

February 21, 2007

VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

Ms. Magalie R. Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Salas:

Subject: Filing of Applications for New License for:  
Big Creek Nos. 1 and 2 (FERC Project No. 2175),  
Big Creek Nos. 2A, 8, and Eastwood (FERC Project No. 67),  
Big Creek No. 3 (FERC Project No. 120), and  
Settlement Agreement for the Big Creek Alternative Licensing Process

The Southern California Edison Company (SCE) is filing the enclosed Applications for New License for the Big Creek Nos. 1 and 2 Project (Project No. 2175), Big Creek Nos. 2A, 8 and Eastwood Project (Project No. 67), and Big Creek No.3 Project (Project No. 120) Hydroelectric Projects. The existing Licenses for these three Projects expire on February 28, 2009. Pursuant to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) authorization by letter dated March 15, 2000, SCE undertook the licensing process and prepared the Applications pursuant to the Commission's Alternative Licensing Process (ALP) regulations at 18 CFR §4.34(i). In addition to the three Projects in this filing, the Big Creek ALP included the Mammoth Pool Hydroelectric Project (Project No. 2085) for which an Application for New License was filed with the Commission on November 21, 2005.

The Applications include an Amended Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (APDEA) that covers all of the four Big Creek ALP projects. The APDEA evaluates the environmental impacts associated with the Big Creek ALP Projects, and recommends various protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures for inclusion as conditions in the Commission's Order Issuing New License for each of the four Projects. These proposed license conditions were developed and agreed to after the filing of the Mammoth Pool Application for New License. Therefore, SCE is requesting that the Commission replace the PDEA filed with the Mammoth Pool Application and use this APDEA instead. The Applications are comprised of four volumes and have been prepared in accordance with the Commission's regulations at 18 CFR §§ 4.51 and 16.8. Volume 1 contains the Initial Statement and Exhibits A, B, C, D, and H; Volume 2 contains Exhibit F Design Drawings that are Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII), Volume 3 contains Exhibit A and Exhibit G Maps that are Non-Internet Public (NIP) Information; and Volume 4 contains the APDEA, attachments; and supporting documents (SD).

The enclosed three Applications include an original, two paper copies, and eight electronic copies (on Compact Disk (CD)) of Volumes 1, 2 and 3 and certificate of service. In accordance with the direction provided by Commission staff to eliminate the filing of multiple copies of shared documents, SCE is filing only one paper original, two paper copies, and eight electronic copies of Volume 4. Volume 4 is the APDEA, and its supporting documents, and consists of a set of 24 books. Attached to this transmittal letter is an outline of the material contained in each

Volume, and whether that material is available to the public or protected pursuant to Commission's regulations regarding confidential information or Critical Energy Infrastructure Information.

SCE is also filing the enclosed Settlement Agreement (Settlement) pursuant to the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 385.602. Importantly, the APDEA serves as the explanatory statement for the Settlement and describes the basis for the Settlement's recommended license conditions. These recommended license conditions reflect the agreement among the signatories as to what conditions should be included in the new licenses for the Big Creek ALP Projects. Also, the Settlement signatories were aware of the Commission's settlement guidelines. Thus, the Settlement has an Appendix B, which contains a variety of commitments that are not to be included in the new licenses. Instead, these Appendix B commitments are contractual obligations among the settling parties and are only provided for the Commission's information and, if necessary, analysis as a part of the cumulative impacts associated with the issuance of the project licenses.

The Settlement is the direct result of the ALP relicensing effort and represents the culmination of substantial efforts on the part of each settling party to craft an agreement that would garner support reflecting the wide array of interests represented in the Big Creek ALP Collaborative. SCE greatly appreciates the tremendous effort of all settling parties in participating in the relicensing process, negotiating an agreement, and finalizing this Settlement. Since the commencement of negotiations in May 2005 and through the filing of the Application in February 2007, the settling parties have invested considerable time and resources in finalizing the Settlement. As a comprehensive resolution, the Settlement proposes numerous Project improvements and, if approved by the Commission, the Settlement would establish SCE's obligations for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of resources affected by the Projects under new licenses.

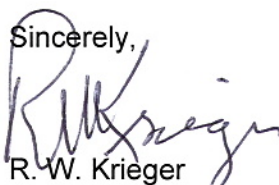
By copy of this letter, SCE is notifying government agencies and other potentially interested parties about the submittal of the Applications and Settlement (see Distribution List). Agencies and interested parties on the Distribution List will receive CDs of the Application documents, except for Privileged or CEII. Information considered Privileged or CEII is filed only with the Commission.

SCE intends to apply to the California State Water Resources Control Board for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification when the Commission issues a Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis, and will furnish documentation of that application to the Commission.

SCE appreciates the Commission's assistance and cooperation in the relicensing of its Big Creek Hydroelectric Projects. SCE thereby requests that the Commission expeditiously approve the submitted License Applications and Settlement Agreement without modification by issuing to SCE a new 44-year license for the Projects that includes the proposed license articles and management plans set forth in the Settlement.

Please contact Mr. Geoff Rabone at (909) 394-8721 if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



R. W. Krieger  
Vice President, Power Production



Enclosures: Detailed Outline of material on each Volume

**Application for New License (Big Creek Nos. 1 and 2 (Project No. 2175))**

Volume 1: Initial Statement, Exhibits A, B, C, D and H (Public); Volume 2: Exhibit F (CEII);

Volume 3: Exhibit A and Exhibit G Maps (NIP)

**Application for New License (Big Creek Nos. 2A, 8 and Eastwood (Project No. 67))**

Volume 1: Initial Statement, Exhibits A, B, C, D and H (Public); Volume 2: Exhibit F (CEII);

Volume 3: Exhibit A and Exhibit G Maps (NIP)

**Application for New License (Big Creek Nos. 3 (Project No. 120))**

Volume 1: Initial Statement, Exhibits A, B, C, D and H (Public); Volume 2: Exhibit F (CEII);

Volume 3: Exhibit A and Exhibit G Maps (NIP)

**Amended PDEA and Attachments (Mammoth Pool (Project No. 2085), Big Creek Nos. 1 and 2 (Project No. 2175), Big Creek Nos. 2A, 8 and Eastwood (Project No. 67), Big Creek Nos. 3 (Project No. 120))**

Volume 4 (Public, Non-Internet Public, CEII, and Privileged)

cc: FERC Service List(s)

Big Creek ALP Distribution List

Takeshi Yamashita, Regional Engineer (FERC San Francisco Regional Office)

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