

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018

Docket No. AD19-8-000

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP

(March 5, 2019)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) staff will hold a workshop on April 4, 2019, from 1:00 p.m. (EDT) to 4:45 p.m. (EDT) in the Commission Meeting Room at 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. The workshop will be open to the public, and all interested parties are invited to attend and participate. The workshop will be led by Commission staff, and may be attended by one or more Commissioners. The workshop will involve roundtable discussions by a number of panelists and moderated by Commission staff.

The purpose of the workshop is to explore potential opportunities for development of closed-loop pumped storage projects at abandoned mine sites in compliance with section 3004 of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. An agenda for the workshop is attached to this notice. There will be time for audience questions and comments following each agenda discussion topic.

A free webcast of this event will be available through www.ferc.gov. Anyone with internet access who wants to view this event can do so by navigating to the Calendar of Events at www.ferc.gov and locating this event in the Calendar. The Capitol Connection provides technical support for webcasts and offers the option of listening to the workshop via phone-bridge for a fee. If you have any questions, visit www.CapitolConnection.org or call (703) 993-3100.

Those interested in attending the workshop or viewing the webcast are encouraged to register at <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/04-04-19-form.asp>.

Commission workshops are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations, please send an email to accessibility@ferc.gov, call (866) 208-3372 (toll free) or (202) 208-8659 (TTY), or send a FAX to (202) 208-2106 with the required accommodations.

For more information about this workshop, please contact:

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Secretary.

**CLOSED-LOOP PUMPED STORAGE PROJECTS AT ABANDONED MINE
SITES WORKSHOP**

Docket No. AD19-8-000

April 4, 2019, Washington, DC

Purpose: To explore potential opportunities for development of closed-loop pumped storage projects at abandoned mine sites.

Workshop Agenda

- 1. Introduction** **1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.¹**
 - 1.1 Opening remarks
 - 1.2 Introduction of FERC Commissioners and staff, and panel members

- 2. Background (FERC staff presentation)** **1:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.**
 - 2.1 Review of Section 3004 of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA 2018) requirements
 - 2.2 Licenses or preliminary permits for closed-loop pumped storage projects at abandoned mine sites

- 3. Developing Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Projects at Abandoned Mine Sites – Site Identification**
(Input solicited from panel and participants) **1:45 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.**
 - 3.1 How many abandoned mine sites are there in the United States? What are the types of sites and in which states or regions are they typically located?
 - 3.2 How does a developer identify abandoned mines that could be used for pumped storage hydropower? Are there tools available to identify potential closed-loop pumped storage project sites at abandoned mines?
 - 3.3 What types of abandoned mines are most conducive for closed-loop hydropower development? What are those characteristics?
 - 3.4 Once a site has been selected, where would a developer look for existing environmental information on the site?

¹ All times are eastern daylight time.

Developing Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Projects at Abandoned Mine Sites – Benefits

- 3.5 Are there advantages of abandoned mine sites compared to other more conventional pumped storage sites?

Break *(15 minutes)*

Developing Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Projects at Abandoned Mine Sites – Challenges

- 3.6 What are the challenges of siting closed-loop pumped storage projects at abandoned mine sites? Are there specific challenges depending on the type of abandoned mines, e.g., coal mine vs. hard rock mine?
- 3.7 What are the likely environmental issues a developer could expect at abandoned mine sites?
- 3.8 What are the likely safety and design issues a developer could expect at abandoned mine sites?

4. Licensing or Permitting Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Projects at Abandoned Mine Sites – Guidance Content

(Input solicited from panel and participants) 4:25 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.

- 4.1 AWIA 2018 requires FERC to issue guidance to assist applicants for licenses or preliminary permits for closed-loop pumped storage projects at abandoned mine sites. What types of information would most help in terms of providing such guidance?

5. Closing Comments and Next Steps 4:40 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.