (Please see Attachment 3, section C)	
6) Is the Facility in Compliance with Resource Agency Recommendations for Riverine, anadromous and catadromous fish entrainment protection, such as tailrace barriers?	YES = Pass, go to D (Please see Attachment 3, section C)	
D. Watershed Protection	PASS	FAIL
1) Is there a buffer zone dedicated for conservation purposes (to protect fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, aesthetics and/or low-impact recreation) extending 200 feet from the high water mark in an average water year around 50 - 100% of the impoundment, and for all of the undeveloped shoreline	n/a (Please see Attachment 3, section D)	
2) Has the facility owner/operator established an approved watershed enhancement fund that: 1) could achieve within the project's watershed the ecological and recreational equivalent of land protection in D.1.,and 2) has the agreement of appropriate stakeholders and state and federal resource agencies?	n/a (Please see Attachment 3, section D)	

3) Has the facility owner/operator established through a settlement agreement with appropriate stakeholders and that has state and federal resource agencies agreement an appropriate shoreland buffer or equivalent watershed land protection plan for conservation purposes (to protect fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, aesthetics and/or low impact recreation)	n/a (Please see Attachment 3, section D)	
4) Is the facility in compliance with both state and federal resource agencies recommendations in a license approved shoreland management plan regarding protection, mitigation or enhancement of shorelands surrounding the project?	PGE is in compliance with the provisions of the new license that require the establishment of shoreline recreation trails. (Please see Attachment 3, section D)	
E. Threatened and Endangered Species Protection	PASS	FAIL
1) Are threatened or endangered species listed under state or federal Endangered Species Acts present in the Facility area and/or downstream reach?	YES = Go to E2 (Please see Attachment 3, section E)	
2) If a recovery plan has been adopted for the threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act or similar state provision, is the Facility in Compliance with all recommendations in the plan relevant to the Facility?	N/A = Go to E3	

<p>3) If the Facility has received authority to incidentally <i>Take</i> a listed species through: (i) Having a relevant agency complete consultation pursuant to ESA Section 7 resulting in a biological opinion, a habitat recovery plan, and/or (if needed) an incidental Take statement; (ii) Obtaining an incidental Take permit pursuant to ESA Section 10; or (iii) For species listed by a state and not by the federal government, obtaining authority pursuant to similar state procedures; is the Facility in Compliance with conditions pursuant to that authority?</p>	<p>YES = Go to E4 (Please see Attachment 3, section E)</p>	
<p>4) If a biological opinion applicable to the Facility for the threatened or endangered species has been issued, can the Applicant demonstrate that:</p> <p>a) The biological opinion was accompanied by a FERC license or exemption or a habitat conservation plan? Or</p> <p>b) The biological opinion was issued pursuant to or consistent with a recovery plan for the endangered or threatened species? Or</p> <p>c) There is no recovery plan for the threatened or endangered species under active development by the relevant Resource Agency? Or</p> <p>d) The recovery plan under active development will have no material effect on the Facility's operations?</p>	<p>YES = Pass, go to F (Please see Attachment 3, section E)</p>	
<p>5) If E.2. and E.3. are not applicable, has the Applicant demonstrated that the Facility and Facility operations do not negatively affect listed species?</p>		

F. Cultural Resource Protection	PASS	FAIL
1) If FERC-regulated, is the Facility in Compliance with all requirements regarding Cultural Resource protection, mitigation or enhancement included in the FERC license or exemption?	YES = Pass, go to G (Please see Attachment 3, section F)	
2) If not FERC-regulated, does the Facility owner/operator have in place (and is in Compliance with) a plan for the protection, mitigation or enhancement of impacts to Cultural Resources approved by the relevant state or federal agency or <i>Native American Tribe</i> , or a letter from a senior officer of the relevant agency or Tribe that no plan is needed because Cultural Resources are not negatively affected by the Facility?		
G. Recreation	PASS	FAIL
1) If FERC-regulated, is the Facility in Compliance with the recreational access, accommodation (including recreational flow releases) and facilities conditions in its FERC license or exemption?	YES = Go to G3 (Please see Attachment 3, section G)	
2) If not FERC-regulated, does the Facility provide recreational access, accommodation (including recreational flow releases) and facilities, as Recommended by Resource Agencies or other agencies responsible for recreation?		
3) Does the Facility allow access to the reservoir and downstream reaches without fees or charges?	YES = Pass, go to H (Please see Attachment 3, section G)	
H. Facilities Recommended for Removal	PASS	FAIL
1) Is there a Resource Agency Recommendation for removal of the dam associated with the Facility?	NO = Pass, Facility is Low Impact (Please see Attachment 3, section H)	