

June 28, 2013

The Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

**SUBJECT: Hawks Nest Project (FERC No. 2512) and Glen Ferris Project (FERC No. 14439)
ILP Relicensing Studies Progress Report #1**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §5.15(b) and as outlined in its May 6, 2013 Revised Study Plan (RSP), Hawks Nest Hydro, LLC, a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable Energy Group (Brookfield) herein files with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) the first ILP Relicensing Studies Progress Report for the Hawks Nest and Glen Ferris Projects (Projects).

All relicensing studies listed below are being conducted in accordance with the RSP, which was approved (as filed) by the Commission's Study Plan Determination issued May 31, 2013. This progress report describes the activities performed since the filing of the RSP, as well as study activities generally expected to be conducted in the near-term in support of relicensing the Projects.

Water Quality Study

- High flow conditions precluded safe conduct of any water quality monitoring or equipment installation in the study area until the last two weeks in June.
- During the second to last week in June, Brookfield initiated the monitoring tasks described in the RSP as follows: (1) water temperature and elevation recorders were deployed and in-situ grab samples of temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and specific conductivity were collected in the Hawks Nest forebay, and (2) barometric pressure level loggers were installed in the forebay area of the Hawks Nest reservoir and at the Hawks Nest powerhouse. Due to high flow conditions, instrument deployments in the Hawks Nest reservoir (upstream/inflow monitoring location), Hawks Nest bypass reach, Laurel Creek, and Hawks Nest powerhouse (water temperature and elevation recorders) were not completed until the last week in June.
- Brookfield expects to continue to collect water quality data according to the methods and schedule described in the RSP.

Fish Entrainment Study

- This field study is supported in part by the Water Quality Study (described above) and the Aquatic Species Composition and Abundance Survey (described below), both of which are now under way.
- Brookfield will be conducting study planning activities, including coordination with consultants to perform field work, throughout July 2013 and intends to complete any field data collection of intake velocities by the end of October 2013, in accordance with the schedule proposed in the RSP.

Aquatic Species Composition and Abundance Survey Study

- Brookfield finalized the study sampling protocol in conjunction with the requisite application to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (WVDNR) for a scientific collecting permit. Brookfield has obtained this permit from WVDNR. Through this permitting and associated consultation process, and as provided by the RSP, the WVDNR is requiring that no gillnetting be conducted in the Hawks Nest reservoir. The permit authorizes gillnetting downstream of Hawks Nest dam.
- The early summer fisheries survey has been partially completed, including four boat electrofishing sites in the Hawks Nest reservoir, five boat electrofishing sites in the Glen Ferris reservoir, lower bypass reach, and Hawks Nest powerhouse, and two boat electrofishing sites in the Glen Ferris tailrace/Kanawha Falls area. High flow conditions precluded safe or effective conduct of completion of fishery survey activities in the Hawks Nest bypass reach and the Kanawha Falls area. High flows also precluded the use of gillnets (where allowed) due to debris concerns and potential loss of gillnets.
- If flow conditions allow, Brookfield expects to complete the early summer fishery survey in mid-July (includes bypass reach sampling and gillnetting in Glen Ferris reservoir, tailrace, and potentially in bypass reach pools). Brookfield expects to conduct the late summer survey by the end of September 2013.
- Brookfield is finalizing arrangements with consultants to conduct the mussel and macroinvertebrate surveys by the end of September 2013.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Aquatic Species Study

- This study is supported by the Aquatic Species Composition and Abundance Survey Study (described above) and the Bypass Reach Aquatic Habitat Use / Instream Flow Study (described below). To date, no rare, threatened, or endangered species have been documented to determine the need for additional targeted sampling.

Bypass Reach Aquatic Habitat Use / Instream Flow Study

- Brookfield has been coordinating with members of the Bypass Reach Aquatic Habitat Use / Instream Flow Study Working Group to schedule an initial reconnaissance site visit to select the 2-D study site as described in the RSP. High flow conditions and

participants' availability precluded conduct of this site visit from mid-May through late June. Brookfield notified participants as soon as flow conditions allowed and conducted this reconnaissance site visit on June 27, 2013, and the findings will be communicated to the Study Working Group.

- Brookfield has completed the remaining literature review and planning activities listed in the RSP.
- Brookfield expects to conduct the fieldwork described in the RSP by the end of September 2013, as field conditions allow. Collection of water surface elevation and hydraulic measurements at the controlled calibration flows listed in the RSP is presently scheduled for August 2013.

