

Study Results Meetings Handout

Criteria for New Information Gathering or Studies

**MORGAN FALLS HYDRO PROJECT
INTEGRATED LICENSING PROCESS
STUDY RESULTS MEETINGS
APRIL 17 – 19, 2006**

Criteria for New Information Gathering or Studies

18 C.F.R. § 5.15(f)

Any proposal for new information gathering or studies must be accompanied by a showing of “extraordinary circumstances warranting approval” (18 C.F.R. § 5.15(f)) and meet the following criteria from 18 C.F.R. § 5.15(e):

- (1) Any material changes in the law or regulations applicable to the information request;
- (2) Why the goals and objectives of any approved study could not be met with the approved study methodology;
- (3) Why the request was not made earlier;
- (4) Significant changes in the project proposal or that significant new information material to the study objectives has become available; and
- (5) Why the new study request satisfies the study criteria in § 5.9(b).

18 C.F.R. § 5.9(b)

- (1) Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;
- (2) If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;
- (3) If the requester is a not resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study;
- (4) Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;
- (5) Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements;
- (6) Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate filed season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers relevant tribal values and knowledge; and
- (7) Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why any proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.