



Relicensing Briefing Card

ISSUE: STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Brief: Public participation is an integral part of the Federal Power Act (FPA) process for relicensing hydropower generation facilities, required by the FPA and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Public participation includes solicitation of written comments, meetings conducted by the applicant and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and formal and informal consideration of and resolution of stakeholder issues.

- Information on public participation opportunities, dates, and deadlines is found in the Process Plan and Schedule, which is included in FERC's public notice of Georgia Power's Notice of Intent (NOI) to relicense Bartletts Ferry and availability of the Pre-Application Document (PAD). 18 C.F.R. § 5.8.
- The Process Plan and Schedule governs meetings, comments, and distribution of information over the three and one-half year pre-filing time period and should be consulted for details on public participation. In accordance with FERC regulations, the Process Plan and Schedule will include the specific dates for numerous stakeholder meetings, document distribution, timeframes for studies, and comment period deadlines. The Process Plan and Schedule will be issued with the NOI/PAD in May 2009. 18 C.F.R. § 5.6.
- Georgia Power's Bartletts Ferry website will have all information developed for the licensing process as well as schedules and general information regarding relicensing. The preliminary schedule (which is only the pre-filing portion of the Process Plan and Schedule) is currently posted on the website. Required public participation opportunities shown on this schedule include the Scoping Meeting, Study Plan Development, and Study Results Meeting. Georgia Power is planning to utilize additional public participation efforts including a pre-PAD questionnaire and a Resource Area Workshop, which will occur prior to the NOI/PAD.
- Once the license application is filed, FERC will issue its NEPA document that will analyze environmental impacts of the proposed relicensing, and address project alternatives and potential mitigation measures. 18 C.F.R. §§ 5.24 & 5.25. The public is afforded an opportunity to comment on the application before the license is issued, and interested entities may take the additional step of intervening in the proceeding at this time. 18 C.F.R. § 5.23.
- After the license is issued, FERC maintains a website containing all publicly available filings and other information regarding the project's implementation of a new license.

Bottom Line Take Away: Members of the public can be involved in nearly all aspects of the relicensing process, and play an important role in shaping the new license for Bartletts Ferry.

Issue Contact: George Martin