Wetland and Riparian Habitat Survey Study

- A significant portion of the fieldwork required for this study will take place in the Hawks Nest bypass reach. High flow conditions precluded safe conduct of field work in the bypass reach in June 2013. Brookfield is finalizing consultant arrangements and expects to conduct the wetland and riparian habitat survey field work by the end of September 2013, as field conditions and growing seasons allow.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Terrestrial Species Study

- A significant portion of the fieldwork required for this study will take place in the Hawks Nest bypass reach. High flow conditions precluded safe conduct of field work in the bypass reach in June 2013. Brookfield is finalizing consultant arrangements and expects to conduct the rare, threatened, and endangered terrestrial species study field work by the end of September 2013, as field conditions and growing seasons allow.

Recreation Flow Assessment Study

- Brookfield distributed the Pre-Run, Post-Run, and Comparative Flow Evaluation forms (versions included in the RSP) to the Recreation Flow Assessment Study Working Group members by email dated June 20, 2013 and requested receipt of any final comments on these forms by June 27, 2013. To date, no comments have been received, and accordingly, Brookfield intends to move forward with these forms for use in this study.
- Brookfield is coordinating a conference call in early July 2013 with the Recreation Flow Assessment Study Working Group to discuss logistics and execution of the study plan as approved by FERC, particularly the controlled flow evaluation and extended whitewater evaluation.
- Brookfield collected additional detailed gate operation data during a high flow period in May 2013 for the purpose of developing, in coordination with USGS, a stage-discharge curve for the existing USGS (stage-only) gage located approximately one mile below Hawks Nest Dam, in the bypass reach, as described in the RSP. Brookfield is currently developing the data set that will be used to generate this relationship.

- Controlled flow releases for two of the six flows to be observed (500 cfs and 1,000 cfs) will be conducted in coordination with fieldwork to be conducted at these flows for the Bypass Reach Aquatic Habitat Use / Instream Flow Study. This field work, and these controlled flow observations, are presently scheduled for August 2013. Brookfield will communicate with the Study Working Group regarding the schedule and logistics for these controlled flow releases.
- Consistent with the approved RSP, the four additional controlled flow releases are expected to be conducted over a four-day period in 2013 or 2014, potentially in the fall of 2013, as river conditions allow.

Recreation Use and Needs Assessment Study

- In cooperation with the New River Alliance of Climbers (NRAC) and in consultation with the Recreation Use and Needs Study Working Group, Brookfield developed a Bouldering Survey form. Brookfield representatives distributed this survey at the New River Rendezvous festival on May 18-19, 2013, and to date Brookfield has received over 80 survey responses from climbers. Brookfield is currently processing survey response data. This information, along with the results of the other surveys described in the RSP, will be discussed with the Recreation Use and Needs Study Working Group at a future meeting and included in the draft study report to be developed in 2014.
- Brookfield developed a General Recreation Visitor Questionnaire and distributed this survey form to the Recreation Use and Needs Study Working Group by emails dated May 9 and June 20, 2013 and requested receipt of any final comments by June 27, 2013. To date, no comments have been received, and accordingly, Brookfield intends to move forward with this questionnaire for use in this study.
- Brookfield has initiated the supplemental recreation facility data collection activities as described in the approved RSP. Brookfield has developed a vehicle count form and procedure for Hawks Nest personnel and expects to commence this monitoring in early July. Additionally, Brookfield is in the process of constructing and installing the sign-in boxes that will provide survey forms that can be voluntarily completed by recreational visitors. These boxes will include the General Recreation Visitor Questionnaire, discussed above, and be installed near the Cotton Hill and Hawks Nest powerhouse recreation areas, as described in the approved RSP. The survey boxes are expected to remain in place through approximately the end of November 2013, as appropriate based on weather and field conditions.
- Brookfield intends to discuss plans and schedules for additional study activities with the Study Working Group in the early July 2013 conference call described above for the Recreation Flow Assessment Study.

Cultural Resources Study

- Brookfield intends to consult with the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office in July 2013 to confirm the area of potential effects (APE) for this study.

- Brookfield is finalizing arrangements with a cultural resources consultant to conduct the Phase I archaeological investigation described in the RSP by the end of August 2013. The Phase I report will be distributed to Consulting Parties as soon as reasonably available, in accordance with the process and schedule described in the RSP.

To date, there have been no significant variances from the approved RSP.

If you have any questions regarding this progress report, please contact me at (865) 255-4240.

Respectfully,



Marshall L. Olson
Compliance Manager
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