

River Falls Hydroelectric Project (P-10489)

PRELIMINARY STUDY PLAN MEETING

MARCH 13, 2019



Proposed Study Plan Meeting

Housekeeping Items

- Sign-in sheet
- Speakers: please state name and affiliation, speak clearly and one at a time
- Meeting format overview
- Meeting notes: written summary and large post-its

Introductions



Agenda

- 1) Meeting kickoff and introductions
- 2) FERC schedule review
- 3) Purpose of Proposed Study Plan meeting
- 4) Proposed Study Plans
- 5) Requested Studies Not Adopted
- 6) FERC Additional Information Requests
- 7) Overview of Next Steps
- 8) Questions and Discussion

FERC Schedule

Responsible Entity	Pre-Filing Milestone	Date
Licensee	File NOI/PAD with the FERC	8/30/2018
FERC	Scoping Document 1 (SD1)	10/25/2018
FERC	Scoping Meeting held at City Hall, Site Visit	11/15/2018 & 11/16/2018
All stakeholders	NOI/PAD/SD1 comments and study requests due	12/28/2018
FERC	Issue Scoping Document 2 (SD2)	2/7/2019
Licensee	File Proposed Study Plan	2/11/2019
All stakeholders	Study Plan Meeting	3/13/2019
All stakeholders	Study Plan comments due	5/12/2019
Licensee	File Revised Study Plan	6/11/2019
All stakeholders	Revised Study Plan comments due	6/26/2019
FERC	Director's Study Plan Determination	7/11/2019
Licensee	First Study Season	Summer 2019 – Summer 2020

Proposed Study Plan Meeting

Purpose of PSP

- Gather information for FERC's Environment Assessment (EA) of Licensee's proposed action

Purpose of Meeting

- Review the intent and contents of the Licensee's Proposed Study Plan (PSP)
 - Share any additional information or responses
 - Discuss outstanding issues with respect to the PSP
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FERC's Study Plan Criteria

- 1) Describe goals and objectives of the proposed study
 - 2) Explain relevant resource management goals
 - 3) Explain relevant public interest considerations
 - 4) Describe existing information and need for more info
 - 5) Explain nexus to project operations and effects and how study results would inform license requirements
 - 6) Describe study methodology and how it's consistent with accepted practice
 - 7) Describe consideration of level of effort and cost of study and why alternative study is needed
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Study Requests

Study Requests Received From:

- FERC
 - Friends of the Kinni (FOTK)
 - Kiap-TU-Wish chapter of Trout Unlimited
 - Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT)
 - National Park Service (NPS)
 - River Alliance of Wisconsin
 - Wisconsin DNR
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Proposed Study Plan

Content

- Schedule
- Proposed Studies
- Discussion of Requested Studies Not Adopted
- Responses to Additional Information Requests

Proposed Studies

- 1) Hydrologic & Hydraulic Evaluation
 - 2) Water Quality Study
 - 3) Shoreline and Aquatic Invasive Species Survey
 - 4) Wetland, Riparian, and Terrestrial Resources Survey
 - 5) Recreation Facility Inventory and Recreation Use Assessment
 - 6) Cultural Resources Study
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Hydrologic and Hydraulic Evaluation

Requestors:

- Wisconsin DNR

Proposed Study:

Hydraulics:

- Review and refine the HEC-RAS water surface profile model developed in 2017
- Calculate water surface elevations, velocities, depths, and flows for typical summer low flow, the two-year flood, the 10-year flood, and the 100-year flood

Hydrology:

- Review of existing flood frequency estimates and recommendations for updating the discharge values used for floodplain analysis and dam safety assessment
- Study period: July – October 2019

Water Quality Study

Requestors:

- Wisconsin DNR
- Trout Unlimited
- River Alliance

Proposed Study:

Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature

- Hourly recordings with data sondes
- 4 Locations
 - Kinnickinnic River above Lake George
 - Lake George
 - Below Junction Falls
 - Below Powell Falls
- Study period: July– September 2019

Shoreline and Aquatic Invasive Species Survey

Requestors:

- Wisconsin DNR
- KRLT
- River Alliance
- Trout Unlimited

Proposed Study:

Lake George Shoreline and AIS:

- Wisconsin DNR's Lake Shoreline & Shallows Habitat Monitoring Field Protocol
 - % cover: impervious surface, mowed lawn, or plants in 35' buffer zone
 - Erosion concerns
 - Length of modified banks
 - Density of human structures
 - Floating and emergent aquatic plants
 - Identification of AIS
 - Density of coarse woody debris
- Study period: July – August 2019

Wetland, Riparian, and Terrestrial Resources Survey

Requestors:

- KRLT
- Wisconsin DNR

Proposed Study:

Wetland, Riparian, and Terrestrial Resources

- Aerial photo interpretation, field assessment, summary report
 - Common wildlife species
 - Major vegetation cover types
 - Invasive botanical species
 - Presence of RTE botanical species or associated habitats
- Study period: July – September 2019

Recreation

Requestors:

- FERC
- NPS
- KRLT
- River Alliance
- FOTK

Proposed Study:

Recreation Facility Inventory

- Inventory of the existing recreation sites and facilities

Recreation Use Assessment

- Spot counts
- Recreation user survey

- Study period: July – September 2019 & May – June 2020

Cultural Resources

Requestor:

- FERC

Proposed Study:

Archaeological Resources Survey

- Shoreline monitoring survey: Lake George, Lake Louise, and shoreline below Powell Falls
- Phase I archaeology survey: existing trails proposed for site access during Powell Falls decommissioning
- Foster Cemetery delineation

Historic Structures Survey

- Historic structures field survey
- Study period: July – October 2019

Requested Studies Not Adopted

1) Project Operations

2) Geology and Soils

3) Aquatic Resources

- Lake George Fisheries Assessment
- Fisheries/Riverine Habitat Evaluation
- Mussel Survey
- Macroinvertebrate Survey
- Biological Impacts

4) Aesthetic Resources

5) Socioeconomic Resources

- Costs of operation, maintenance, and benefits
 - Economic study of recreation, tourism, and aesthetic resources
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FERC Additional Information Requests

- Project Facilities and Operations
- Water Resources
- Fish and Aquatic Resources
- Wildlife Resources

Next Steps

- Stakeholders file comments on PSP by May 12, 2019
- Licensee files Revised Study Plan (RSP) by June 11, 2019
- Stakeholders file comments on RSP by June 26, 2019
- FERC issues Study Plan Determination by July 11, 2019
- Begin studies in July 2019

Questions?

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