LIST OF
COMPREHENSIVE PLANS
July 2020
COMPREHENSIVE PLANS IN THE FEDERAL ENERGYREGULATORY COMMISSION'S LICENSING PROCESS

Background

Section 10(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. section 803 (a)(2)(A), requires the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with Federal or state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by the project.

On April 27, 1988, the Commission issued Order No. 481-A, revising Order No. 481, issued October 26, 1987, establishing that the Commission will accord FPA section 10(a)(2) comprehensive plan status to any Federal or state plan that: (1) is a comprehensive study of one or more of the beneficial uses of a waterway or waterways; (2) specifies the standards, the data, and the methodology used; and (3) is filed with the Secretary of the Commission.

A comprehensive plan should contain the following: (1) a description of the waterway or waterways that are the subject of the plan, including pertinent maps detailing the geographic area of the plan; (2) a description of the significant resources of the waterway or waterways; (3) a description of the various existing and planned uses for these resources; and (4) a discussion of goals, objectives, and recommendations for improving, developing, or conserving the waterway or waterways in relation to these resources. The description of the significant resources in the area should contain, among other things: (1) navigation; (2) power development; (3) energy conservation; (4) fish and wildlife; (5) recreational opportunities; (6) irrigation; (7) flood control; (8) water supply; and (9) other aspects of environmental quality. The plan should contain an examination of how the different uses will promote the overall public interest.

Following the issuance of Order No. 481-A, we sent letters to each state governor and federal resource agency, requesting copies of plans meeting the above criteria. Based on our review, we determined that the filed documents, herein, satisfy Order No. 481-A criteria for comprehensive plans. When we determine that a document does not qualify as a comprehensive plan, we will consider the document, as we consider all relevant studies and recommendations, in the public interest analysis pursuant to section 10(a)(1) of the FPA.

Types of Comprehensive Plans

Federal and state comprehensive plans in our library include: river basin plans prepared by the U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers Districts;
plans for the protection of fishery resources, migratory waterfowl, and unique ecosystems prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service; land and resource management plans prepared by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, or National Park Service; and State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP).

**Use of Comprehensive Plans**

Under 18 C.F.R. section 4.38, each license application must identify relevant comprehensive plans and explain how and why a proposed project would or would not comply with such plans.

As part of our independent environmental analysis, we identify and review comprehensive plans relevant to a proposed project and include a discussion of the proposed project’s consistency or inconsistency with the plans. We may recommend measures to reduce a proposed project's conflict with the goals of accepted plans. The Commission may include these measures in an order. When there are major project-plan conflicts that cannot be resolved with mitigation, we may recommend an alternative project design or license denial.

**Filing of Potential Comprehensive Plans**

Because we are no longer maintaining paper files, we are asking agencies to file all future potential comprehensive plans, along with a cover letter indicating the document be considered as a comprehensive plan under section 10(a)(2)(A) of the FPA. State and federal comprehensive plans can be e-filed through ferc.gov efiling portal at: http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp. Once you have registered and logged in, simply click efiling, then select ‘Hydro: Washington DC’ in the first efiling menu column, followed by ‘Report/Form for Existing Project’ in the second column. In the third column, select ‘Report/Form’ and then click the ‘next’ button. Once on the next screen, enter ZZ09-5 as the docket number and click search. Then, select ZZ09-5-000 (using the plus sign) as the appropriate docket for your filing and upload your document or documents. All submissions should reference Docket No. ZZ09-5-000 and files must be less than 50 megabytes in size.

Please direct questions regarding comprehensive plans to Rachel McNamara at rachel.mcnamara@ferc.gov or (202) 502-8340.
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