

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

P-606-027
Project No. ~~606027~~ California
Kilarc-Cow Creek Hydroelectric Project
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

November 16, 2009

Mr. Randy Brown
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521

Re: Request for information

Dear Mr. Brown:

On March 13, 2009, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), filed for Commission approval, an application to surrender its license to operate the Kilarc-Cow Creek Project (FERC No. 606) and to decommission and remove several project features.¹ With the assistance of PG&E and cooperation from private landowners, FERC conducted environmental site reviews of the project on October 20-21, 2009, in conjunction with the public scoping meetings for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of the license surrender for this project. During those visits, Mr. Steve Tetrick, one of the participating private landowners, indicated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been conducting surveys below the Cow Creek powerhouse of aquatic resources along Hooten Gulch, a tributary to South Cow Creek. Because artificial flows to this reach of Hooten Gulch will be discontinued under the proposed license surrender, the Commission believes that such data is beneficial to our environmental analysis of the effects of decommissioning the project. Consequently, the purpose of this letter is to determine the status of the data from the ongoing studies in Hooten Gulch and whether the data is available to the public. If the data is public information, then specifically, where is the data available and how should the information be referenced in our review for the project license surrender? We intend to include your response information in our NEPA document.

¹ See Application for Surrender of License for Major Project – Existing Dam Kilarc-Cow Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 606 Pacific Gas and Electric Company, March 12, 2009.

The Kilarc-Cow Creek Project is located on Old Cow Creek, South Cow Creek, and tributaries in Shasta County, California. A copy of the licensee's March 13, 2009 application to surrender its license and its proposed plan may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link.

Please file your response (an original and eight copies) with Kimberly Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Mail Code PJ-12.3, Washington, D.C. 20426. Please put the docket number: "FERC Project No. 606-027", on the first page of your response. Please file your response within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the environmental coordinator for the project, CarLisa Linton at (202) 502-8416.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Grieve
Senior Technical Expert
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

c: Ms. Lisa Whitman
License Coordinator
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
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San Francisco, CA 94177